

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE EDUCATION ACTIVITY

Research & Evaluation Report



10/2014

Seniors' Postsecondary Plans and Scholarships School Year 2013-14

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Executive Summary

◇ Postsecondary Plans

- ◇ Plans to attend a two- or four-year college/university have gradually increased over the past 5 years, hovering around 79%.
- ◇ Eighty percent of the Department of Defense Education Activity's (DoDEA) graduating seniors plan to enroll in a two- or four-year colleges/universities. Statistically, significantly more females (87%) than males (74%) plan to enroll in a two- or four-year colleges/universities ($p < .001$).
- ◇ Asian students plan to attend two- or four-year colleges/universities at statistically significant higher rates ($p = .01$) (86%) than other DoDEA students (80%) (Table 1). This is the only statistically significant difference among the races in college-going plans.
- ◇ Overall, 10% of DoDEA's graduating seniors plan to enlist in the military. Statistically, significantly more males (15%) than females (5%) plan to enlist in the military ($p < .001$).

◇ Scholarships, Grants, and Financial Aid Offered and Accepted

- ◇ Over \$61.4 million in scholarships, grants, and financial aid was offered to DoDEA students, and over \$43.8 million was accepted. This represents an increase of over \$14.7 million in monies offered when compared with school year (SY) 2012–13. However, the number of scholarships offered only increased by 4%.
- ◇ Although academic scholarships (\$14.6 million) and state or institutional scholarships (\$9.9 million) accounted for the largest amount of monies offered, the majority of scholarships in terms of number of scholarships offered were local (568, 27%) and academic scholarships (446, 21%).
- ◇ In terms of scholarships, grants, and aid that were accepted by DoDEA students, the G.I. Bill represents the largest amount of money accepted at \$9.8 million (22%). However, strictly in terms of the number of scholarships accepted, local scholarships far outpace other types of funding accepted (571 scholarships, 34%).
- ◇ Ten percent more female students earned at least one scholarship than male students. However, male students earned significantly ($p = .001$) more on average; \$52,367 for females as compared to \$66,498 for male students.
- ◇ On average, White students (\$65,278) received significantly more in scholarships than other students (\$52,262). Both Asian (\$45,510) and Black/African American (\$43,250) students received significantly less in scholarships when compared to all other students.

◇ Graduation Rate

- ◇ With important differences in graduation rate calculation in mind, 91% of DoDEA's seniors graduated, as compared to 80% nationally.
- ◇ In DoDEA, a significantly smaller percent of male students (89%) graduated than female students (93%) ($p = .001$).
- ◇ As compared to other students, Asian students (94% as compared to 91%) and Hispanic students (94% as compared to 91%) graduated at statistically significant higher rates ($p = .019$ and $p = .002$, respectively).

