

ARMY EUROPE
SCHOOL
SUPPORT
SERVICES



SPRING 2016

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[Find YOUR
School Liaison
Officer!](#)

Where did the time go?

The 15-16 school year will be screeching to a halt before you know it. Changes are on the way. For some a PCS move looms ahead, a change from elementary or middle school, or for others a new experience of traveling in Europe begins. Our schools will experience some changes before the next year rolls around too. Department of Defense Education Activity Europe (DoDEA-E) will merge from four districts to three districts. DoDEA continues to move toward College and Career Readiness Standards, and the school lunch program has some nice surprises as well.

Packed in this issue is information to keep you up to **speed on the latest as well as tips to support your child's** educational experience and keep them engaged during the summer months.

Your School Liaison Officer is available to assist you with the challenges faced by mobile military children at any time of the year.

Find your SLO:



NEW Europe District Structure

Department of Defense Education Activity Europe ([DoDEA-E](#)) schools are undergoing some changes. “Restructuring for Student Achievement” includes changes in organization of DoDEA leadership. DoDEA -Europe will be transitioning from four separate districts to three districts as of the 2016-2017 School year.

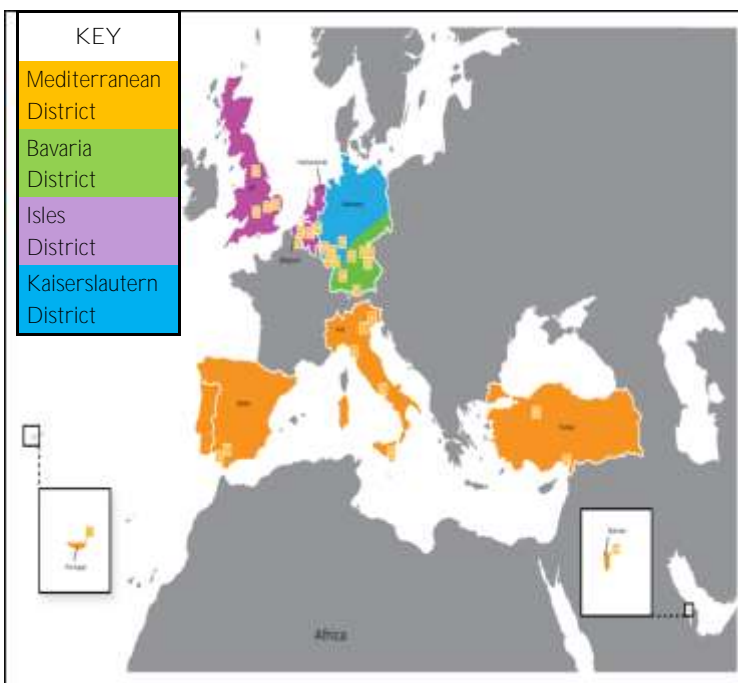
Kaiserslautern District, Bavaria District, Mediterranean District and the Isles District will be no more. Instead DoDEA Europe will be comprised of the East, West, and South Districts. This change is all part of DoDEA’s move toward restructuring for student achievement. The move is designed to address the following;

- Ineffective balance of resources to support student achievement
- Align structure and scope of superintendent responsibility with U.S. public school districts
- Align with Department of Defense Business Process and System Review Initiative
- Streamline command and control

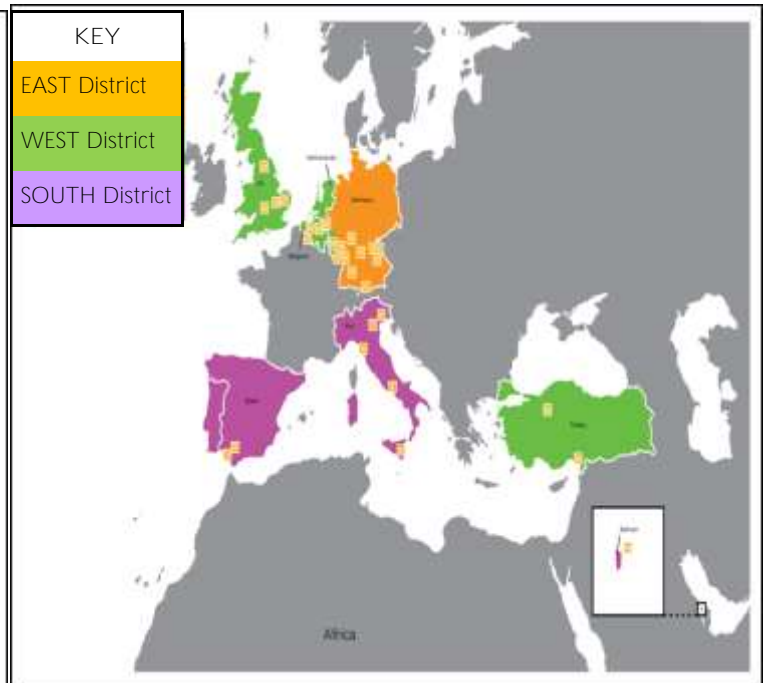
Click here to find out more about [Restructuring for Student Achievement](#)

