

## Fact Sheet: Non-DoD Schools Program

The Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) operates schools across the globe for the dependents of military families stationed in foreign locations. In places where a DoDEA school is not available, the Non-DoD Schools Program (NDSP) defrays the costs to families of obtaining education services abroad. This fact sheet provides an overview of the NDSP, the various provisions for support of military-connected students, the enrollment process, and links to more information.

---

### Scope of the Program

The NDSP assists military families living abroad in places without high quality instruction in the local community or a DoDEA school. Eligibility to attend a non-DoD school at the Federal government's expense is limited to *command-sponsored dependents* of military personnel who are assigned to overseas areas where no DoDEA school is available within the commuting area. **A command-sponsored dependent is a minor of school age residing with the active duty military or the full-time DoD civilian sponsor at an overseas location where an accompanied-by-dependent tour is authorized.**

The eligibility age requirements for NDSP are the following:

- For kindergarten and first grade, the *district* entrance age requirements apply. Note that these requirements may be different from the DoDEA standard, which stipulates a child must be 5 years old on or before September 1 for kindergarten and 6 years old on or before September 1 for first grade. The kindergarten's entrance age follows the host country's entrance age requirement.
- Children ages 3 to 5 with developmental delays and disabilities may be eligible for services if they meet DoDEA special education criteria.

---

### Reimbursements

The reimbursement rates for overseas schools and supplemental services are determined by the *Department of State Standardized Regulations (DSSR)* and are meant to cover those expenses that would otherwise be covered by U.S. public schools. The allowable rates are determined locally by the DSSR according to a "base school," which is usually the least expensive adequate school available to families "at post." The Department of State maintains a Web tool for looking up the allowable amounts for each category or type of allowable expense. This site is helpful to military families residing or planning to reside overseas: [http://aoprals.state.gov/Web920/location.asp?menu\\_id=95](http://aoprals.state.gov/Web920/location.asp?menu_id=95)

---

## Allowable Charges

**The allowable charges under the NDSP are based upon what would be covered by U.S. public schools:**

- **Basic Allowable Charges** include tuition; application, registration, and capital fees; other school fees; transportation to and from school; required books; AP/IB courses and exams; rental of musical instruments for school instruction; and correspondence courses or online school programs.
- For **Home Study and Virtual Schools**, the NDSP will reimburse a family for a complete academic course using correspondence course materials in the home or private instruction, if other local school options are deemed unavailable. Funding up to \$5,700 is provided each school year for grades K–8 and up to \$7,700 for grades 9–12 or as specified by the DSSR.
- Based on circumstances and prior approval from the Non-DoD Schools Program, certain additional services may be reimbursed to supplement a student’s academic needs, including mandated summer school, PSAT/SAT/ACT exam fees and preparation courses, foreign language courses, gifted instruction, and tutoring.
- **The NDSP also reimburses special education and related services for eligible DoD dependents.** Enrollment in the Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP) and screening prior to an overseas assignment is mandatory for all military personnel. In addition, prior to any special education activity, entitlements and command sponsorship must be verified.

---

## Enrolling in the Program

**Approval for the enrollment of an eligible minor dependent of a DoD sponsor must be obtained from the NDSP office prior to enrolling a child in a non-DoD school abroad.** Families receiving orders to transfer to an overseas location should first contact the gaining School Liaison Officer to discuss local school options. If it is determined that no DoDEA school is available within commuting distance, the School Liaison can help navigate families through the process of assessing local education options and completing the **Application for Enrollment in a Non-DOD Schools Program (Form 610)** and supporting documentation.

---

## More Information about the NDSP

For more information about NDSP, including contact information for each of the three main NDSP offices in Europe, the Pacific, and the Americas, visit the NDSP Web site at <http://www.dodea.edu/parents/dodea.cfm?cId=nondod>.