

# Law No. 7 of 1980 regulating Private Schools. 7 / 1980

Number of Articles: 36

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We, Khalifa Bin Hamad Al-Thani, Emir of the state of Qatar;  
Having been conversant with the Amended Provisional Constitution, in particular Articles 23, 27 and 34 thereof;  
Labour Law No. 3 of 1962 and the amending laws thereof;  
Decree-law No. 17 of 1967 organizing national schools, and the amending laws thereof;  
Law No. 5 of 1970 determining the powers of Ministers and specifying the functions of ministries  
and other government organs, and the amending laws thereof;  
The proposal of the Minister of Education and Higher Education;  
The draft law submitted by the Cabinet;  
Hereby promulgate the following:

## **Chapter One**

### **Jurisdiction of the Law**

#### Article 1

The terms "Minister" and "Ministry" referred to herein shall mean, respectively, the Minister of Education and the Ministry of Education.

#### Article 2

1. In the implementation hereof, a private school shall mean all non-government institutions which principally or partially undertake education and instruction, vocational training, or any other aspect of public pre- higher education, or foreign communities schools established, or agreed to be established, by persons who belong to a specific community under the supervision of the respective embassy. One school can be shared by more than one community.

1. The following shall not be deemed private schools under the provisions of this law:

1. Cultural centres and institutes established by foreign countries or international organizations in the state of Qatar, in accordance with international agreements.
2. Private schools exclusively for the children of personnel at diplomatic corps delegations, foreign consulates and international and regional organizations.
3. Educational entities established by commercial and industrial institutions for respective personnel, intended for technical, industrial or vocational training that does not contradict or conflict with the religious or social values of the state of Qatar.

Nurseries not related or annexed to schools, which shall be subject to an educational system to be defined by subsequent legislation

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## **Chapter Two**

### **Licenses**

#### **Article 3**

Natural or legal persons may operate private schools only after obtaining the necessary license from the Ministry in accordance with the provisions herein.

#### **Article 4**

Combining boys and girls may not be permitted in Arab private schools, except in nurseries or at the kindergarten stage. A resolution of the Minister may provide for total or partial exemption of the preliminary stage in some schools.

#### **Article 5**

Each school shall bear an identifying name to be approved by the Ministry.

#### **Article 6**

A. An application to open a private school shall be submitted by the owner or his delegate to the Ministry during April and May of each year. Such application shall include the name, surname, age, nationality and religion of the owner.

1. Where the owner is a company, the application shall include the name, address, type, date of formation, amount of capital and names of partners of the company. Such application shall indicate the names of persons authorised to run the school and to sign any and all documents on behalf of the owner, their surnames, date of birth and nationality. Information submitted with the application shall be supported by all relevant documents.
2. Where the school belongs to a foreign community, an application shall be submitted by supervising persons, along with a covering letter from the respective embassy.
3. An application shall enclose the following documentation:
  1. A certificate verifying that the applicant has not been convicted of an offence involving moral turpitude.
  2. In the case of a company, a copy of the articles of association, a certificate verifying the nationality and religion of each partner, and a certificate verifying that neither the company nor any of its partners has been convicted of an offence involving dishonesty.
  3. A sketch map indicating the location of the school, including streets, neighbourhoods and dimensions of the buildings. The map shall also include the name of the landlord and a description of the classrooms and spaces of the school.
2. The application shall specify the type of educational level of the school.
3. The addition of new educational levels shall require submission of a new application for each.
4. The school shall be opened for its educational service within a period not exceeding one year from the date of acquiring its license, failing which the license shall be deemed null and void.

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#### **Article 7**

The school may not be relocated after acquiring its license, unless by the consent of the Ministry. A relocation application shall be submitted at least two months in advance and shall indicate the reasons for such relocation.

## **Chapter Three**

### **Conditions of Owner, Principal and Personnel of School**

#### **Article 8**

Subject to the provisions of Article 6, the owner of an Arab private school shall be a Muslim and a Qatari, or sponsored by a Qatari national. In general, the owner of a private school:

1. Shall not have been dismissed from a previous job for disciplinary reasons.
2. Shall not have been convicted of an offence involving moral turpitude or dishonesty.
3. Shall not be a government official at the time of acquiring a school license.

#### **Article 9**

1. Subject to the provisions of the labour law, any person engaged in the management of a private Arab school shall be a Muslim. A resolution of the Minister may exempt certain teachers and personnel from this requirement.