Beginning July
2016

DoDEA-Europe Current: 4 Districts



DoDEA-Europe Future: 3 Districts



NEW DoDEA Europe District Structure

DoDEA EUROPE EAST

District Office Location	Kasierslautern
District Satellite Office Locations	1. Stuttgart 2. Grafenwoehr
Remote District Support	Garmisch

EAST District Military Communities

Ansbach, Germany
 Baumholder, Germany
 Garmisch, Germany
 Grafenwoehr, Germany
 Hohenfels, Germany
 Kaiserslautern, Germany
 Ramstein, Germany
 Stuttgart, Germany
 Vilseck, Germany
 Wiesbaden, Germany

DoDEA EUROPE WEST

District Office Location	Brussels
District Satellite Office Location	Lakenheath
Remote District Support	Turkey

WEST District Military Communities

Brussels, Belgium
 Kleine Brogel, Belgium
 SHAPE, Belgium
 Spangdahlem, Germany
 Schinnen, Netherlands
 Lakenheath, UK
 Alconbury, UK
 Croughton, UK
 Ankara, Turkey
 Incirlik, Turkey

DoDEA EUROPE SOUTH

District Office Location	Vicenza
District Satellite Office Location	Naples
Remote District Support	1. Rota 2. Sigonella 3. Bahrain

SOUTH District Military Communities

Bahrain
 Aviano, Italy
 Darby, Italy
 Naples, Italy
 Sigonella, Italy
 Vicenza, Italy
 Moron, Spain
 Rota, Spain

School Year 16-17

DoDEA EUROPE LEADERSHIP & CONTACTS



DoDEA Europe
Director
Dr. Dell McMullen
[Email Area Office](#)
[DoDEA –E webpage](#)

DODEA Director
Mr. Tom Brady



4800 Mark Center Dr.
Alexandria, VA 22350
PH 571-372-0590
[DoDEA HQ Webpage](#)



EAST District
Superintendent
Dr. Elizabeth Dunham
* [EAST Distr. Webpage](#)



WEST District
Superintendent
Mr. Frank Roehl
* [WEST Distr. webpage](#)



SOUTH District
Superintendent
Mr. Kent Worford
* [SOUTH Distr. webpage](#)

Links to all the School Websites can be found on the district webpages above.



[Calendars](#)



[DoDEA-E Press Releases](#)

EMAILING TEACHERS

Typical emails:

First name. last name @eu.dodea.edu

(Some teachers may include a middle initial or a hyphenated last name.)



* New District websites will not be up and running until July 2016

Annual Re-Registration for SY 16-17 is required for all returning students currently registered in DoDEA schools

Please do this as soon as possible.

Schools begin this process as early as March.

You will need the following:



- ◆ Updated orders, extension orders, and/or ERB/ORB
- ◆ Updated [Immunization Records](#)
- ◆ Updated contact information
- ◆ [Re-registration packets](#) will be available from your school (DoDEA Forms; 700, 700A, & 2942.0-M-F2)

Contact your school registrar with any questions!

[DoDEA enrollment eligibility information](#)



STUDENT TRANSPORTATION

- ◆ [DoDEA Europe Student Transportation](#) school bus stop information and school bus passes are mailed to your APO address prior to the start of school. If you do not receive a bus pass contact your local [transportation office](#).
- ◆ If you are new to Europe contact your bus transportation office for information about bus transportation and to request a bus pass. [Transportation Offices](#)
- ◆ [What Parents need to know about school bus transportation in Europe!](#)
- ◆ [Student Safety and Behavior](#)
- ◆ Walking to School/Bus Stops: [Army in Europe Child and Youth Supervision Policy](#)

DoDEA Transitions to College and Career Readiness (CCR) Standards

Military children are far more mobile than their civilian counterparts. PCSing is a way of life. **Often children move between schools with different standards. Part of the impetus for “Common Core” was the establishment of a basic set of standards nationwide so our children would all, regardless of location, have the same standards of instruction.** Our children will soon experience a cohesive, consistent standard of instruction and set of expectations as they transition into new schools nationwide.

