

GRADUATION AND BEYOND

**DODEA'S GUIDE FOR
SUCCESS**





Introduction

The Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) is dedicated to ensuring that military families receive a world-class education for their children throughout their school careers. For students and families, an important phase in that career is the high school experience. It is critical that families and students become engaged early with school administrators, counselors, and teachers to plan the best path through school and beyond.

While no one document can provide all the information parents and students need to make wise choices about the high school years, this brochure provides information about high school requirements, policies, courses, programs, and career pathways. The information will assist families in planning the road to a successful future.

Guidance and Counseling

The best resource for developing a high school plan is the school guidance counselor. They are uniquely positioned to help students develop the skills necessary to manage the academic, personal, social, and career development issues that impact the high school years. School counselors use a variety of tools, policies and programs to advise students about the best course of action based on a student's individual strengths and interests.

Six Year Plan

DoDEA's Six-Year Education/Career Plan (Grades 7-12) is the blueprint for a high school education plan. The plan, provided to students electronically, guides the decision making for the appropriate classes to fulfill high school graduation requirements and meet future college and career goals.

Required Courses	Units
English Language Arts 9, 10, 11, 12 (2 years of ESL may be substituted for 2 years of English Language Arts.)	4
Social Studies (1 credit of U.S. History, 1 credit of either World Regions or World History, and 1/2 credit in U.S. Government required.)	3
Mathematics (Algebra I and Geometry are required. The third math credit must have a course code of 400 or above excluding Lab classes.)	3
Science (Biology is required and either a chemistry or physics credit is required. Physics Applications in the Community and Chemistry Applications meet the credit requirements for graduation.)	3
Foreign Language (A total of 2 credits in the same foreign language is required.)	2
Professional Technical Studies (1/2 credit must be in a computer technology.)	2
Physical Education	1 1/2
Fine Arts (Courses used to meet this credit must relate to: visual arts, music, theater, dance, and/or humanities.)	1
Health Education	1/2
Sub-total for Required Courses	20
Sub-total for Elective Courses	6
Total Credits	26

Information contained in the Six-Year Plan is similar to a resume and includes the student's participation in extra-curricular activities as well as awards and achievements. This tool creates a meaningful record for advanced studies, work applications, military service, or other post-secondary endeavors.

Guidance counselors at any DoDEA school can assist students in completing and updating the Six-Year Plan.

DoDEA also uses a web-based education and career planning resource to help students learn more about colleges, courses of study, and careers. This program, accessible to every student, enhances the guidance process by empowering students, parents and advisors to explore educational and career options. Students and counselors can view and track progress on personal plans and use the information in counseling sessions to discuss such topics as interest inventories, financial aid options, or career choices.

Note: Students are required to have a 2.0 in order to receive a DoDEA H.S Diploma

The idea is to get students in the habit of planning early and often, so that their education experience is as fulfilling and useful as possible.

DoDEA Graduation Requirements

DoDEA's goal is to provide consistent and rigorous high school programs for all students that will place them in a competitive position when seeking entrance into college or the workforce.

Grading and Weighted Grades

Several years ago, DoDEA researched practices on honors classes and weighted grades used in schools from across the United States. As a result DoDEA implemented a practice that does not weight honors classes or assign a weighted grade when computing GPAs on incoming transcripts from previous schools.

This policy also allows our system to provide a standard and consistent weighted grade policy for our highly mobile student population.

DoDEA Weighted Grade Policy

- ▶ Advanced Placement (AP) classes carry a weighted grade only when the student has completed the course and taken the AP exam for that class.
- ▶ Honors class will not carry a weighted grade. DoDEA will not assign a weighted grade for Honors classes when computing GPAs on incoming transcripts from previous schools.
- ▶ DoDEA does not change any letter grade on the transcripts but will assign the point values based on DoDEA's grading scales.
- ▶ Second Year Higher-Level International Baccalaureate (IB) classes (Bahrain only) carry a weighted grade upon completion of the class.

The DoDEA Weighted Grade Policy should not affect college acceptance. To minimize the impact of variances in high school grading policies and practices, colleges and universities often recalculate GPAs using internal methods.

Colleges and universities evaluate many factors when assessing students for admissions: rigorous coursework, SAT/ACT scores, participation in extracurricular activities, leadership experience and overall grades. The best practice for any student seeking college/university acceptance is to take the most rigorous program available and that will be reflected on the high school transcript.

Grading Scales

<u>Unweighted Scale</u>	<u>Weighted Scale</u>
A = 4	A = 5
B = 3	B = 4
C = 2	C = 3
D = 1	D = 2
F = 0	F = 0

High School Assessments

A variety of assessments are conducted each year to help measure student success. Students also have the opportunity to take the following aptitude and skills tests and inventories for post-secondary and career decision making.

- ▶ TerraNova Multiple Assessments (Grades 9-11)
- ▶ End of Course Exams (Algebra, Biology, U.S. History)
- ▶ Advance Placement (AP) Exams (Required for weighted grades in all AP classes.)
- ▶ Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB)
- ▶ PSAT/NMSQT – The Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (Grades 10 and 11)
- ▶ SAT and Subject Area Tests
- ▶ ACT
- ▶ Scholastic Reading Inventory (SRI)



Advancement via Individual Determination (AVID)

AVID is a program that prepares middle- and high-school students to enter and succeed in college. In AVID, students receive extra encouragement and academic support through tutorials not offered in traditional secondary schools. Students participating in AVID learn how to study, take notes, manage their time and persevere through challenges in high school.