1. In general, any person engaged in the management of a private Arab school shall:

1. Be at least 25 Gregorian years old. Teachers and other personnel shall not be younger than 18 Gregorian years and not older than 65 Gregorian years.
2. Not have been dismissed from a previous job for disciplinary reasons.
3. Not have been convicted of an offence involving moral turpitude or dishonesty.
4. Satisfy the necessary academic and practical qualifications and job conditions in accordance with the provisions herein, as well as the executive regulations thereof.
5. Be medically fit

## **Chapter Four**

### **Buildings and Facilities of Private School**

#### **Article 10**

The school building shall meet the following conditions:

1. The location shall be away from public, industrial and commercial entities and other entities that might affect the educational process, as determined by a resolution of the Minister.
2. Buildings shall be used only for the educational purpose stated on the license and not for any other non-educational purposes.
3. Rooms and spaces shall properly and adequately accommodate all school activities.
4. Classrooms and management offices shall be clean, well lit, properly ventilated, and equipped with air conditioners and fans.
5. Pupils shall be provided with a source of potable water separate from the toilet facilities, which shall be equipped with sufficient potable water taps.
6. Toilet facilities shall be sufficient, properly hygienic and ventilated, and shall be located as far away from the classrooms and management offices as possible.
7. School shall be properly equipped with the necessary furniture and educational aids to facilitate study.
8. The allocation of space for each pupil in a classroom shall be not less than one square metre.
9. The area of the school yard shall be proportional to the number of pupils so that the allocation of space for each pupil in the yard shall be not less than two square metres.

## **Chapter Five**

### **School System and Work Progress**

#### **First: Records and Files**

## Article 11

1. Each school shall maintain proper and complete records and shall control its financial and administrative affairs. Each school shall maintain the following specific records:
  1. Personnel.
  2. Staff.
  3. Officials and staff attendance.
  4. Examinations.
  5. Any other record deemed necessary by the school or designated by the Ministry.
1. The school shall be guided by systems applicable in the Ministry for the establishment and maintenance of the above records.

## Article 12

- The following files shall be maintained in each private school:
1. A personal file for each pupil reflecting the application for enrolment in the school, birth certificate or equivalent, acquired school certificates, exam answer papers, imposed penalties, and any other personal papers. These files shall be kept in a special cabinet bearing an index of files. Files of pupils no longer enrolled at the school shall not be kept with current files.
  2. A personal history file for each of the officials, comprising acquired school certificates or true copies of the same, employment contracts and other papers related to their status.
  3. A special file for technical reports made by Ministry inspectors, to be filed according to their receiving dates.
  4. A special file for Ministry circulars, resolutions and instructions issued to the school, to be filed according to receiving dates. The school shall be guided by systems applicable in the Ministry for the establishment and maintenance of the above records.

### **First: Records and Files**

## Article 13

1. Admission of Qatari pupils to schools other than Arab private schools shall be prohibited. This provision shall not apply to Qatari pupils presently enrolled in the preliminary stage until completion thereof.
1. Admission of pupils to private schools shall comply with the applicable Ministry restrictions in relation to age. A variance of approximately one year may be permitted or disregarded.

## Article 14

The Ministry shall approve the completion certificates granted by private schools based on available records.

### **Third: Plans and Curricula**

## Article 15

1. Arab private schools shall abide by the same curricula and text books designated for similar Ministry schools. Non-Arab private schools shall deposit copies of respective curricula and text books at the Ministry for ratification.
1. No changes shall be made to such curricula and books, and no new subject added, after such ratification has occurred without the written permission of the Ministry.

## Article 16

Financial subsidies may be granted and teachers supplied to non-Arab private schools where such schools teach the Arabic language, Sharia subjects, and the history and geography of Qatar in accordance with the curricula and text books of the Ministry.

## Article 17

1. The Ministry may by resolution modify or ban any curricula or text books that are prejudicial to the religious and national values of Qatar.

1. The Ministry shall notify the affected private school by registered mail, indicating its reasons for the modification or ban.
2. The Ministry shall specify the appropriate period for implementation of its resolution.

## Article 18

All books, publications, press papers, manuscripts, photographs and other documents kept in the library and reading hall shall be subject to the supervision and control of the Ministry.