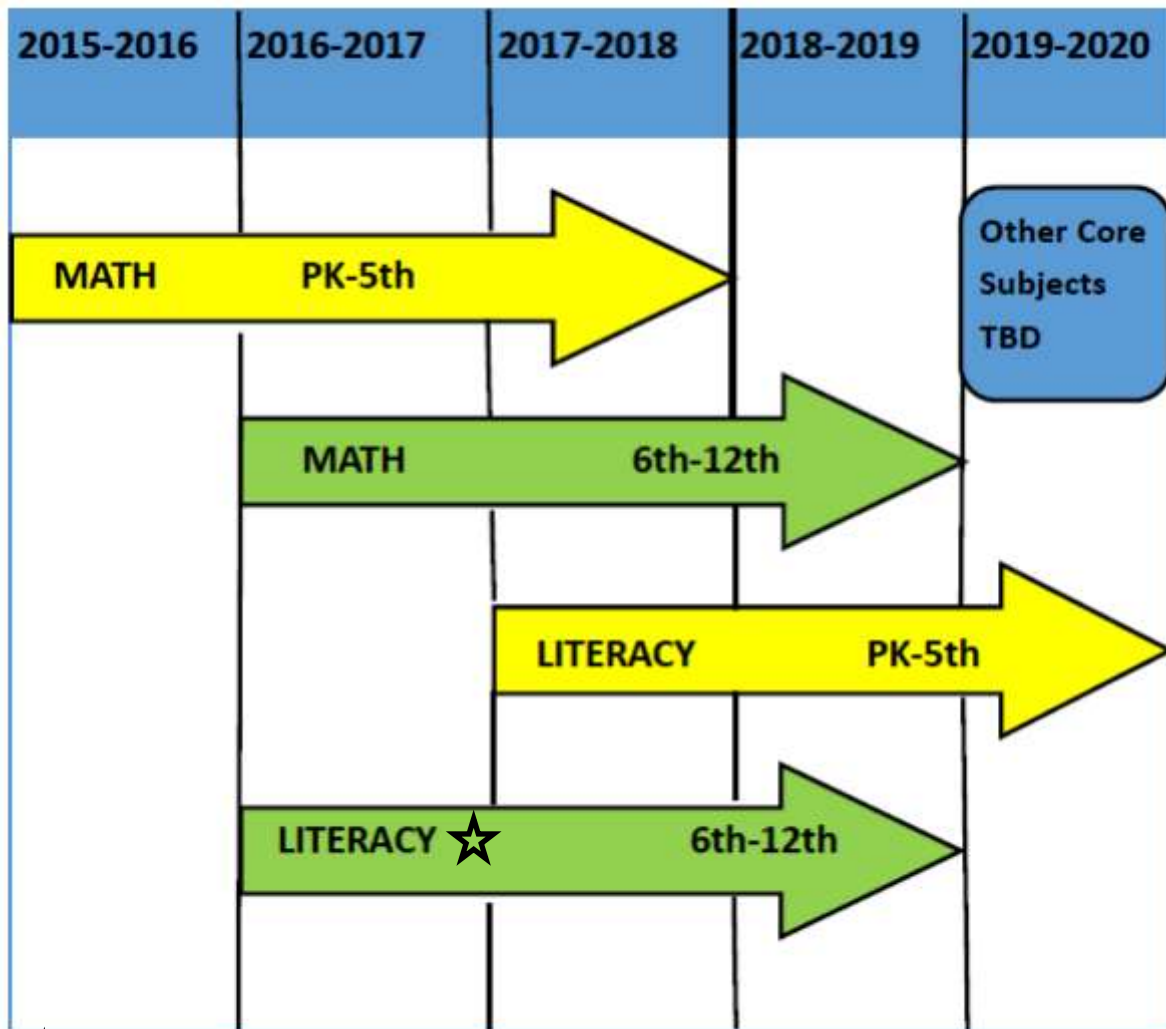
This does not mean instruction will look the same everywhere. The art of instruction and the special flair of a teacher will still shine through in their instruction regardless of the standards **they are required to teach. There is a difference between “standards” and “curriculum”.** Standards are the goals, or expectations. For example, a standard might be that a student know what $3 + 5$ equals. The curriculum includes many resources and the detailed plan for how the goal will be achieved. Curriculums are still under local control nationwide. It is the standards that are “common”.