The AVID program ensures all students will:

- ▶ succeed in rigorous curriculum,
- ▶ participate in extracurricular activities at the school;
- ▶ increase their enrollment in four-year colleges; and
- ▶ become educated and responsible participants and leaders in a democratic society.

To participate in AVID, students should meet the following criteria:

- ▶ Average to high-average test scores and GPA
- ▶ A DEROS of one year beyond the enrollment date in AVID
- ▶ College potential with support
- ▶ Desire and determination
- ▶ Good discipline and attendance records
- ▶ Teacher recommendations
- ▶ Completed application
- ▶ Signed contract



Professional Technical Studies (PTS)

DoDEA's 11 Career Clusters

1. Architecture & Construction
2. Arts, A/V Technology & Communications
3. Business, Management & Administration
4. Government & Public Administration
5. Health Science
6. Hospitality & Tourism
7. Human Services
8. Information Technology
9. Manufacturing
10. Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics
11. Transportation Distribution & Logistics

The DoDEA Professional Technical Studies (PTS) Program provides real-world career experiences for students. PTS links the high school curriculum with the knowledge and skills necessary for the workplace and post-secondary education.

The DoDEA PTS course offerings are aligned to the National Career Clusters and Pathways developed by the United States Department of Education. The Clusters are organized around common occupational fields and the Pathways define a direction for students to study as they learn about a chosen profession.

Students who successfully complete the course requirements identified in a DoDEA Career Pathway are able to earn a Pathway endorsement credential. Additionally, many Pathways include the ability for a student to obtain an industry-approved certification.

Online Learning Academy

DoDEA's distance education program, the Online Learning Academy (OLA) offers web-based advanced placement and non-advanced placement courses. The online courses have the same level of rigor and adhere to the same DoDEA curriculum standards as the traditional high school classes. Online courses benefit students by increasing their proficiency in information-age technologies that enable a lifetime of learning and achievement. When a student enrolls in the OLA, class periods are scheduled for the course, but students may complete assignments wherever and whenever they have access to a computer and the Internet.

Each class has an instructor who is actively involved in the coursework by leading discussions, providing assignment feedback and guiding students to higher levels of achievement. In addition, there is a local facilitator at each school who supervises the students' course participation at the school and serves as a liaison between the student, the instructor, school administration and parents, when needed.

Distance education is not for everyone. Prior to beginning each OLA class, all students take a self-assessment to determine if a distance learning course is right for them. A successful distance-learning student needs to be self-directed and possess effective study skills and basic computer skills. The ability to work independently is also critical to each student's success in the online learning environment.

Lab Classes

DoDEA is committed to helping all students achieve and succeed in high school. In keeping with its vision, "Communities investing in success for ALL students," DoDEA created Lab Classes.

Students may enroll in Lab Classes for reading, algebra, and geometry support to supplement their regular classroom instruction for these areas. Lab Classes allow students the extra time and help they need to succeed. These classes are scheduled within the existing school day and students receive elective credit for the class.

Students qualify for enrollment in the Lab Classes through a review of their Terra Nova standardized test scores and their past academic performance in Language Arts, Reading or Mathematics classes. Lab classes are limited to 15-18 students. Students with active Individual Education program (IEP) may be enrolled in lab classes, as appropriate.

DoDEA

Department of Defense schools rank among the best in the country. The latest research study from Vanderbilt University—highlighted in such highly acclaimed publications as The Wall Street Journal, USA Today, The Seattle Times, The New York Post, Stars and Stripes, and Education Week—cited the outstanding job that DoDEA schools do in educating students.

Six Year Plan



Grade 7			
Subject	*	Subject	**

High School Courses Taken in Grade 7:

Grade 8			
Subject	*	Subject	**

High School Courses Taken in Grade 8:

Grade 9			
Subject	*	Subject	**

Subjects taken in summer school, online or correspondence courses, etc.:

Grade 10			
Subject	*	Subject	**

Subjects taken in summer school, online or correspondence courses, etc.:

Grade 11			
Subject	*	Subject	**

Subjects taken in summer school or correspondence courses:

Grade 12			
Subject	*	Subject	**

Subjects taken in summer school or correspondence courses:

* Semester 1 Grade
** Semester 2 Grade

Requirements	Credits	Course Title	Course Title	Course Title	Course Title
		Credits Earned	Credits Earned	Credits Earned	Credits Earned
		9	10	11	12
Language Arts (English)	4				
Social Studies	3				
Mathematics	3				
Science	3				
Foreign Language	2				
Professional Technical Studies	2				
Fine Arts	1				
Physical Education	1.5				
Health	.5				
Electives	6				
Total Credits Earned					
Total Credits Required	26	6 for promotion	12 for promotion	19 for promotion	26 for Graduation

HELPFUL WEBSITES

Department of Defense Education Activity

www.dodea.edu

Federal Student Aid

<http://www.federalstudentaid.ed.gov>

DoDEA Standards and Curriculum

www.dodea.edu/instruction/curriculum/curriculum.htm

U.S. Department of Education

<http://www.ed.gov>

Military Student.Org

<http://www.militarystudent.dod.mil>