

DoDEA
Seniors'
Postsecondary
Plans and
Scholarships

2009

DoDEA Research and Evaluation

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Postsecondary Plans and Scholarships

This report summarizes the postsecondary intentions and scholarship monies earned by high school graduates of the Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) in SY08-09. As part of the process for planning for postsecondary life, seniors indicate whether they are planning to attend a 4-year college/university, junior/community college, or vocational/technical school; seek employment or an apprenticeship/on the job training; enlist in the military; join Job Corps; or have other postsecondary plans. Students also report the scholarships, financial aid, and grant monies they have been offered as well as which of those monies offered they have accepted or are planning to accept. It should be noted that data related to students' postsecondary plans and scholarship monies are self-reported by students and may not represent the absolute postsecondary status of DoDEA graduates or the totality of scholarship monies offered and accepted by students.

All analyses in this report are based on those students (N=2,988) who were seniors enrolled in a DoDEA high school as of April 2009. Therefore, findings do not include seniors who may have withdrawn prior to or entered after this date. Based on interpretive guidance from the National Center for Educational Statistics (NCES), statistical tests are used throughout this report to determine if observed differences between groups are actually different. "If the difference is statistically significant, the report describes the group averages or percentages as being different (e.g., one group was higher or lower than another group), regardless of whether the averages or percentages appear to be approximately the same. The reader is cautioned to rely on the results of the statistical tests rather than on the apparent magnitude of the difference between groups" (NCES, 2008).

Postsecondary Plans

Ninety-one percent of DoDEA seniors in SY08-09 (n=2,719) had a documented postsecondary plan.¹ The majority of seniors planned to continue their education at a 4-year college or university or junior/community college, with a considerable number (10%) indicating plans to enlist in the military (Table 1).

Table 1. Postsecondary Plans of DoDEA Seniors (2006-2009)

	2006*	2007	2008	2009
	n=2,875	n=2,999	n=2,763	n=2,719
4-year College/University	66%	63%	60%	65%
Junior/Community College	13%	17%	19%	13%
Vocational School/Technical School	2%	2%	3%	2%
Employment	9%	8%	8%	6%
Enlist Military	6%	7%	8%	10%
Apprenticeship/On the Job Training	1%	<1%	0%	<1%
Job Corps	0%	<1%	0%	<1%
Other	4%	4%	3%	3%

Note. Percentages may not equal 100 due to rounding; n represents the number of seniors with a valid postsecondary plan; *These data should be interpreted with caution due to missing data and non-standard data entry.

¹ Five students had multiple plans and 264 students were missing postsecondary plan data.

These results represent an increase in the percentage of students planning to attend a 4-year college or university, but a decrease in the percentage planning to attend a junior/community college from previous years, a trend that runs converse to that observed nationally and in several states. Virginia (2008) reported that slightly less than half (49%) of their seniors planned to attend a four year college, while Maryland (2008) and Virginia reported that only approximately 3% of seniors planned to enlist in the military. Nationally, a College Board (2009) survey found that seniors and their parents were significantly affected by the current economic situation; 16% of seniors indicated they had altered or postponed their plans to attend college and 15% reported giving stronger consideration to community or 2-year colleges.

Among the three Areas in DoDEA, there were no significant differences in the percentages of students planning to attend a 4-year college/university or junior/community college, with all three Areas reporting at least 60% of students choosing this postsecondary route (Table 2). However, a larger percentage of students in DoDEA stateside schools (DDESS) planned to attend a technical school. In Europe, more students planned to seek employment while a smaller percentage planned to enlist in the military

Table 2. DoDEA 2009 Graduates' Postsecondary Plans by Area

	DoDEA DDESS n=408	DoDEA Europe n=1,430	DoDEA Pacific n=881
4-year College/University	61%	66%	66%
Junior Community College	15%	14%	12%
Technical School	*6%	2%	2%
Employment	4%	*7%	5%
Enlist Military	13%	*8%	12%
Other	2%	3%	3%

*Significant difference (standardized residual +/- 2.0)

Note. Percentages may not equal 100 due to rounding; n represents the number of graduates for whom a valid postsecondary plan was reported; apprenticeship/on the job training and Job Corps are not presented as these groups represent <1%.