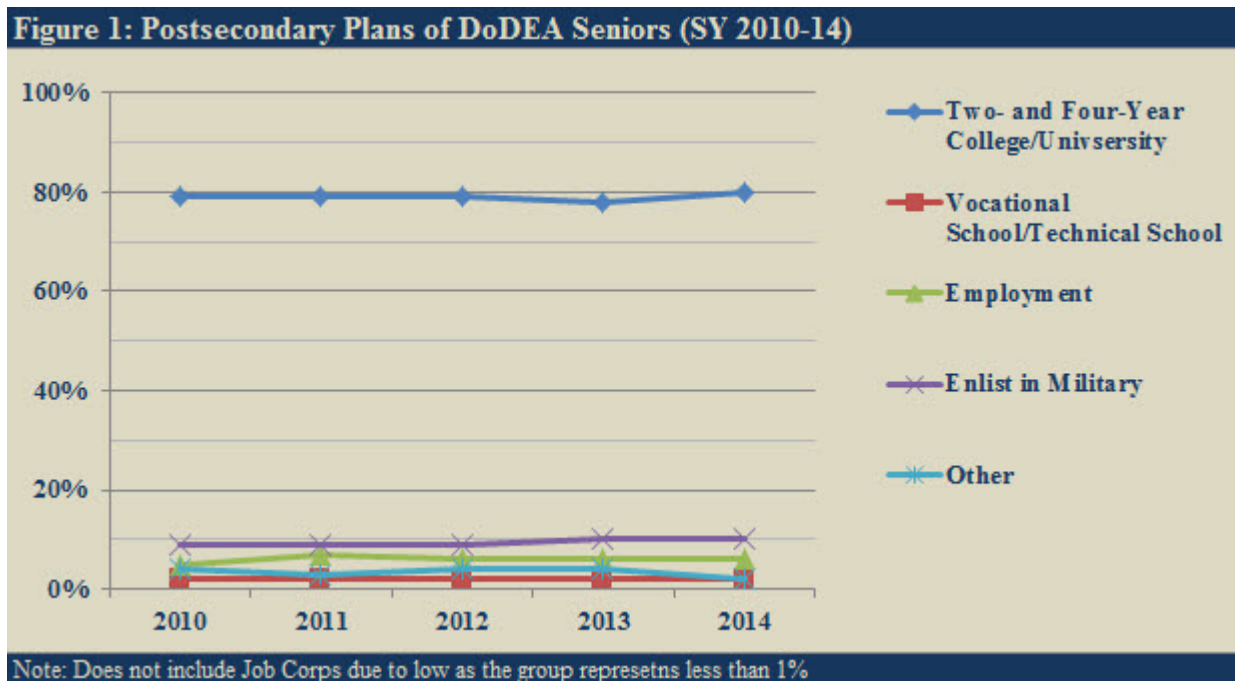
Background

The Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) collects information on seniors' academic and career plans after graduation in the form of a postsecondary plan. The information collected consists of several categories, including attending a four-year college/university, attending a two-year/community college, attending a vocational/technical school, seeking employment or an apprenticeship/on-the-job training, enlisting in the military, or joining Job Corps. At the end of their senior year, students are also asked to report the scholarships, financial aid, and grant monies they have been offered as well as what monies they have accepted or are planning to accept. This report summarizes the postsecondary intentions and scholarship monies reported by students who graduated from a DoDEA high school in school year (SY) 2013–14.

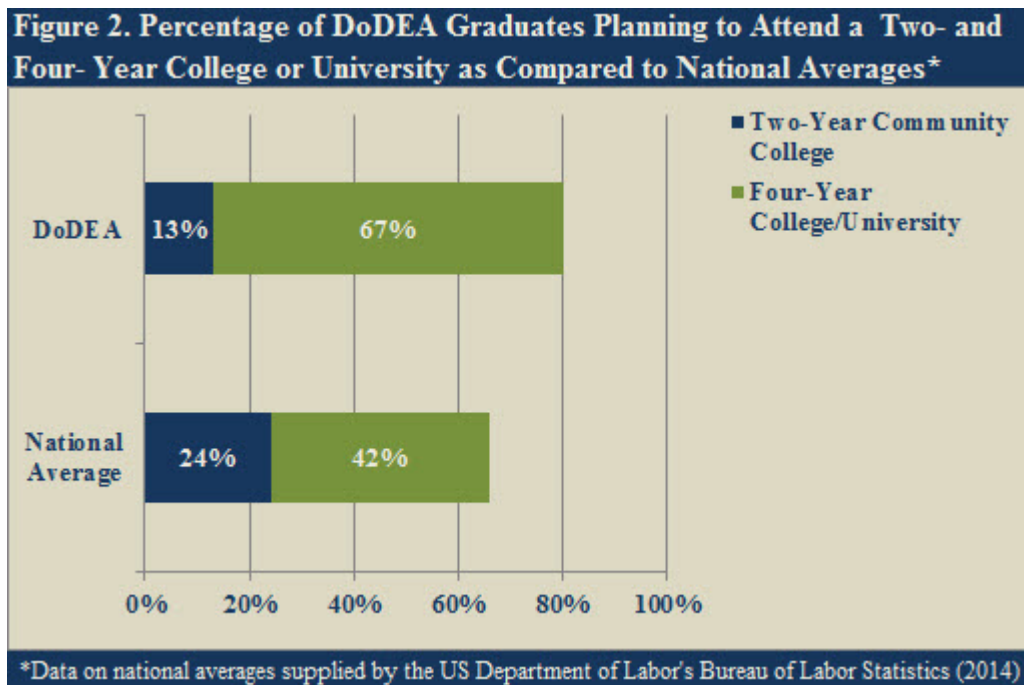
All analyses in this report are based on those seniors (N=3,105) who were enrolled in a DoDEA high school as of April 15, 2014. Therefore, findings do not include seniors who may have withdrawn prior to or entered a DoDEA high school after this date. It should also be noted that the information contained in this report is self-reported by students and does not represent the absolute postsecondary status of DoDEA graduates or the totality of scholarship monies offered and accepted by students. In interpreting the data contained in this report, readers are encouraged to rely on the results of statistical tests measuring differences between groups rather than on the apparent magnitude of these differences. Some differences may appear to be large; however, they are not statistically different.

