

Quick Facts: Support for Home-school Students

The Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) takes great pride in its ability to extend a positive educational experience to any eligible military-connected student who chooses to engage with our schools, including homeschool students. DoDEA recognizes and respects that home-schooling is a military member's right and that it can be a legitimate alternative form of education for military-connected families. DoDEA neither encourages nor discourages military members from home-schooling their children.

DoDEA Directive-Type Memorandum (DTM) 16-E-001, dated December 19, 2016, clarifies DoDEA services that are available to eligible Department of Defense (DoD) dependent home-school students. The DTM also provides guidance about participation in DoDEA commencement ceremonies.

The information below provides an introduction to DoDEA's home-school resources and services.



Eligibility: DoDEA's DTM 16-E-001 applies to DoD dependent home-school students within commuting distance of a DoDEA school who are eligible to enroll in a DoDEA school in a tuition-free status (DoDEA-Americas) or a space-required status (DoDEA-Europe and DoDEA-Pacific). It does not apply to space-required students who are enrolled in host nation schools.



Services and Resources: Eligible home-school students may use or receive auxiliary services, enroll in one or more DoDEA courses, and/or access gifted education, English as a second language, or special education services consistent with existing DoDEA regulations and policies. Auxiliary services include use of academic resources, access to the library of the school, afterhours use of school facilities, and participation in music, sports, and other extracurricular and interscholastic activities. Academic resources, such as textbooks, workbooks, library books, scheduled standardized tests, software, and internet (through the Information Center of the school), are made available to home-school students on the same basis as dependents enrolled in DoDEA schools. Auxiliary services do not include participation in DoDEA commencement ceremonies.



Commencement Ceremony Participation: Eligible home-school seniors who are fully enrolled in a DoDEA High School may participate in a DoDEA commencement ceremony by meeting DoDEA graduation requirements, earning a DoDEA diploma, and complying with DoDEA graduation policies and procedures (i.e., DoDEA Administrative Instruction 2000.1). To learn more about methods of support and/or acknowledgment available to home-school seniors who have not met DoDEA graduation requirements, please contact your DoDEA school administrator or visit the DoDEA home-school Web page listed above.



Host-Nation, State, Commonwealth, Possession and Territory Laws: A host nation, state, commonwealth, possession, or territory where a DoD sponsor is stationed may impose legal requirements on home-schooling practices. DoDEA encourages DoD sponsors who wish to home-school their dependents to communicate their desire to their commanders to determine if there are any command policies or other rules ensuring that home-schooling practices meet nation, state, commonwealth, possession, or territory requirements.

For more information about DoDEA's support for home-school students, please visit the home-school Web page for access to the DTM and frequently asked questions: www.dodea.edu/parents/homeschooling.cfm.

HOMESCHOOL FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



Opportunities for Homeschool Students:

Students who are enrolled as auxiliary homeschool students are able to participate in after-school clubs, music, athletics, and other extracurricular and interscholastic programs provided by their zoned school. Each school maintains their own list of available programs, events, and activities. For a complete list, please contact your zoned school. For the full instruction for DoDEA's Homeschool program please visit: www.dodea.edu/offices/office-dodea-policy/regulation/home-school-students-change-1

Educational Opportunities for Homeschool Students

Eligible homeschool students may have access to a variety of educational resources and support services offered through DoDEA. These include:

- Course enrollment: The ability to enroll in individual courses alongside DoDEA students. (Note: Due to scheduling variables and the interdisciplinary nature of elementary school, it may not be feasible to enroll eligible home-school students in an individual class for students in kindergarten through fifth grade.
- Special Education Services: Support for students with an Individualized Education Plan (IEP), as outlined in their plan.
- Multilingual Learner (ML) Support
- 504 Accommodation: Support consistent with applicable issuances.
- Gifted Education Services: Programs designed to meet the needs of gifted learners.
- Access to these services is determined by current DoDEA policies. To learn more about eligibility and enrollment procedures, please contact your zoned school.

Expectations for Homeschool Students Taking DoDEA Courses

If your homeschool student enrolls in one or more courses at a DoDEA (Department of Defense Education Activity) school, or participates in DoDEA interscholastic activities, they are expected to fully comply with all DoDEA policies. This includes:

- Registration: Following all DoDEA registration procedures.
- Attendance: Meeting DoDEA attendance requirements.
- Grading: Adhering to DoDEA grading policies
- Conduct: Following the DoDEA student code of conduct.

Access to DoDEA Facilities for Homeschool Students

Eligible Homeschool students may be able to use DoDEA facilities outside of regular school hours, specifically when those facilities are already in use for school-sponsored programs or activities.

Please note: DoDEA facilities are not available during summer breaks or on official school holidays/non-instructional days.

To learn more about specific facility availability and non-instructional hours, please contact your zoned school principal.

HOMESCHOOL FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



Facility Reservations for Homeschool Groups

Homeschool groups may request to reserve DoDEA facilities— such as gymnasiums or cafeterias— for meetings or ceremonies held on non-school days. However, all facility use is subject to approval and at the discretion of the school principals. To be considered, requests must meet the following requirements:

- Installation Approval: The homeschool group must be approved by the relevant military installation.
- Written Request: A formal request must be submitted in writing to the zoned school.
- Advanced Notice: Requests must be submitted at least ninety (90) days before the event date.

Resources Available to Homeschool Students

DoDEA offers some resources to eligible homeschool students to support their education. Specifically, students may request available textbooks and workbooks that align with the DoDEA curriculum. Please note the following items are typically the responsibility of the homeschooling family and are not provided by DoDEA:

- Student laptops
- Consumable materials (e.g., paper, pencils)
- Musical instruments
- Science kits
- Other supplied typically purchased by parents

Finding the DoDEA Curriculum Guide

As a homeschooling parent, you may find it helpful to reference the curricula used in DoDEA schools. A comprehensive overview of DoDEA courses offered by grade level is available on the DoDEA website: <https://www.dodea.edu/education/curriculum-and-instruction>. To confirm the specific courses available at your local school, we encourage you to contact your zoned school.

Funding for Homeschool Student Access to Services

DoDEA schools do not receive additional funding to cover the costs associated with homeschool students utilizing auxiliary services (such as specialized programs or extracurricular activities).

GED Testing through DoDEA

DoDEA schools do not administer General Educational Development (GED) tests.

Eligibility for Homeschool Services

Homeschool students requesting services must meet the same eligibility requirements as dependents enrolled in DoDEA schools. Please note that a homeschool student's enrollment category will determine whether auxiliary services and extracurricular fees apply. For more information regarding eligibility, please visit: <https://www.dodea.edu/offices/office-dodea-policy/regulation/eligibility-and-enrollment-requirements-dodea-schools-o> or contact your zoned school.