

**TITLE 3: HUMAN RESOURCES**  
**DIVISION 1: EDUCATION**

**§ 1172. Nonpublic Education: Government Assistance to Nonpublic Schools.**

The Commissioner will establish guidelines to be endorsed by the board which will establish the types of services to be provided to nonpublic school students provided that such assistance will not be in conflict with existing laws of the Commonwealth and will not infringe on the delivery of services to public school students. The Commissioner may establish service fees to be paid by nonpublic schools in the delivery of these services. Rules and regulations pertaining to federally funded programs which will affect nonpublic schools in the area of services are to be followed.

**Source:** PL 6-10, § 1 (§ 1571); section heading amended by PL 11-32, § 3.

**Commission Comment:** PL 11-32, which amended the section heading of this section, took effect on September 1, 1998. Section 1 of PL 11-32 contained a statement of purpose which read as follows:

Section 1. Statement of Purpose. The Legislature finds that the CNMI's non-public schools are a valuable asset to the Commonwealth. Non-public schools currently serve over 3,000 of our children who would otherwise be enrolled in the already overcrowded public school system. In addition, we anticipate that the number of children enrolled in both school systems will continue to rise. This law allows non-public schools and their teachers and librarians to act in an independent manner and allows the Board of Education to focus their energies and resources on their primary area of responsibility, the public school system.

The Legislature further finds that the government's interest of ensuring that the well-being of its citizens is protected in the basic areas of health, safety, minimum core curriculum, length of school year, and teacher certification standards can be accomplished without having to charter non public schools.

Furthermore, the Legislature finds that if private school teachers and librarians are removed from the certification process there no longer exists a reason to have the Board of Education issue teacher and librarian certificates. The Legislature finds that transferring the authority to certify public school teachers and librarians and the authority to revoke certification to the Commissioner of Education will enable the Public School System to improve its ability to track certification and employment.