Postsecondary Plans

In April 2014, during SY 2013–14, approximately 3,105 seniors were enrolled in DoDEA high schools. Of these seniors, 90% had a documented postsecondary plan. Overall, the overwhelming majority of these seniors planned to attend either a two- or four-year college or university.

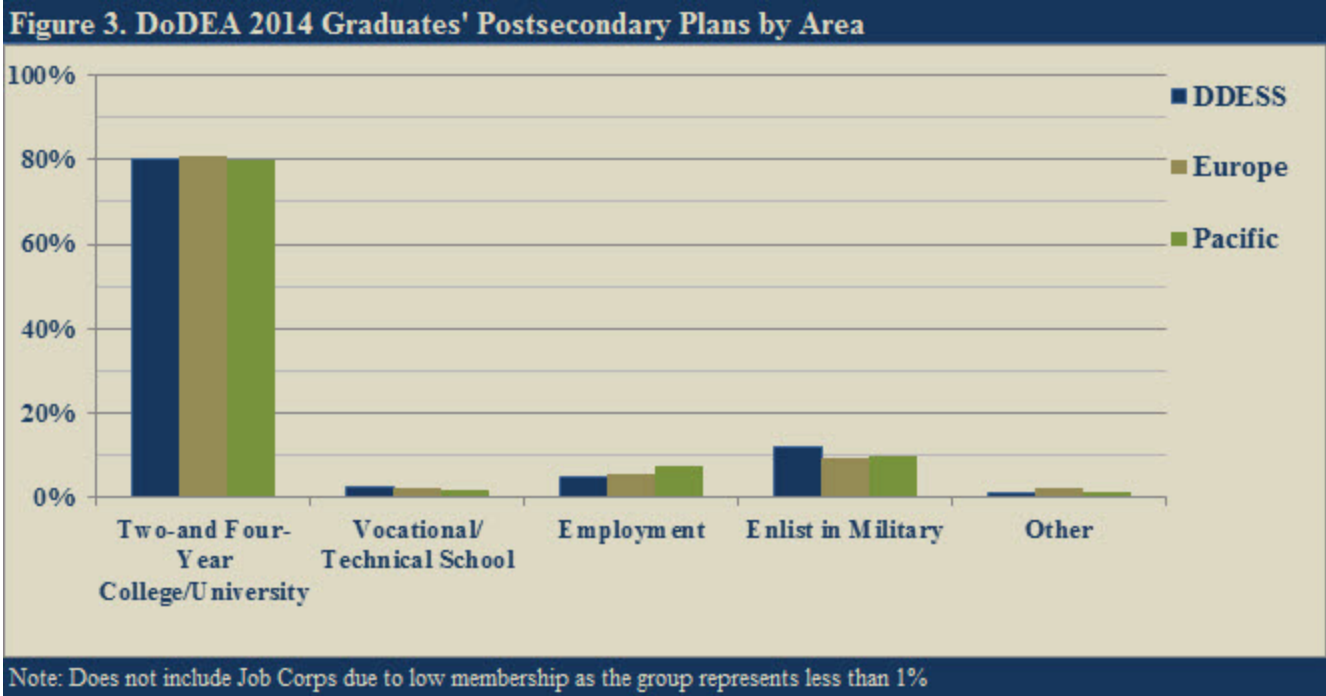


Furthermore, 67% of seniors planned to attend a four-year college/university after graduation, and 13% planned to attend a two-year/community college. Of the remaining 20% of seniors, approximately 10% planned to enlist in the military (Figure 1). These findings have remained relatively stable over the past four years, with a slight increase in the percentage of seniors planning to attend a four-year university (67% in SY 2013–14 as compared to 63% in SY 2012–13). At 80%, the percentage of DoDEA seniors planning to attend a two-year or four-year college or university is higher than the national average of 66% (Figure 2) (Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2014).



Postsecondary Plans by Area