When the postsecondary plans of students are examined by race/ethnicity, only the percentage of Black/African American students (16%) who planned to enlist in the military is significantly different (Table 3). Sixteen percent of Black/African American students planned to enlist in the military compared to 9% of their Asian and White peers. There are no differences in the percentages of students who planned to attend a 4-year college/university or junior/community college based on race/ethnicity. While there appear to be large differences in the postsecondary plans of American Indian and Hawaiian/Pacific Islander students, these differences are not significant due to the small number of students in these subgroups.

Table 3. DoDEA Seniors' Postsecondary Plans by Ethnicity and Race

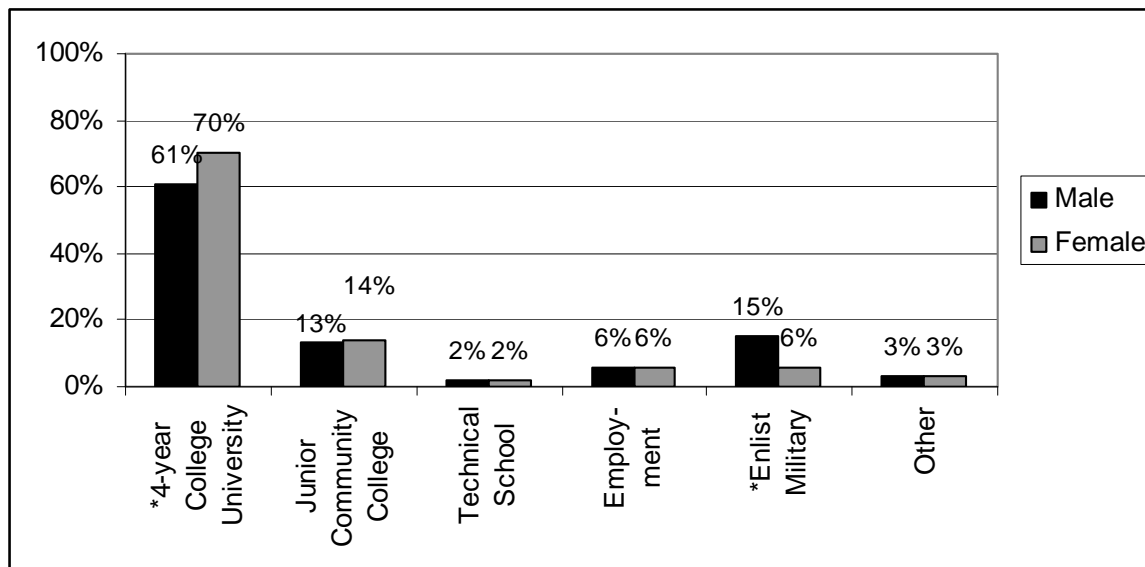
	N	4-year College University	Junior Community College	Technical School	Employment	Enlist Military	Other
American Indian	8	38%	50%	0%	0%	13%	0%
Asian	222	69%	13%	0%	5%	9%	4%
Black/African-American	429	61%	15%	3%	4%	*16%	1%
Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	41	56%	12%	2%	12%	12%	5%
Hispanic or Latino	372	66%	15%	2%	6%	8%	2%
Multiracial	304	63%	14%	1%	9%	10%	3%
White	1,258	67%	12%	2%	6%	9%	3%

*Significant difference (standardized residual +/- 2.0).

Note. Percentages may not equal 100 due to rounding; students who were missing race are not presented; Apprenticeship/On the job training and Job Corps are not presented as these groups represent <1%; Hispanic/Latino students are reported as Hispanic and are not included in their respective racial category.

Two areas of significant difference in postsecondary intentions were noted between males and females. Seven out of ten females planned to attend a 4-year college/university compared to six out of ten males, and more than twice as many males as females planned to enlist in the military (Figure 1).

Figure 1. DoDEA Seniors' Postsecondary Plans by Gender



*Significant difference (standardized residual +/- 2.0).

Note. Apprenticeship/on the job training and Job Corps are not presented as these groups represent <1%.

Scholarships and Financial Aid

The sum of scholarships, financial aid, and grants offered to DoDEA seniors in SY08-09 was 47.3 million dollars, an increase of approximately \$300,000 over the previous year. Approximately

one-third (n=975) of DoDEA seniors were offered at least one scholarship², and the average monies per scholarship recipient was \$49,000 (Table 4).

