

Yokota Schools Overview

<http://www.yokota.af.mil/library/schoolinformation/index.asp>

SCHOOL LIAISON OFFICER

As families are assigned to an overseas military installation, there are unique issues to students transitioning to new schools whether at the beginning of the school year or in the middle of the year. The school liaison officer acts as an advocate for and an intermediary between military and military-connected and civilian families and their school-age children and youth.

The school liaison officer may provide assistance in the following ways: Addresses issues with registration and graduation requirements, coordinates school transition, acts as a communication link between the installation and the on-base schools, supports home school families, provides information about schools for families moving to Yokota Air Base, and refers families to the school liaison officer at the gaining installation. The school liaison officer is also available to represent you at any level if you need assistance.

The school liaison's office is located in the 374th Mission Support Group, Building 316, Room 212. The DSN phone number is (315) 225-3438 and the commercial number to call from the United States is 011-81-3117-55-3438.

Office hours are: 7:30-11:30 a.m. and 1-4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday

GENERAL INFORMATION

Yokota School Complex

There are four schools located on Yokota AB. There are two elementary schools with grades kindergarten through 5th, one middle school with grades 6th through 8th, and one high school with grades 9th through 12th. The sites below are for the schools' public web pages. Once your child is enrolled, you and your student will have access to the schools' secured intranet pages.

Yokota High School www.yokota-hs.pac.dodea.edu

Yokota Middle School www.yokota-ms.pac.dodea.edu

Yokota West Elementary School www.ywes.pac.dodea.edu

Joan K. Mendel Elementary School www.mendel-es.pac.dodea.edu

For the DoDDS Pacific school calendar, refer to: www.pac.dodea.edu/events/calender/index.htm

All schools practice emergency drills on a regular basis. In the event of an emergency, parents will be notified through the Commander's TV Channel and a phone tree when and how children will be dismissed from school. Parents are asked NOT to go to the schools to pick up students.

School Supply Lists

Refer to the following school names and sites for suggested supply lists:

Yokota High School www.yokota.af.mil/shared/media/document/AFD-080326-093.doc

Yokota Middle School www.yokota.af.mil/shared/media/document/AFD-080326-094.doc

Yokota West Elementary School www.yokota.af.mil/shared/media/document/AFD-080326-095.doc

Joan K. Mendel Elementary School www.yokota.af.mil/shared/media/document/AFD-080710-063.pdf

Special Education Programs

DoDDS special education services are directed by both federal regulations and Department of Defense Instruction guidance. All disabilities fall into five disability categories identified by the law that the Case Study Committee will review during the evaluation process to determine if your child is eligible for special education.

Category A: Physical Impairment

Category B: Emotional Impairment

Category C: Communication Impairment

Category D: Learning Impairment

Category E: Developmental Delay

There is a formal screening process that addresses both medical and educational need components for dependents enrolled in the Exceptional Family Members Program (EFMP). If they have not done so already, the EFMP office at your current base will be requesting information from you. This information will then be forwarded on to the EFMP office at Yokota. The EFMP office at Yokota will then send the educational information to the DoDDS Pacific Office for review.

When the results come back to Yokota EFMP office, they couple our input with what they receive from medical, and then make a recommendation to the gaining command. The gaining command then makes the final decision on whether or not to approve travel.

Sometimes families will request information on service availability directly from DoDDS Pacific. While this does not substitute for the formal process outlined above, we are happy to provide that information. The educational recommendations can only come from the centralized DoDDS Pacific office, rather than from the schools.

For more information, visit the following Web site: **Japan School District Special Education Program**
www.japan.pac.dodea.edu/GeneralPages/specED.html

Before- and After-School Care

The 374th Force Support Squadron offers before- and after-school care programs for students 5 to 12 years old. Kindergarten children have a program room designated for them in one of the installation's two **child development centers**. Students 6 years old and older are in one of the **school-age programs sites**. Staff drop off and pick up students from the elementary schools.

For more information about Yokota's youth programs and teen center, click on the appropriate link below:

Youth Programs

Teen Center

Home Schooling Information

The Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) policy neither encourages nor discourages home schooling. DoDEA however does recognize that home schooling is a sponsor's right and that home schooling can be a legitimate alternative form of education for the sponsor's dependents.

Things to know regarding DoDEA Home Schooling policy: DoDEA schools do provide services for sponsors choosing to home school their minor dependents. Specified auxiliary services with DoDEA such as music, sports, extracurricular and inter scholastic activities are available within existing regulations and policies. There is a Yokota Home School Group. They can offer support through monthly meetings and mentorship for families just getting started.

In accordance with U.S. Forces Japan Instruction 36-3106 and 374th AW policy, parents who home school or have their students attend school off-base schools must register with the school liaison officer. Parents need to register within 30 days of arrival and departure. A yearly update is also required.