Among the three DoDEA areas analyzed (Department of Defense Elementary and Secondary Schools [DDESS], Europe, and the Pacific), the percentages of students planning to attend a four-year college/university or two-year/community college is equivalent, with all three DoDEA areas reporting at least 80% of seniors choosing the postsecondary route (Figure 3). A larger percentage of students in DDESS planned to attend a junior/community college (19%) than in the Pacific and Europe, which may be due in part to geographic location. Students in DDESS may have greater opportunities to remain with their parents and attend local schools compared to students who are living overseas.



Postsecondary Plans by Ethnicity and Race

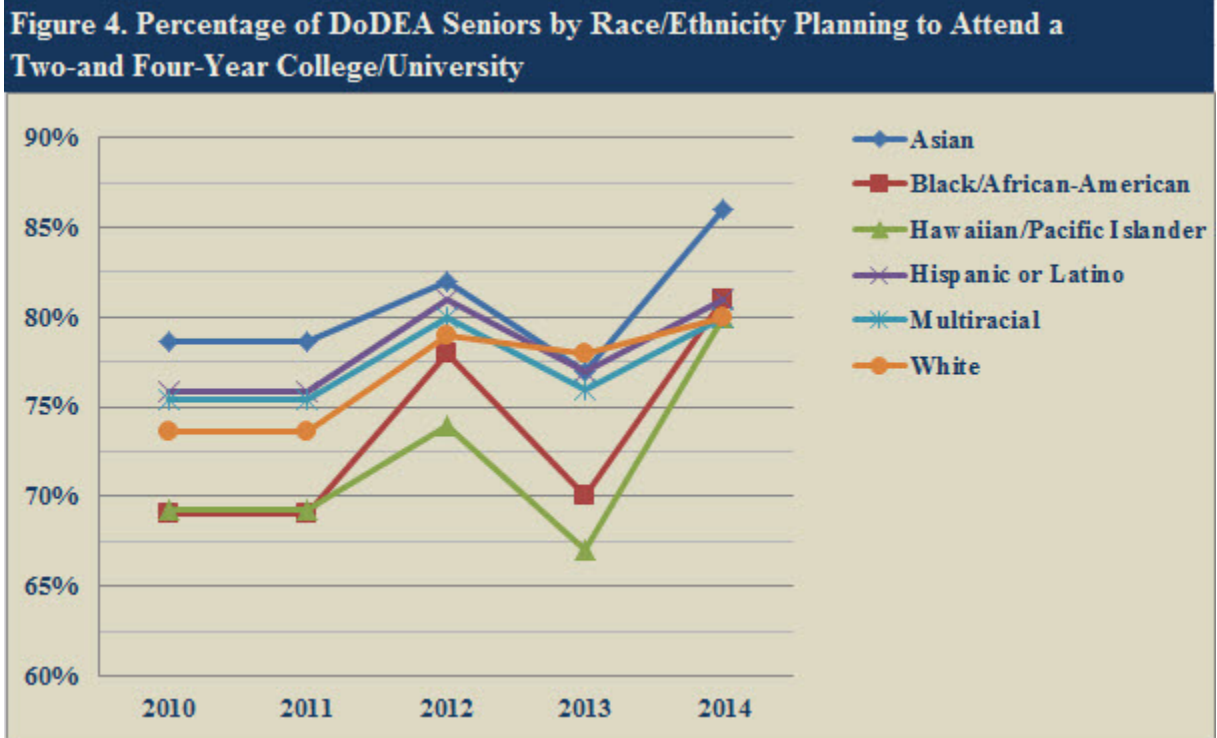
As noted above, the average rate across DoDEA for matriculation into a two- or four-year college or university is 80%. Seniors' postsecondary plans were broken down by race and ethnicity. On the other hand, Asian students plan to attend two- or four-year colleges at statistically significant higher rates ($p=.01$) at 86% (Table 1). This trend continues when only plans to attend a four-year college or university are examined; only Asian students' average rate of 76% is statistically significant from all other students' average of 65%.