DoDEA has elected to implement College and Career Readiness (CCR) standards phasing them in over five years. CCR standards are based in large part on the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). **A student’s readiness for college or career depend upon more than simply their** knowledge of standards content. College and Career Ready (CCR) standards are designed to be relevant to the real world, allow students to master more critical-thinking and unique problem-solving skills, and to reflect the knowledge, skills and social foundations that our students need for success in both college and career. The world is changing and our kids need to be prepared to move into career fields that may not yet even exist. DoDEA is moving forward in supporting our children in stepping out into the real world prepared with both the knowledge and skills that will make them successful whichever path they choose.



As DoDEA phases in these new standards they are including administrator and teacher training in the new standards, curriculum materials, etc. to support a successful launch of the new standards. The transition to CCR Math and Literacy will occur over a five year period.

DoDEA Timeline for Implementing College and Career Readiness (CCR) Standards:



☆ Includes Literacy standards for English, history, science, and the arts.

Parent Resources:

[DoDEA change to College and Career Readiness standards](#)

[DoDEA College and Career Ready E-Book](#)

[Common Core State Standards and the Impacts on Military Children](#)

[US News & World Report Guide to Common Core](#)

With more teacher training starting with the upcoming school year, please anticipate more school out hours during training. Your school will keep you informed.

FREE AND REDUCED MEAL APPLICATIONS

The Free and Reduced Meal program application process is changing with the 2016-2017 school year. No longer will families have to go to the School Liaison Officer or Child Youth and School Services to apply for free and reduced lunches. Families can quickly apply online in the privacy of their home with a few clicks of a mouse! Simply go to the following link to apply.



www.aafes.com/about-exchange/school-lunch-program

- Receive confirmation of application status typically within 24 hours.
- **Your child's lunch account is automatically updated to reflect the free or reduced price status for the remainder of the current school year.**
- Applications must be made annually.
- 3% of approved applicants are randomly selected to take part in an annual verification process.
- All students including those who qualify for free or reduced price meals need a lunch account to participate.
- Sign up for AAFEs lunch account at cash cage.

Helpful links:

[AAFES - Online FARM application](#)

[Eligibility Guidelines](#) (use Alaska chart)

[Eligibility Manual](#)

[USDA National School Lunch Program](#)



School Lunch Accounts

- ◆ If you are PCSing at the end of the school year, it is vital that you stop by the AAFES cash cage and **close out your child's lunch account.** Any remaining funds will be returned to you. If you owe money it is important that you take care of that prior to your departure.
- ◆ If your child is moving between elementary, middle, or high schools in the same location, the account will be transferred to the new school and all funds associated with that account will follow your child to his new school.
- ◆ If you do not have a lunch account and will be attending a DoDEA school during the 16-17 school year, be sure to stop by the AAFES cash cage to set up an account.



[AAFES Student Meal Program Information](#)

MEAL PAYMENTS PLUS

Think OUTSIDE the lunchbox! Use My Payments Plus to make sure your student gets a hot and healthy meal at school.

www.MyPaymentsPlus.com



Use MyPaymentsPlus to:

- ◆ **View student's cafeteria purchases to track spending and ensure your child is making healthy choices .**
- ◆ Deposit funds online or via the free mobile app! (a small fee is charged for making online payments—Payments can still be made at no charge at the AAFES Exchange cash cage or by sending in a check to the cafeteria.)
- ◆ **Set reminders to notify you each time your child's lunch account prepay balance is low**
- ◆ Enable your student to purchase items through the snack bar or through A La Carte at some locations.
- ◆ Convenient auto-pay option available

Free sign up:

Go to www.MyPaymentsPlus.com

For state: select "EXCHANGE"

PRICES	Full	Reduced	Free
MS/HS	\$2.55	\$.40	0
ELEM	\$2.40	\$.40	0

SKIP the dreaded “summer brain drain” !



Roll out those lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer! Skip the learning lag that happens to some children during summer vacation with some fun activities that will reinforce skills and keep your kids ready and raring to go when back to school season comes around! Following are just a few ideas that you can alter to match **your child’s grade level. Have fun this summer!**

Mathematics

- ◆ Build a tree or bird house. Skills: taking accurate measurements, angles, adding and subtracting fractions and decimals. Science bonus on the bird House; Junior Audubon member!
- ◆ Make your child the navigator during a road trip. (Hide your Garmin) have them calculate distance on a map, estimate time needed to travel based upon speed.
- ◆ At the commissary, have your kids collect and weigh the produce, select **the “best deal”, estimate total cost, calculate savings with coupons, and figure percentage discounts.**
- ◆ Set up a lemonade stand. Calculate operating cost / profit. Determine cost per serving. Add orders and make change.
- ◆ Have children follow a recipe. Lots of math in measuring ingredients and fractions especially if you reduce the number of servings you are making. Bonus: Reading for information to boot!
- ◆ **Teach your kids to sew. (Or learn with them!) It’s a great way to learn measurements and have fun!**
- ◆ License plate game for road trips—add all the digits on a license plate; high plate wins!.
- ◆ **Have fun learning liquid measurements in the back yard... spills are OK and fun!**
- ◆ Board game night! Counting out money is an important life skill. Make your child the banker!
- ◆ Play pool. Learn about geometric angles. Bonus for actually measuring angles and categorizing!