Across the three DoDEA Areas, the percentage of students offered a scholarship and the average monies per scholarship recipient were not significantly different. When examined by race/ethnicity, a smaller percentage of Hispanic/Latino students were offered at least one scholarship as compared to White and Asian students. Although differences in the average scholarship monies among students based on race/ethnicity appear large, these differences are not significant. When examined by gender, male and female students did not differ in their ability to obtain a scholarship with approximately one third of both groups offered at least one scholarship. However, the average scholarship monies received by male students was almost twice that of females, a difference attributable to the large number of males who were offered high-value scholarships such as military academy and ROTC scholarships. Twenty five males, for example, were offered military academy scholarships compared to seven females.

Table 4. Average Scholarship Monies Offered by Ethnicity, Race, Gender

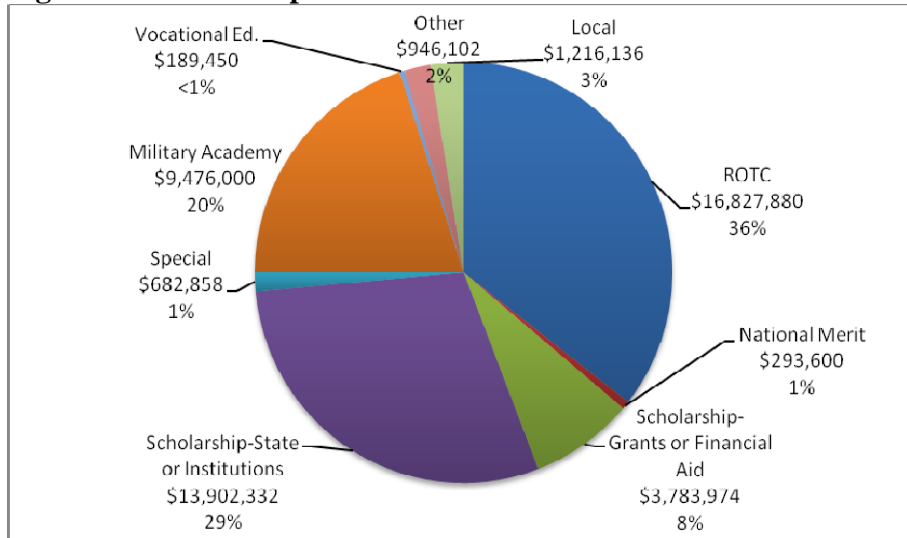
	Total Seniors in April 2009	Percentage Offered at Least One Scholarship	Average Monies Per Scholarship Recipient
Area			
DDESS	431	37%	\$47,239
Europe	1,616	32%	\$45,832
Pacific	941	32%	\$56,068
Race/ethnicity			
Hispanic/Latino	412	*27%	\$46,147
White	1,401	38%	\$50,926
African-American	466	28%	\$38,356
Asian	235	31%	\$64,200
Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	41	20%	\$87,063
American Indian/Alaska Native	8	13%	\$76,000
Multiracial	330	33%	\$47,873
Gender			
Male	1,509	36%	\$62,991
Female	1,479	29%	*\$37,767
DoDEA TOTAL			
	2,988	32.6%	\$49,225

*Significant difference (standardized residual +/- 2.0 or one-way ANOVA with post hoc follow-up).

Note. Does not include students with no reported ethnicity or race; Hispanic/Latino students are reported as Hispanic and are not included in their respective racial category.

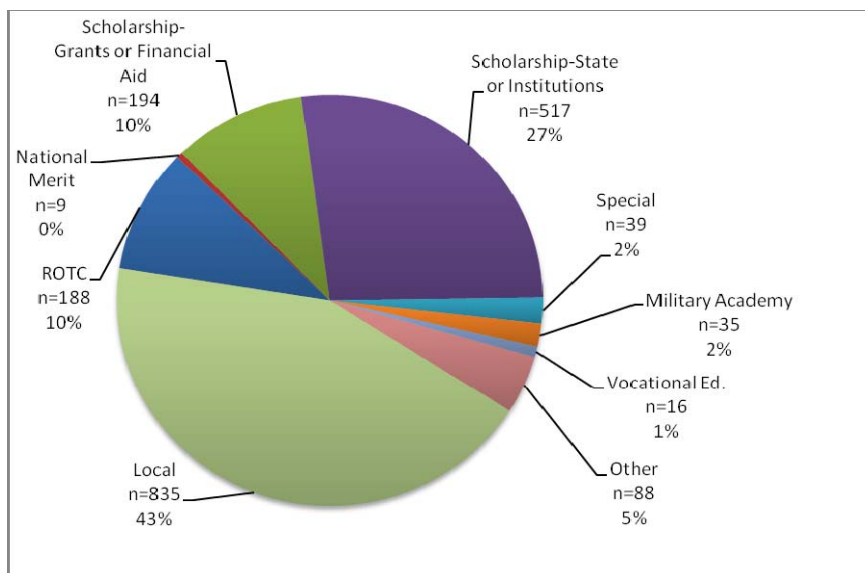
² Forty three percent (43%) of these students were offered more than one scholarship and approximately 11% were offered four or more scholarships.