Table 1. DoDEA Seniors' Postsecondary Plans by Ethnicity and Race

	Two-and Four-Year College/University	Vocational/ Technical School	Employment	Enlist in Military	Other
Asian	86%	0%	4%	9%	1%
Black/African American	81%	3%	5%	11%	1%
Hawaiian/Pacific	80%	4%	7%	9%	0%
Hispanic or Latino	81%	1%	6%	11%	2%
Multiracial	81%	2%	7%	8%	1%
White	79%	2%	6%	10%	3%

Note: Percentages may not equal 100 due to rounding; does not include 49 students who were missing race/ethnicity and students participating in Job Corps; Hispanic/Latino students are not included in their respective racial category

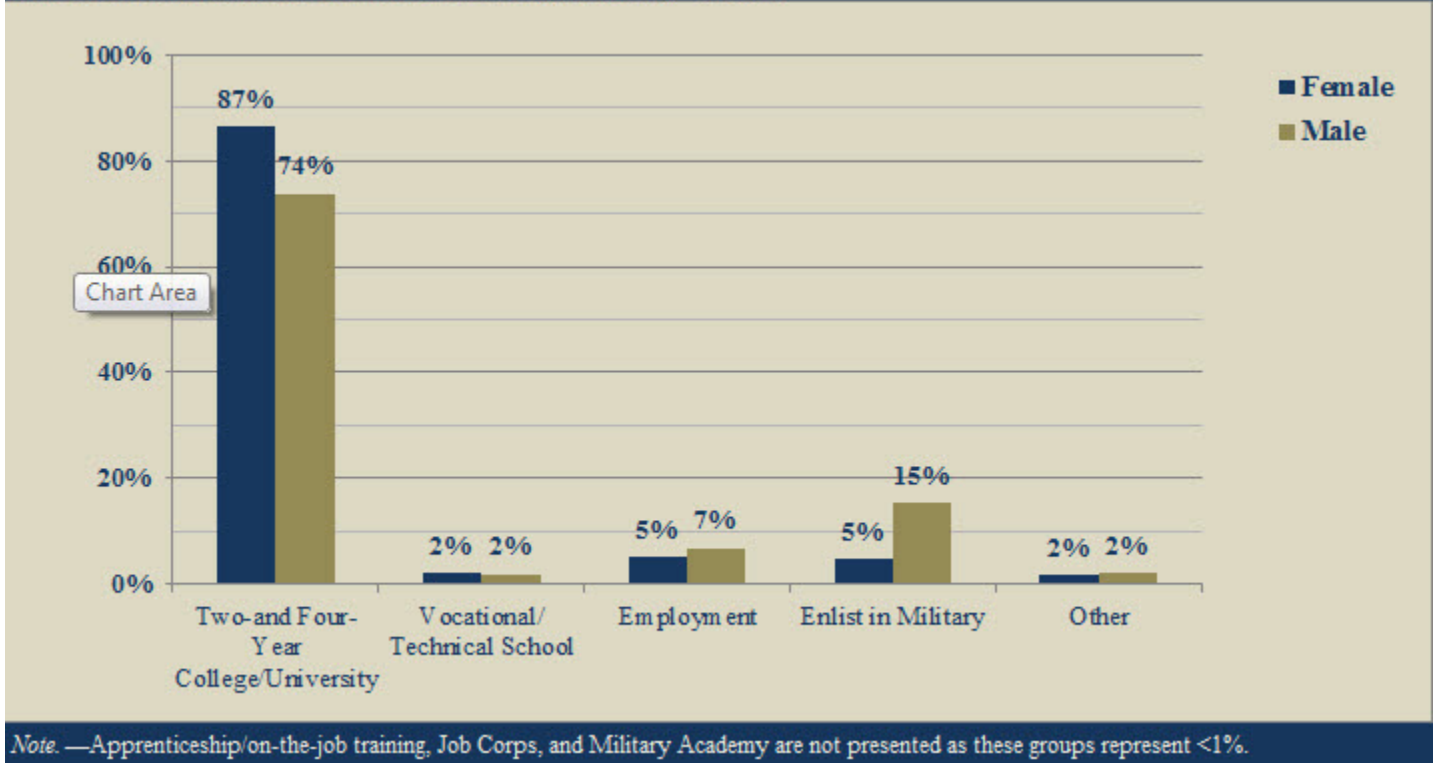
Over the past five years, there has been an increase in the percentage of students planning to attend a two- or four-year university across all racial groups. The largest percentage increase (12%) is found in the Black/African American students, and the lowest increase is found among Hispanic or Latino and multiracial students, with an increase of 5%. (Figure 4)