Social Studies (History , Civics, Geography)

- ◆ OK, people, we are in EUROPE! #1 is TRAVEL!! We are lucky enough to be surrounded by living history and museums with items older than the USA! Take advantage of it. Double down on the learning by reading or discussing unique historical facts about where you are going.

(Social Studies continued)

- ◆ **With today's computers, you can "cut & paste" your way to a cool treasure hunt. Print out photos of things to look for. Souvenir purchase contingent upon finding items listed !**
- ◆ Attend a medieval festival! Go all out; dress and act the part! The kids will love it.
- ◆ A presidential election year is a great time to learn about the election process. Have kids track delegates per candidate. Bonus geography lesson when you use a US map to indicate delegate commitments by state. Math bonus when you create a graph using delegate counts by state or candidate. Have them help mail your absentee ballot!
- ◆ Try [Geocaching](#)! **It's sort of like a worldwide treasure hunt. Kids learn about finding locations using coordinates. In Europe there are endless learning opportunities as you follow the "treasure".**
- ◆ Study landforms by CLIMBING some of them! Teach orienteering along the way. Have a compass ready. Go ahead and use online maps! They are informative too.
- ◆ The USO offers historical tours to battlefields. Read a book or watch a movie about the event before the trip.

Science

- ◆ **Grow a garden. It's a great science lesson and can encourage a love of nutritious foods . Use pots on the balcony if you don't have a yard. Visit a farmer's market for ideas of what to grow! Have the kids help make nutritious meals from their harvest.**
- ◆ There are numerous learning opportunities at the beach. Discuss the sun, how shadows move during the day, what sand is, collect seashells and discuss their original purpose. Bring a colander to a tide pool to hold in the water and safely house little sea animals you find for viewing before you send them home.
- ◆ Try [Earthcaching](#)! **It's the earth science version of Geocaching.**
- ◆ **Go fishing. There are lots of phone aps like "[Find a Fish](#)" to identify and learn about the types of fish you catch.**
- ◆ Star gazing! Point out constellations. Bonus: Bedtime story of mythological characters in constellations.
- ◆ Check out a science experiment book from the library or online. Most supplies are readily available in the house. Your little scientist will gain some confidence if he is allowed to read, follow directions and conduct an experiment on his own. You might be fueling a future career! Just double check for safety before the kids begin. Keep a composition book handy for sketching and recording results.
- ◆ **You haven't been a kid if you haven't collected bugs! Keep those magnifying glasses and mayo jars handy! Older kids can research the names and other characteristics online.**



Language Arts (reading, writing, grammar, spelling, punctuation, vocabulary)

- ◆ Everyone KNOWS that the more kids read, the better they get at it and the more they like it! We all enjoy things we are good at more than things we struggle to do. Summer is a wonderful time to slow down and read **for pleasure since there aren't any homework papers to worry about!** Set aside time each day. For the reluctant sleeper /reader offer two bedtimes #1. in bed and lights out #2. in bed and reading with lights out a half hour later than normal.
- ◆ Comprehension— Part of good reading comprehension is the ability to **imagine in the mind's eye what the author is describing. This is why the transition to “picture free” books actually enhances comprehension. “Mind's Eye” is an easy game you can play anywhere! Tell your kids you are imagining something, for example a cow. Then ask your children to close their eyes and “see” a cow. Have them describe the cow they imagined. What color was it? Did it have horns? A bell? Was it in a field or a barn or somewhere else? Was it alone?** Children will begin to associate details of a description with a clearer picture and get practice with running images in their head which is what happens when we read. This skill will also translate into good descriptive writing ability!
- ◆ Writing: send postcards home to relatives written by the kids! Kids can describe their summer adventures. Discuss greeting, body and closing
- ◆ Reading, spelling, and vocabulary all benefit when kids know their [Affixes](#). Make a [memory card game](#) with prefixes and suffixes. Identify meanings before turning over cards. Guess meanings of new words with affixes.
- ◆ Have your child read YOU a bedtime story. Record one on tape for grandparents back home.
- ◆ Offer to rent the movie after a child has read the book. Family night popcorn bonus!
- ◆ Become a Pen Pal to someone back home or anywhere !
- ◆ Host a weekly game night! Scrabble, Boggle, Wheel of Fortune, all these games enhance spelling and vocabulary skills.
- ◆ Watch a foreign movie and read the subtitles; Reading plus learning another language and culture in one swoop!