Figure 2. Scholarships Offered to DoDEA Seniors Based on Total Monies



As illustrated in Figure 2, Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) provided the largest source of scholarship monies to DoDEA seniors followed by state or institutions (29%) and military academies (20%). While ROTC scholarships represent the highest percentage of total scholarship monies, they account for only 17% of the number of scholarships (Figure 3). Local organizations (42%) such as the Officer and Enlisted Spouses' Clubs, fraternities and sororities, Parent Teacher Organizations, and local community groups accounted for 43% of all scholarships offered. The differences between percentages based on total monies and number of scholarships are due to disparities in the average amounts of each scholarship source. Seniors, for example, were offered numerous local scholarships, however these scholarships averaged only \$1,500. In contrast, military academy scholarships averaged \$280,000.

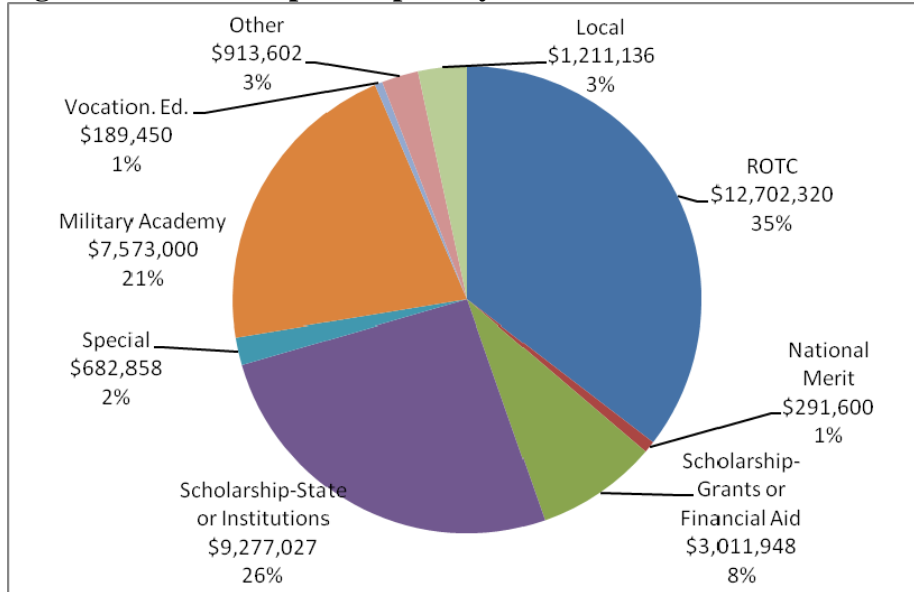
Figure 3. Scholarships Offered to DoDEA Seniors Based on Number of Scholarships



n = the total number of scholarships offered not the number of students being offered each scholarship type.