DoDEA Home Schooling Policy

Parent Choice of Education Form

Military Child Education Coalition

National Home Education Research Institute

Yokota Home School Group

Off-base School Options

There are numerous Japanese public and private schools are available in the area. Depending on the school, instruction may be in Japanese and/or English. Additional information on this option may be obtained through the school liaison.

High School Seniors Assignment Deferment (HSSAD) Program

Air Force members can make a request for their military assignment to be extended to decrease turbulence and increase stability for military families with dependent children entering their senior year of high school. Military assignments are considered on a case-by-case basis with the goal of approving as many requests as possible while meeting mission needs. There are strict deadlines that need to be met when applying. Click [here](#) for more information.

Curfew & Supervision of Minors

To assist parents and other community members in safeguarding children, Yokota's curfew and supervision policies are found in [374 AWI 31-20](#), "[Curfew and Supervision of Minors.](#)" afpims.afnews.af.mil/shared/media/document/AFD-080326-097.pdf. This regulation also covers when children can walk to school unaccompanied and be left unattended in quarters. Curfew is 10:30 p.m. to 5:30 a.m. for minors under 18 years of age.

TRANSITION INFORMATION

Education is a primary quality-of-life concern for military families. An excellent resource for mobile military families was developed by the Department of Defense entitled, "Military Students on the Move Toolkit for Parents." A CD version is available for FREE from the [Military One Source](#) Web site. You may also download the information from the [Military Student.Org](#) Web site.

The [Military Teens on the Move](#) Web site is a helpful site for teens and school-age students transitioning to a new location and school. A [Checklist for Student Transfer](#) is also helpful.

When moving, remember to:

-- Hand carry all school records. Placing these records in your household goods may mean delay in registration or inappropriate placement.

-- Check the new school calendar for beginning and ending dates. Taking leave in conjunction with a PCS move can mean significant loss of time in the classroom and possible retention.

Youth Sponsorship Program

Middle and high school students who have just arrived or getting ready to move to Yokota can request a student sponsor. Student 2 Student (S2S©) teens at Yokota High School and the White Tiger Ambassadors from the Yokota Middle School can help the transition go smoother.

Youth Sponsorship helps relocated youth become familiar with the Yokota community. Sponsors are matched to youth according to their gender, age, and interests. Sponsors escort incoming youth around the base and the school. They introduce new arrival to others students within their age and grade level, and to various activities. There are "Hail and Farewell" activities for new arrivals and those departing. These social functions assist students in making new friends and saying goodbye to old ones.

To sign up, send an e-mail to the **school liaison officer** with the following information: Name, age, gender, current grade, current school, current installation, e-mail address, arrival date, hobbies or interests.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

In-bound students

Registering for school must be done as soon as possible upon arrival. Click on the individual school's link to get registration paperwork. Registration must be completed at the attending school. Schools will need at least three days to process the registration. This will allow the registrar to make a class placement, inform the receiving teacher, and to allow for the teacher to prepare for the new student.

Please bring the following items with you when registering:

- Sponsors orders
- Immunization records
- Birth certificate
- Passport
- ID card
- Social Security Card
- Transcript
- School record
- Last year's report card
- IEP, if applicable
- Sports physical evaluation record signed by a physician (valid for one year), if participating in school-sponsored sports

All families must re-register each school year. Re-registration usually happens in late April.

Out-bound students

Notify the school's office as soon as you receive an estimated departure date. Visit school at least two weeks prior to departure to officially withdraw. You will receive a copy of withdrawal documents and/or records to include an IEP if student is receiving special education services.

BUS TRANSPORTION

Depending on how far from the school your housing is located, students may be eligible for school bus transportation. The school bus transportation office is located on the East side of base in Bldg. 4330, across the street from the AAFES Theater and Skateboard Park. If your student(s) will be riding the bus, the school transportation office will issue a bus pass. Call 225-9787 for more information.

SCHOOL LUNCH INFORMATION

AAFES operates the cafeterias at Yokota schools. To create a school lunch account, stop by the AAFES Customer Service Desk at the exchange. When the account is created, each child is given a four-digit PIN. The student enters his or her PIN at the school cafeteria and the lunch cost is automatically deducted from the student's account.

Parents add money to the account as needed. An electronic payment method is also available. Parents can also pay on their students' lunch accounts directly at the school cafeterias.

Full Pay

Kindergarten to 5th grade: \$2.05

6th to 12th grade: \$2.20

Reduced

Kindergarten to 12th grade: 40¢

School cafeterias also offer a la carte items for an additional cost.

For the current menu, click [here](#).

Free and Reduced School Lunch Program

The USDA Free & Reduced School Lunch Program provides free meals and meals at reduced costs to qualifying families. Eligibility is based on family size and income. The school liaison administers this program. Turn applications into the school liaison office. All families wanting to participate must apply and re-apply every year. Click [here](#) for information on income guidelines and [here](#) for an application.