

56 Home Schooling

- References:
- (a) Section 926 of title 20, United States Code
 - (b) Section 353 of Public Law 107-107, “National Defense Authorization Act For Fiscal Year 2002,” December 28, 2001
 - (c) DoDEA Regulation 1342.13, “Eligibility Requirements for Education of Minor Dependents in Overseas Areas,” September 20, 2006
 - (d) DoD Instruction 1342.26, “Eligibility Requirements for Education of Minor Dependents to attend Department of Defense Domestic Dependent Elementary and Secondary Schools,” March 4, 1997

56.1 DoDEA’s Position

It is DoDEA policy neither to encourage nor discourage DoD sponsors from home schooling their minor dependents. DoDEA recognizes that home schooling is a parent/sponsor’s right and is a legitimate alternative form of education.

56.2 Student Eligibility

56.2.1 DoD dependent students eligible to attend a DoDEA school on a space-required basis in DoDDS and on a tuition-free basis in DDESS systems who are home schooled are eligible to receive auxiliary services.

56.2.2 Home schoolers using or receiving auxiliary services must meet the same eligibility requirements applicable to dependents enrolled in DoDEA schools who use or receive the same auxiliary services. These eligibility requirements may include, but are not limited to:

- age eligibility as defined in reference (c);
- maintaining academic eligibility;
- providing documentation of current immunizations, physical exam, and proof of insurance coverage;
- compliance with DoDEA standards of conduct; and
- compliance with DoDEA Internet access requirements.

56.3 Legal Requirements

56.3.1 A host nation, state, commonwealth, or territory where a DoD sponsor is stationed may impose legal requirements on home schooling practices. DoD sponsors who wish to home school their dependents should communicate their desire to their commanders to determine if there are any command policies or other rules that must be met to ensure that home schooling practices meet host nation, state, commonwealth, or territory requirements. Parents/sponsors are responsible for complying with applicable local requirements.

56.3.2 State or athletic association requirements may supercede this policy at DDESS schools.

56.4 Auxiliary Services

56.4.1 A DoD dependent who is educated in a home school setting but is eligible to enroll in a DoDEA school is permitted to use or receive auxiliary services of that school **without being required to either enroll in or to register** for a minimum number of courses offered by the school. School registrars will not enter home school student information into the Student Information System (SIS). A separate copy of the sponsor's orders and other documentation necessary to establish DoDEA eligibility, and emergency contact information, may be kept in a separate record. This record must be destroyed at the end of the school year in which services are provided.

56.4.2 Students who enroll for one or more courses will be entered into SIS.

56.4.3 By statute, auxiliary services are defined as use of academic resources; access to the library of the school; after-hours use of school facilities; and participation in music, sports, and other extracurricular and interscholastic activities.

56.4.3.1 Academic resources includes textbooks, workbooks, library books, scheduled standardized tests, software, and internet access that is obtained through the media center/library of the school. These materials and services are provided to home schoolers on the same basis that such resources are made available to dependents enrolled in DoDEA schools.

56.4.3.2 After-hours use of school facilities by home schoolers is determined on the same basis as other dependents enrolled in that school. Home schoolers may use a specific school's facilities after the school day has ended.

56.4.3.3 Extracurricular activities vary from school to school. All school-sponsored extracurricular programs, e.g., drama, public speaking, Model United Nations, cheerleading, music, and Future Business Leaders of America, are available to space-required home schooled students.

56.4.3.4 Interscholastic activities are those activities that are conducted between two or more schools. Activities may be athletic or academic in nature (e.g., varsity football, science symposium, U.S. Model Senate.)

56.5 Student Conduct

56.5.1 Home schoolers using or receiving auxiliary services must comply with the same standards of conduct applicable to dependents enrolled in DoDEA schools who use or receive the same auxiliary services.