

Discrimination Allowed: ESAs=Public money for private exclusion

Many of the schools eligible to take part in the Nevada Voucher Program discriminate in admissions and employment based on religion, overtly excluding or strongly disfavoring students of other faiths, requiring applicants and their parents to sign Statements of Faith, or charging more in tuition for students of other faiths. Further, many of these private religious schools engage in discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity, disability status and more.

The ACLU of Nevada recognizes an individual's First Amendment Right to practice the religion of their choice, however, we do not believe that right extends to the public funding of those choices.

Moreover, Nevada law does not require private schools to prevent, stop, or curtail bullying on their campuses. **Only public schools must uphold civil rights** and legally protect their students from harassment and "be free from physical, emotional or mental abuse".

The following are just a few examples of Nevada private schools' discriminatory policies:

Liberty Baptist Academy requires all faculty to "believe in the sovereignty of the local church and in the doctrinal tenets which make [their] church Fundamental and Baptist." Parents must attend Liberty Baptist Church services, and **the school also requires students to "refrain from participating in worldly activities such as . . . homosexuality or other sexual perversions . . ."** <http://tinyurl.com/ngfo9bf>.

Lone Mountain Academy employs only "**born-again Christians who believe God's Word to be the basis for their professional and personal lives.**" <http://tinyurl.com/nss5azy>.

Faith Christian Academy requires, as a condition of enrollment, at least one parent to be a Christian who does not participate in practices that violate the Calvary Chapel's "Statement of Faith," including its provision on human sexuality. <http://tinyurl.com/qa39v8q>.

International Christian Academy **will reject an applicant or dis-enroll a student who is gay.** The school reserves the right, "within its sole discretion, to refuse admission of an applicant or to discontinue enrollment of a student if the atmosphere or conduct within a particular home or the activities of the student are counter to or are in opposition to the Biblical lifestyle the school teaches. This includes, but is **not necessarily limited to, participating in, supporting or condoning sexual immorality, homosexual activity, [or] bisexual activity . . ."** <http://tinyurl.com/ojahukp>.

Mountain View Christian School **requires teachers to be “born-again.”** Applicants for teaching positions must answer questions about their denomination, prayer, and Christian philosophy. <http://tinyurl.com/o634mac>

Bishop Gorman High School prioritizes Catholic students in admission and offers a tuition discount for parishioners. <http://tinyurl.com/nk23vu4> and <http://tinyurl.com/pe94hdv>. In addition, “Bishop Gorman strongly opposes abortion, the deliberate destruction of human life. .. In the event the school becomes aware, despite its support, that **one of its students has willfully chosen to obtain an abortion the student is liable for dismissal from Bishop Gorman.** For the same reason, other members of the Bishop Gorman student body, including the father, are liable for dismissal if they have helped procure an abortion.”

Lake Mead Christian Academy, will not accommodate disabled children, stating that: **“Private school children with disabilities do not have an individual entitlement to services they would receive if they were enrolled in a public school.”** Lake Mead Christian Academy specifically states that it “does not provide IEPs or 504 Plans,” and “does not have a resource room, special education case managers, or the capacity to offer individualized instruction for students who may need additional support with learning or behavioral needs in the regular education setting.” <https://tinyurl.com/ps94mq7>

The Church Academy admits it can’t accommodate students with disabilities and claims that: **“While we love delinquent and emotionally unstable children, the school is not equipped to meet their needs.”** <https://tinyurl.com/zba86r7>