### **Fourth: Exams and Vacations**

## Article 19

Examinations in Arab private schools shall meet the following conditions:

1. Such schools shall comply with Ministry exam regulations in relation to final transfer classes of the preliminary stage, namely, monthly tests, term exams, end-of-year exams and supplementary exams, as well as rules relating to exam success and failure.
2. The schools shall provide the examination department at the Ministry of Education with the results of transfer examinations held in the first and second semesters.
3. The schools shall conduct transfer examinations for the intermediate and secondary levels in Ministry schools.
4. General secondary certificate student shall sit for the examination before committees to be organized by the Ministry, subject to the same conditions as government schools.

## Article 20

Private Arab schools shall comply with the system applicable at the Ministry in relation to official holidays and Eid holidays.

## Article 21

1. Private schools may operate during the summer vacation for admission of pupils during this period. The school shall not abide by the conditions of admission contained in Article 13 herein. Such pupils shall not be deemed regular pupils.

1. Prior written permission to operate during the summer vacation shall be obtained from the Ministry during the first half of June of each year. The application for permission shall specify the activities in which the school will engage during the summer vacation.

### **Fifth: School Fees**

## Article 22

The management of each school shall submit to the Ministry a list of school fees as well as any other additional fees to be collected from pupils. Such resolution shall not come into effect unless approved by the Ministry.

## Chapter Six

### Investigations and Discipline

## Article 23

1. The Ministry shall be entitled to conduct investigations as it deems fit and may question teachers, personnel and the principal of the private school.
1. Such investigations shall be conducted by the delegate of the Minister or undersecretary of the Ministry.
2. The same applicable provisions shall apply to principals, teachers and personnel operating at the Ministry regarding the imposition of penalties and the authority to impose such penalties.

## Article 24

Where a private school violates any of the provisions herein or the executive regulations thereof; or it commits an offence relating to management; or it becomes financially insolvent; or the educational or ethical level of its students falls below the required standard; or it promotes principles that contradict those on which the Constitution is based, the Minister may, based on a proposal by the undersecretary of the Ministry, take any of the following actions:

1. Temporary assumption of control of the school until the end of the year. The owner shall have no authority to operate the school and the Ministry shall manage it on the owner's behalf.
2. Administrative closure of the school for a specific period of time.
3. Revocation of license.

The taking of such actions shall not, however, prejudice the right of the Minister to file a civil or criminal case where necessary

## Article 25

1. The owner or his delegate may complain to the Prime Minister against the resolution ordering temporary assumption of control of the school by the Ministry, or administrative closure, or revocation of its license, provided that such complaint is submitted within seven days of the date of notification of the resolution.
1. The complaint must be settled within a period not exceeding thirty days from the date of its submittal. The decision on the complaint shall be final and shall be duly notified to the complainant.

## Chapter Seven

### General Closing Provisions

## Article 26

The Principal of the private school shall submit an annual school report to the Ministry by the end of each school year.

## Article 27

Private schools shall be subject to technical and administrative inspection by the Ministry. The department of school health care shall supervise the health and medical treatment affairs of such schools.

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## Article 28

No official may be appointed in private schools unless approved in writing by the Ministry. Such approval shall not be granted until the fulfillment of conditions provided herein, as well as in the executive regulations and decisions thereof.

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## Article 29

The Ministry shall be immediately notified upon the dismissal or resignation of any official.

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## Article 30

Where a school principal is absent for more than seven days, the responsibility for the management of the school shall be assigned to another official, and the Ministry shall be promptly notified thereof.

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## Article 31

No private school may be permitted to receive subsidies or donations from natural or legal persons, either locally or from abroad, without the written consent of the Ministry.

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## Article 32

Private schools existing at the time of enforcement of this law shall be deemed as licensed by the Ministry to continue their business. However, such schools shall confirm their status by obtaining the necessary license in accordance with the provisions herein before the end of the school year following the enforcement hereof.

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## Article 32 - BIS (Added By: Decree 13 / 1999)

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## Article 33

Decree by law No. 17 of 1967 on the organization of national private schools, and its amending laws, are hereby revoked. Similarly, all provisions in violation of the provisions herein are hereby revoked.

Article 34

The Minister shall issue the regulations and decisions required for implementation of this law in compliance with the provisions herein and in realization of the purposes thereof.

Article 35

All competent authorities, each in its respective jurisdiction, shall enforce this law with effect from the date of its publication in the *Official Gazette*.

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