Resources to Encourage Summer Reading

- ◆ [Book Adventure](#) is a FREE reading motivation program for children in grades K-8. Children create their own book lists from over 7,000 recommended titles, take multiple **choice quizzes on the books they've read, and earn points and prizes for their literary success.**
- ◆ [OverDrive](#) gives you free computer or smartphone access to millions of eBooks and audiobooks from thousands of libraries across the nation! What a great way to pass the time on long summer road trips!
- ◆ Take the [Scholastic summer reading challenge!](#)
- ◆ [Magic Keys Children's Storybooks online](#)
- ◆ [Reading Rockets](#) launching young readers!
- ◆ Make a weekly trip to the post FMWR library to select books. Add a stop to an ice cream shop or favorite fast food place to make it a special treat.
- ◆ [Army Europe FMWR Library Summer Reading Program](#) encourages and supports a love of reading in children. Participants can win **prizes for reaching their reading goals. This year's theme is "Read for the WIN". To learn more, visit your local FMWR Library!**



Online Skill Reviews

Kids love computers. They are better with them than many **adults. Admit it, you've asked your kid to help you find how to do something on your laptop!** Computers are a wonderful way to keep skills sharp and learn new ones too. Your Army School Liaison Officer's website has a **section packed with learning links on numerous school subjects for kids of all ages.** There is even a foreign language learning section! Help your kids exercise their minds and avoid the summer brain drain! Find learning opportunities for ALL ages. Go to the Learning Links tab on your installation [SLO page](#)



beating summer brain drain



Beating summer brain drain one smile, one beautiful summer day with your kids at a time!



Parent Central Services is your gateway to good stuff for babies through teens!

A host of options to keep the fun in your child's summer are available through Army Child, Youth and School Services!

Within Army Child, Youth and School Services you will find something to meet your child's needs. Choose from: Fulltime/part time/hourly care, before/after school care, camps, middle school and teen youth programs, instructional classes, workforce preparation opportunities, sports and fitness activities.

Registration and information for all these programs is available at [Parent Central Services](#).

School Age Center Summer Camps Don't spend your summer hearing "Mom, I'm bored!" Fun summer day camps are offered for children grades 1 through 5 or 6 depending upon local school configuration. These day camp experiences offer regular theme-based adventures, trips, and activities that will keep children engaged and excited to return the next day. Option for full summer or select weeks may be available.

Middle School/Teen Summer Camps and Activities MS-HS age students will have a blast throughout the summer! Regular trips and activities as well as overnight excursions that provide fun experiences are available to keep youth with varied interests happy. Each week is a new adventure! **Don't sleep on the couch all summer; Get out and have fun!**

HIRED! Is a workforce preparation and apprenticeship program that places youths ages 15-18 in positions with participating organizations within MWR operations. Learn about career fields such as marketing, graphic design, sports management, education, food service, outdoor recreation and more. Students must qualify and space is limited. Positions through the summer and into the school year available!



EDGE! Offers opportunities for youth grades 6-12 to experience, develop, grow, and excel by participating in “cutting edge” art, fitness, life skills, and adventure activities.

Youth Sports- Get out and enjoy the great weather by participating in any of the many sporting options available to children and youth through CYS Services Youth Sports program. The program provides children (ages 3-18) a positive and enjoyable recreation experience. A variety of instructional clinics and sports are offered throughout the summer months. CYS Services will maintain a focus on providing sports and fitness programs that are recreational, maximize participation, and concentrate on the practice and development of skill in a recreational environment.

SKIES Unlimited Instructional Classes – Classes for children and youth are available within each of the four “schools”; School of Life, School of Sports, School of Arts, School of Academics. Check with your local Parent Central Services office for details about classes offered in your area.

Parent Fun – Parent Night Out or Day Out are opportunities for parents to leave their little ones in our care while they enjoy some adult time without the kids. These special events are offered every so often and slots fill fast.

Kids On Site - On-site child care can be provided for your unit/organizational event at the location where you have an event. Care for children 6 weeks - 12 years available.

