

PUBLIC & PRIVATE

K-12 SCHOOLS

KNOW THE DIFFERENCE

PUBLIC 9-12 SCHOOLS

PRIVATE K-12 SCHOOLS

F-1 students can only attend an SEVP-certified public high school in grades nine through 12. F-1 students in grades kindergarten through eight must attend a private school



F-1 students in grades kindergarten through 12 can attend an SEVP-certified private school

F-1 students can attend for a maximum period of 12 months, which includes an aggregate of all public schools the student attends in F, M and J status



F-1 students have no limit on the length of time they can attend

Funded by local, state and federal tax revenue



Funded by tuition and private donations

F-1 students must pay the full, unsubsidized per capita cost of attending the public school and submit payment before applying for a visa



F-1 students must pay the school's tuition for each academic term and submit payment based on school's deadlines

F-1 students must present proof of payment of per capita cost during their visa interview and possibly at U.S. port of entry



F-1 students must demonstrate ability to finance the private school's tuition during their visa interview and possibly at U.S. port of entry

For minor F-2 and M-2 dependents (dependent children of F-1 or M-1 students), the regulations governing education are different. Minor F-2 and M-2 dependents may attend a private or public school at the appropriate grade level without any additional permission or documentation from SEVP. State compulsory education laws may require that F-2 and M-2 dependents attend the appropriate grade level until a certain age. The elementary or secondary school an F-2 or M-2 student attends does not need to be SEVP certified.