



United States Department of State

FLO: EDUCATION & YOUTH



What We Do



Families who raise their children in the Foreign Service manage frequent moves, changing cultures, and multiple transitions from one school to another.

The Family Liaison Office (FLO) provides guidance and referrals to assist families in making informed decisions about their children's education. We serve all families under Chief of Mission authority.

We provide guidance and resources for:

- **Boarding Schools**
- **Washington Area Private and Public Schools**
- **Special Needs**
- **Homeschooling**
- **College Preparedness**

We also provide information and referrals on child care, gifted and talented resources, allowances, adult education, teaching overseas, summer programs, and transition and re-entry planning.

The Education and Youth Team partners with a number of offices in the Department including, Allowances, Office of Overseas Schools, and Employee Consultation Services.



Did you know that **58%** of FS families transition back to Washington at least twice during their careers?*



Boarding Schools

Why choose boarding school? Families sometimes choose boarding school because there are not satisfactory options at post or they want to provide their children with educational continuity.

Visit the FLO website and begin your search by becoming familiar with the different types of schools available. We can help you with questions regarding planning, special needs, travel, allowances, and applications. The Education and Youth Team does not complete boarding school placements.

Please remember, there is not an Away-from-Post Education Allowance at every post or when posted to the U.S.



Private and in the Washi

We are often asked, what is the **best** school in Washington? There is no standard answer to that question. Foreign Service families enroll their children in public and private schools. The majority of our families choose public school when moving to Washington; however, there are a variety of excellent private schools in the DC area. Depending on your child's strengths and preferences, one school may be better than another.

The Education and Youth Team can help you get started on researching resources and planning. Admittance to some of the prestigious schools in the area is very competitive. Create a back-up plan in case your child is not admitted to the school of his/her choice.

When posted to the U.S., there is no Education Allowance. Therefore, if you choose to send your child to private school while you are posted in the U.S., you will be responsible for the costs.



Did you know that **19%** of FS families send their children to a private school and **81%** of FS families send their children to public school when they move to Washington.*

Public Schools Washington DC Area

There are many excellent public schools in the greater Washington metropolitan area. You may begin researching area public schools by visiting our website.

FLO's Education and Youth Team meets with administrators from different school districts. We liaise with local public schools to familiarize the administration with our families and the Foreign Service lifestyle. We maintain and collect resources from the public schools and can provide you with guidance on transitioning back into the local school system. As with all other educational decisions, you will need to take time, well in advance of your move, to research schools and find the right fit for your child.

If you have any questions on U.S. transition and re-entry for your children, please contact us at FLOAskEducation@state.gov.



Maryland:

Anne Arundel County
Howard County
Montgomery County
Prince George's County

Virginia:
Arlington County
City of Alexandria
Fairfax County
Falls Church City
Fauquier County
Loudon County
Prince William County
Stafford County

Jurisdictions
frequently utilized
by FS families in
the Washington
DC area.

The District
of Columbia

Special Needs Education

The quality of special needs programs overseas varies greatly from school to school, and even from year to year. Finding the appropriate resources may be challenging. Here are some steps that can help:

1 Regardless of your agency affiliation, contact Employee Consultation Services (ECS). The Special Needs Education Allowance (SNEA), from the U.S. Department of State, must be approved by ECS, **MEDECS@state.gov**.

2 Once you have received approval for SNEA, consult with your ECS social worker about resources, the medical clearance process, and appropriate posts for your child. If you are considering a special needs boarding school, ask your social worker if he/she has recommendations.

3 If you have questions about obtaining the Special Needs Education Allowance, consult FLO or the Office of Allowances, **AllowancesO@state.gov**.

4 Contact the at-post school directly if you have questions about its programs. The Office of Overseas Schools has Regional Education Officers who are able to assist you with special needs questions. Email: **OverseasSchools@state.gov**.



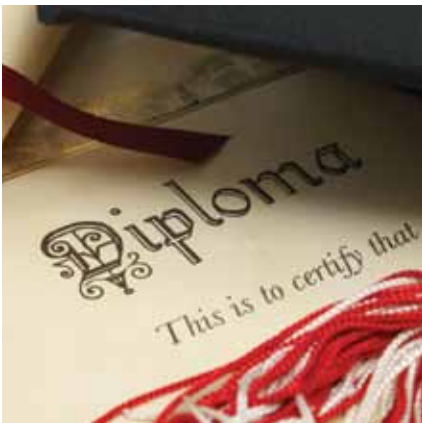
Home Schooling and College Preparedness

Home schooling programs are expanding and easily accessible online. Some Foreign Service families choose to home school their children. This provides educational continuity when making frequent moves.

FLO can help you with researching school programs, information on allowances, and weighing the options of whether home schooling would be right for you and your child. There is no Home School Education Allowance when posted to the U.S.



College Tip: All families interested in financial aid should submit a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) **early!** Check their website for deadlines—www.fafsa.org.



Deciding on the right college for your child takes time and research. Please visit our website for information on the college search and application process, as well as scholarship resources.

FLO's Education and Youth Team is also able to answer questions on Educational Travel Allowance for your child in college.

Contact Us



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www.state.gov/m/dghr/flo

Click on Education and Youth

Contact the Education & Youth Team:

FLOAskEducation@state.gov

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* Sources for all statistics cited in this publication are from
"Education Survey," *Foreign Service Journal*, 2011.