



## Analizze Compliance Services

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### Segment 2: ESOL/ESL Language Schools – Regulations & Rules

**Where every rule followed is a promise of trust fulfilled.**

Language schools focused on teaching English as a Second Language (ESOL/ESL) hold a unique position within Florida's educational ecosystem. Primarily serving adult immigrants and international students, these institutions are subject to a robust set of regulations—ranging from educational licensing and consumer protection to federal immigration and civil rights compliance.

In this context, every institutional document represents a point of contact with multiple regulatory agencies - and a potential source of reputational risk if mismanaged.

Regulatory compliance in this segment is particularly sensitive due to the need to:

- Issue and manage Form I-20 for F-1 visa students;
- Operate under the oversight of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) via SEVP/SEVIS;
- Maintain mandatory licensing from the Commission for Independent Education (CIE);
- And comply with federal and state requirements related to accessibility, safety, and accountability.

Below is a list of key regulations applicable to private ESOL/ESL schools operating in Florida, based on guidance current as of April 2025:

#### **Mandatory Federal Regulations**

- FERPA – Protection of student educational record privacy
- GLBA – Safeguarding student financial data
- ADA – Accessibility for students with disabilities
- Section 504 – Equal access to learning
- Title VI – Prohibition of discrimination based on national origin, race, or color
- Title IX – Gender equity (if directly or indirectly federally funded)
- EEOC Guidelines – Equal employment opportunity standards
- OSHA – Health and safety in institutional environments
- FLSA – Rules for instructor compensation and workload
- SEVP/SEVIS (8 CFR § 214.3) – Form I-20 issuance requirements
- DHS/ICE Guidance – Operational procedures for certified schools

#### **Florida State Regulations**

##### **Licensing and Educational Law:**

- Florida Statutes – Chapter 1005 – Private postsecondary institutions
- FAC – Chapter 6E-2 – CIE licensing and operational rules
- CIE Guidelines for ESL Programs – Requirements for language instruction programs
- Florida Statutes – Chapter 1000.04(2) – Definition of non-compulsory postsecondary education



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- Florida Statutes – Chapter 817.567 – Prohibition of diploma and certificate fraud
- Florida Statutes – Chapter 768.38 – COVID-19 civil liability protection (conditional)

### Accreditation Standards and Best Practices (if applicable)

- CEA – Commission on English Language Program Accreditation Standards
- ACCET – Guidelines for continuing education programs
- NACAC / EnglishUSA – Institutional ethics and quality codes
- NC-SARA – Interstate online course delivery regulations (voluntary registration)

### Academic and Documentation Requirements

- CIE Program Outline Requirements – Minimum course and syllabus standards
- Instructor Qualification Standards – Minimum credentials and experience (FAC 6E-2.004)
- Student Agreement & Catalog Requirements – Mandatory disclosures (FAC 6E-2.0041 and 6E-2.0042)
- Attendance, Grievance & Refund Policies – Required institutional policies
- Financial Statement Requirements (GAAP) – Audited financial reports for licensing

### Supplemental and Health Regulations

- CDC Guidelines – Health guidance for adult learning environments
- NFPA 101 / Local Fire Code – Fire safety and emergency standards
- Background Screening (F.S. § 1005.22) – Mandatory screening for staff and faculty

**Note:** Even institutions operating under exemptions or offering non-accredited courses must comply with legal restrictions regarding advertising, certification, and student immigration status. Noncompliance can result in administrative sanctions, license revocation, and significant reputational harm.