REGISTER and get more information for the above options at your local Parent Central Services. Not all programs available at every location. Links to application forms and your local Parent Central Services webpage is available at

europe.armymwr.com/CYSS

Get Ready for Back to School- **As you prepare for summer to end, don't forget to** contact your local Army School Liaison Officer (SLO) for information, referral and assistance with questions or concerns about schools and dependent education whether Department of Defense Education Activity schools, private schools, or homeschooling.

-Youth sponsors are also available to assist newcomers.

-Your child can practice academic skills on the Learning Links section of the SLO

webpage! It's not too early to prepare for a great school year!

-Find your installation School Liaison Officer and local SLO webpage at europe.armymwr.com/slo



U.S. Army Child, Youth
& School Services



Interstate Compact Supports Transitioning Military Dependent Students

Moving back to the states? As mobile military students move through various sets of curriculums, graduation requirements, and school systems they can suffer academically and socially. This is finally a front burner issue with many school districts in the states. All 50 states and several territories have signed an interstate compact that provides support to transitioning military families. **The Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children** provides state commitment to support transitioning military children in the areas of Enrollment, Eligibility, and Graduation.

DoDEA is not a state and therefore cannot become a signatory, however it has pledged to meet the expectations laid out in the compact and signed an MOA with the DOD.

The Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission (MIC3) has established a website to keep military families abreast of updates and how they can rely on the compact provisions to support their transitioning students.

For more information:

[MIC3 website.](#)

[Interstate Compact Guidebook](#)

[See your SLO](#)





Are you PCSing soon?
Check out the
IMCOM-Europe PSC
Handbooks

Army Europe OUTBOUND PCS Handbook

Tons of information to assist you with preparing for a smooth school transition as you leave your Army Europe duty station with your school age child.

Army Europe INBOUND PCS Handbook

Information and contacts to help families prepare for a smooth move to Europe with a school age child.

Interested in DoDEA High School Sports in Europe?

You'll need an up to date physical!

Most fall sports start training in the summer.

For more information, contact your school's athletic director through the main office#.

[DoDEA Europe Student Athletics](#)

[Video](#)

[Physical Forms](#)

HS Sports News: [Stars & Stripes Sports Blog](#)

[Athletic Program Manual](#)



Planning to PCS before school is out?

You may want to **ACCELERATE**



PCSing before the end of the school year? You may qualify for the DoDEA Acceleration program which will allow your child to withdrawal from school with full semester credit before the end of the first or second semester. You must provide PCS orders and contact the school at least 30 days prior to departure date. Acceleration is only for families who are PCSing, not for families going on a trip. The school may require completion of some schoolwork before providing final grades. Acceleration is permitted starting 20 days prior to the end of a semester. Contact your school guidance office for details .

Acceleration date for this spring is 19 May. Students must be in school all day on the last school day prior to the accelerated withdrawal date. (AFNORTH & SHAPE follow a different schedule, Please contact those schools for dates.)

[DoDEA Europe Acceleration letter.](#)

[Contact your SLO](#) for school transition assistance!!

Helpful PCS Links:

[Military Youth On the Move](#)

[Military Kids Connect](#)

[School Quest](#)

[MCEC Homeroom](#)

[Interstate Compact Commission MIC3](#)

[US Army Europe OUTBOUND K-12 Dependent PCS Handbook](#)

[US Army Europe INBOUND K-12 Dependent PCS Handbook](#)



Youth Sponsorship programs welcome new students - even in the summer!!



SUMMERTIME PCS MOVES!

PROS: A completed school year prior to a move! Time to travel and explore your new location before you head back to school.

CON: School is out of session, so meeting new friends can be harder.

Not to worry! Child Youth & School Services has a youth sponsorship program that supports incoming students throughout the summer. School Liaison Officers can assist with connecting youth to a local student in the same grade. SLOs can also help connect you to information about events and summer activities in the community and high school. Once school starts, middle and high school student ambassadors are there to make your transition to the new school easier.

Your School Liaison Officer can help you make connections that make for a smooth transition for all incoming students. If you are leaving Europe, your local SLO can assist in connecting you to a SLO in your new location!

If your child is interested in serving as a youth sponsor, contact your local School Liaison Officer! It might make a wonderful summer experience and he/she could start school with a new friend!



Make an online request for a Youth Sponsor through your post [Army Europe School Liaison Officer](#)



DoDEA Kindergarten: A Primer for Parents



Starting kindergarten in the fall?

