

Q: What extracurricular activities are available to my child in Okinawa?

Elementary and middle schools tailor after-school programming based on student interest and availability of resources. Examples of current programming include Okinawan drum and dance, homework club, and robotics.

Elementary and middle schools do not have an athletics program, however, there is a Youth Sports program, unaffiliated with the school, located on-post. DoD High schools offer a robust menu of student activities such as sports, culinary, JROTC, music, and more. DoDEA's goal is to offer activities and athletic events that contribute to a well-rounded experience commensurate with attending U.S. high schools. For more information on student activities, visit www.dodea.edu/Pacific/Activities.

Q: What is the homeschool policy in Japan?

A host nation, state, commonwealth, territory, or possession where a DoD sponsor is stationed may impose legal requirements on homeschooling practices. Currently, Japan has no official home school policy. For information on local auxiliary services available to home-schooled students, visit torii.armymwr.com.

Q. Is my child eligible for free school lunches?

The U.S. Department of Agriculture offers free or reduced-priced school lunches at all DoD Dependent Schools (DoDDS) to eligible dependents. To apply, visit <https://freeandreducedapps.aafes.com>.

Q. I am a contractor. Are my dependents eligible to attend DoDDS?

Yes, however, the sponsor is responsible for paying tuition fees.



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Building 236, Torii Station



CHILD & YOUTH SERVICES
School Support Services

FAQS FOR INBOUND FAMILIES





Hai Sai ("hello")! Welcome to Okinawa, Japan. School Support Services assists with the unique education challenges military families encounter through the School Liaison Officer (SLO). The SLO is a reliable resource for parents on matters related to student transition, local K-12 schools and educational resources to strengthen and maintain resiliency for student success. This brochure was created for inbound military families with school-aged children relocating to Okinawa.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: Where will my child attend school in Okinawa?

The Department of Defense (DoD) provides tuition-free quality education for eligible dependents of DoD personnel living in Okinawa. Your child will attend a school based on where you live. To view a school directory, visit www.torii.armymwr.com/programs/School-Support-Services-1

Q: How do I enroll my child in school?

DoD Dependent Schools (DoDDS) offer online student enrollment. Parents can begin the process before or after their arrival to Okinawa. Documents needed are (1) military orders (2) child's passport (3) child's immunization records (4) child's school records and (5) housing orders. Documents 1-4 should be hand-carried during your move. Visit the DoD Education Activity Online Registration for Students (DORS) to begin your child's enrollment: www.dodea.edu/dors.

Q: Can I still enroll my children before I have accepted housing?

Yes. Families living in lodging will send their child to the nearest school. Once assigned permanent housing, your child will be reassigned to the school zoned for that area.

Q: What age can I enroll my child into Kindergarten and first grade?

Students must be 5 for Kindergarten and 6 for first grade by 1 September.

Q: What are the immunization requirements for my child?

View DoD school immunization requirements by visiting: www.dodea.edu/StudentServices/Health/immunizationPgrm.cfm. Records must be submitted to the school within 30 days of enrollment. If a parent or guardian would like to claim exemption to immunize their child, they may complete a waiver form provided by the school.

Q: Are there preschool options in Okinawa?

DoDDS offers a preschool program called Sure Start for eligible dependents who turn four by 1 September. E-1 Ranks and children needing additional experiences to prepare for Kindergarten are given priority placement for this program. Off-post private preschools with English-speaking staff also exist. These schools are not endorsed by the DoD. The sponsor is responsible for paying tuition fees for these schools.

Q: What if my child has an Individual Education Plan (IEP)?

Provide a current copy of your child's IEP to the school during enrollment. Schools have special education programs for mild to moderate disabilities, while others provide specialized programs for moderate to severe. Your child may attend different schools if services require.

Q: What are high school graduation requirements for DoD Education Activity (DoDEA) Schools?

Graduation requirements vary from state to state. On-campus guidance counselors work closely with students to customize a graduation plan. To view DoDEA requirements, visit: www.dodea.edu/StudentServices/Graduation/.

Q: Are there youth sponsorship programs to welcome military kids?

Yes. Your school liaison officer (SLO) can connect your child to a local youth sponsorship program. Youth sponsors can ease your child's transition to a new station by answering questions, giving a tour of the school or teen center, or introducing available youth programs and services. Email or contact your SLO to get connected.

Q: Is school bus transportation provided?

Students enrolled in DoDEA schools may be eligible to ride the school bus depending on where they live. Contact your child's school for more information.

Q: When is the first and last day of school for DoD dependent schools (DoDDS)?

The first day of school is in late August. The last day is in June. For a current school year calendar visit www.dodea.edu/schoolCalendars.cfm.

Q: Is there a gifted education program?

Yes. Teachers and parents may refer a child for evaluation at the school.