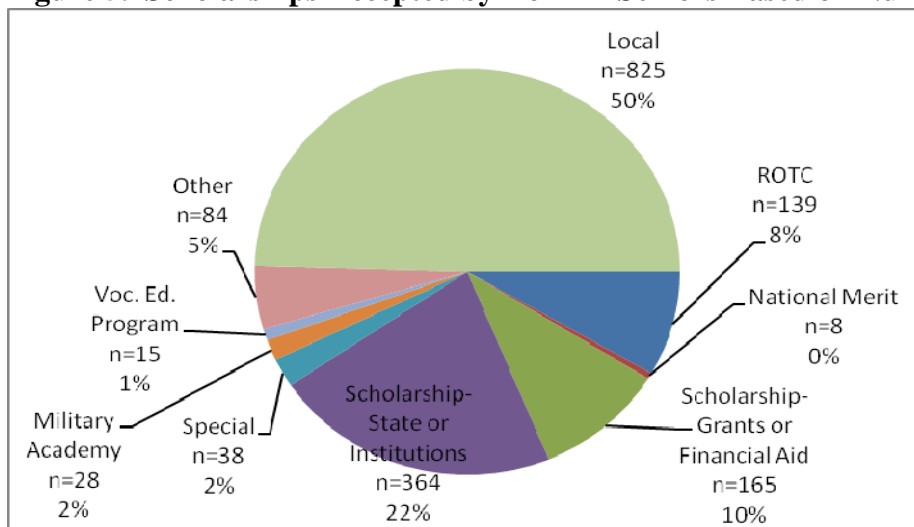
Of the 47.3 million dollars in scholarships, financial aid, and grant monies offered, DoDEA seniors accepted approximately 35.9 million dollars (Figure 4). The source of accepted scholarship monies follows the same pattern as scholarships offered with the largest source of accepted monies coming from ROTC (35%) and state or institution scholarships (26%).

Figure 4. Scholarships Accepted by DoDEA Seniors Based on Total Scholarship Monies



The number of scholarships accepted by source also follows the trend of those offered with local scholarships representing the largest number of scholarships accepted followed by state or institution scholarships (Figure 5). When comparing scholarships offered to those accepted, it is important to note that many students are offered multiple scholarships but are often eligible to accept only one. Several students, for example were offered military academy as well as state institution scholarships. In comparison, students accepted all save 10 local scholarships, as these are issued as general monies that can be used at any postsecondary institution.

Figure 5. Scholarships Accepted by DoDEA Seniors Based on Number of Scholarships



Note. n = the total number of scholarships offered not the number of students being offered each scholarship type.

Table 5 presents the average monies offered and accepted by source for each of the three DoDEA Areas. While the largest source of funding for seniors in DDESS and Europe was ROTC, military academy scholarships provided the largest source of monies for seniors in the Pacific. Vocational Education scholarships also provided a significantly higher source of funds for students in DDESS when compared to students in Europe and the Pacific, most likely the result of the geographic proximity of DDESS schools to vocational opportunities.

It should be noted that direct comparison of monies between the Areas is misleading due to differences in the number of students. For example, although the total monies students were offered in DDESS were at least nine million dollars less than the total monies offered to students in Europe and the Pacific, there were no significant differences in the average monies offered per student.

Table 5. Scholarship Monies Offered and Accepted by Area

	DDESS		Europe		Pacific	
	Offered	Accepted	Offered	Accepted	Offered	Accepted
Local	\$96,700	\$96,700	\$787,902	\$787,302	\$331,534	\$327,134
Military Academy	\$930,000	\$930,000	\$4,883,000	\$3,730,000	\$3,663,000	\$2,913,000
National Merit	--	--	\$14,000	\$14,000	\$279,600	\$277,600
Other	\$82,975	\$51,975	\$426,887	\$425,387	\$436,240	\$436,240
ROTC	\$1,717,440	\$1,458,880	\$8,411,940	\$6,956,940	\$6,698,500	\$4,286,500
Scholarship Grants, Financial Aid	\$692,394	\$475,494	\$1,730,771	\$1,339,945	\$1,360,809	\$1,196,509
Scholarship-State or Institution	\$3,804,504	\$1,677,336	\$6,728,544	\$4,576,132	\$3,369,284	\$3,023,559
Special	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$184,550	\$184,550	\$495,308	\$495,308
Vocational Ed	\$184,000	\$184,000	\$3,450	\$3,450	\$2,000	\$2,000
Total	\$7,511,013	\$4,877,385	\$23,191,144	\$18,037,806	\$16,636,275	\$12,957,850

Note. N represents the number of students who were offered at least one scholarship; Totals do not include \$20,100 in scholarship funds with no associated category.

Graduation Rates

DoDEA's graduation rate of 97% is higher than the current national average (69.1%) and that of the highest state, NJ (82%); although direct comparisons should not be made due to differences in calculation methods (Education Week, 2009). While states use an "on-time" graduation rate based on the percentage of entering ninth grade students who graduate within four years, DoDEA employs a static rate based on 12th grade students who graduate by the end of their senior year. When disaggregated, DoDEA's graduation trends follow those found nationally with a higher percentage of females than males graduating. Unlike national trends, however, there is no difference in the DoDEA graduation rates between White and minority students.

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