FAST FACTS:

1. Kindergarten is a full day program.
2. Kindergarten enrollment is not required. It is a parent decision.
3. No single factor determines Kindergarten Readiness
4. Naps are not part of kindergarten.
5. Cutoff age for kindergarten enrollment is five years of age by **September 1st**. The only exception made is if a child has already started kindergarten in a state that has a later cut off date. **No “evaluations for exceptions” are made.**
6. Cutoff age for first grade is six years of age by September 1st . **From 2nd grade on requirement is “successful completion of previous grade.”**
7. Kindergarteners start school about a week later than other grades to allow their teachers time to conduct home visits with students. Expect to be contacted for a home visit appointment.
8. Kindergarten students must be escorted to and from school or a bus stop.
9. For more information about the Kindergarten curriculum in DoDEA, check out their Kindergarten Program Link.
10. Students do better in school when their parents are involved.



Rejected: Now What?



"We're sorry, but we won't be able to offer you a place in our first-year class. We had many qualified applicants this year...."

This is not how you wanted your college letter to read, but there it is. After all of the work you put into your application and the months of anticipation, it's understandable if you're upset about the outcome. However, it's important to keep rejection letters in perspective and to understand that you have options.

Rejection Is Not Always About You

Some students read rejection from a college as an indication that they don't have what it takes to succeed. However, admissions decisions are not a judgment from society. Colleges have many reasons for rejecting students, and there is always an aspect of randomness in the process. Student merit is not the only factor in a school's decision. Schools also must address their own needs for a diverse population or for strength on sports teams or in specific degree programs. Neither you or your parents should treat rejection as a personal failure.

What to Do if You Aren't Accepted Anywhere

What if you haven't gotten into any of the schools to which you applied?

This can occur when students apply only to very selective schools or too few schools, or if senior grades falter. This requires some reevaluation of your situation, but it's certainly not the end of the world. You still have some options. Here are some steps you can take:

1. Talk to your counselor. He/She has been through this before with other students and knows what to do
2. Apply to schools whose deadlines haven't yet passed. Many colleges have late admissions policies or rolling admissions. Find schools that are still accepting applications.

3. Apply to the same schools again. Some schools will reconsider your application if you take the SAT® again and improve your scores or if your grades shot up dramatically at the end of your senior year.

4. Contact the admissions office. Ask for an explanation. Was it your high school transcript? Your essay?

5. Consider transferring to the college later. If you spend a year at another school, you can prove to college admissions officers that you're motivated and ready for college level work. Consider community colleges, too.

Appealing Admissions Decisions

You can try to appeal your rejection, but most students don't win. Contact the admissions office for details on its appeal process. Some colleges will allow you to provide new academic information that could improve your chances of getting in, such as updated grades. You may also be able to request a spot on its waiting list.

The Upside

There's an upside? Yes. Sometimes it actually helps to have a decision made for you. Maybe you had several colleges on your wish list, and wouldn't have had an easy time choosing just one. Plus, if you hadn't been turned down by at least one college, maybe you would always wonder if you should have set your sights higher.

Rejection is not the end; just a step on the path in your journey.





[Access your School Liaison Officer](#) for information, assistance, and referral on school issues to include: school transition, youth sponsorship, deployment support, home schooling, special needs, college and career planning, and more. Europe.armymwr.com/slo



SCHOLARSHIPS, CONTESTS, & FREEBIES:

SCHOLARSHIPS:

[See SLO page](#) for more scholarship info under College & Career Planning tab.)

[DOD Community Relations Scholarships for Military Children](#) (links to numerous scholarships)

[The 2016 Military Children's Scholarship Handbook](#)

[Frances Hesselbein Student Leadership Program Scholarship](#)

[Army Scholarship Foundation](#)

[Military Scholarship Finder](#)

[SchoolQuest Scholarship Finder](#)

[Military Officers Association of America](#) MOAA provides a search engine to find military dependent scholarships.

CONTESTS & CONTACTS:

[eCYBERMISSION](#) is a free, web-based Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics competition for students in grades six through nine. Compete for regional and national awards while working to solve problems in your community.

[MCEC Homeroom](#) - online military parent community



Worth
Checking
Out!!

FREEBIES:

[Tutor.com](#)—free online one on tutoring 24/7 !

[Operation Purple Camps](#)

[Free Online College courses](#) from Coursera.

[Build A Sign](#)—Free welcome home banners

[eKnowledge](#)—free online [SAT/ACT prep course](#) \$250 value.

[Blue Star Families](#) offers free admission to more than 2000 museums in the USA. Great for that visit home!

[A Story Before Bed](#), offers free recording of a bedtime story by a deployed service member to share with his/her child.