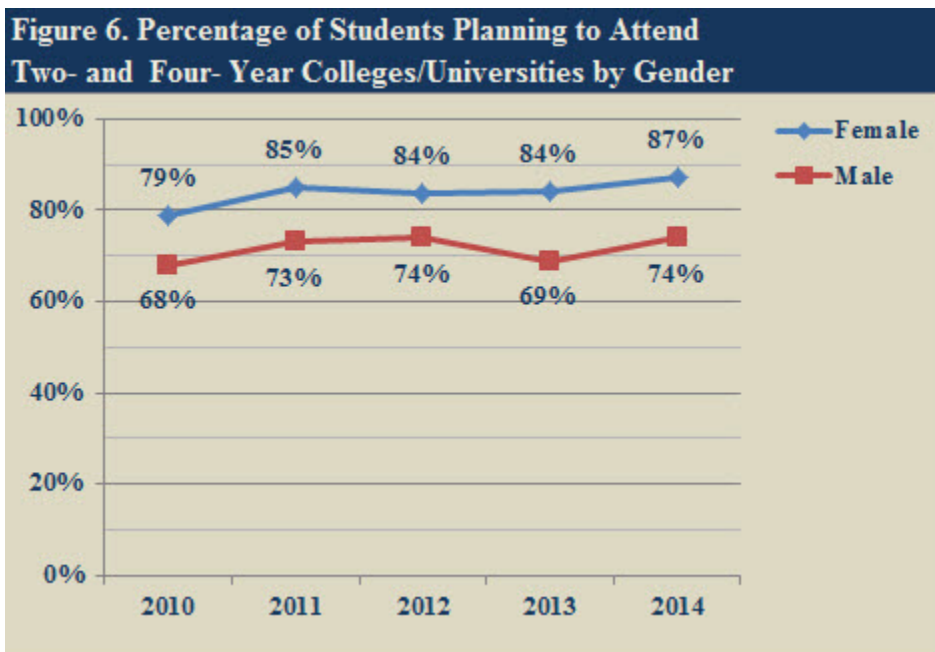
Postsecondary Plans by Gender

Male and female seniors planned to attend a two- or four-year colleges/universities or enlist in the military at statistically significant different rates ($p < .001$). While 87% of females planned to attend a two- or four-year college/university, only 74% of males planned to do so. In contrast, approximately three times as many males (15%) versus females (5%) planned to enlist in the military (Figure 5). This difference is also statistically significant ($p < .001$).

Figure 5. DoDEA Seniors' Postsecondary Plans by Gender*

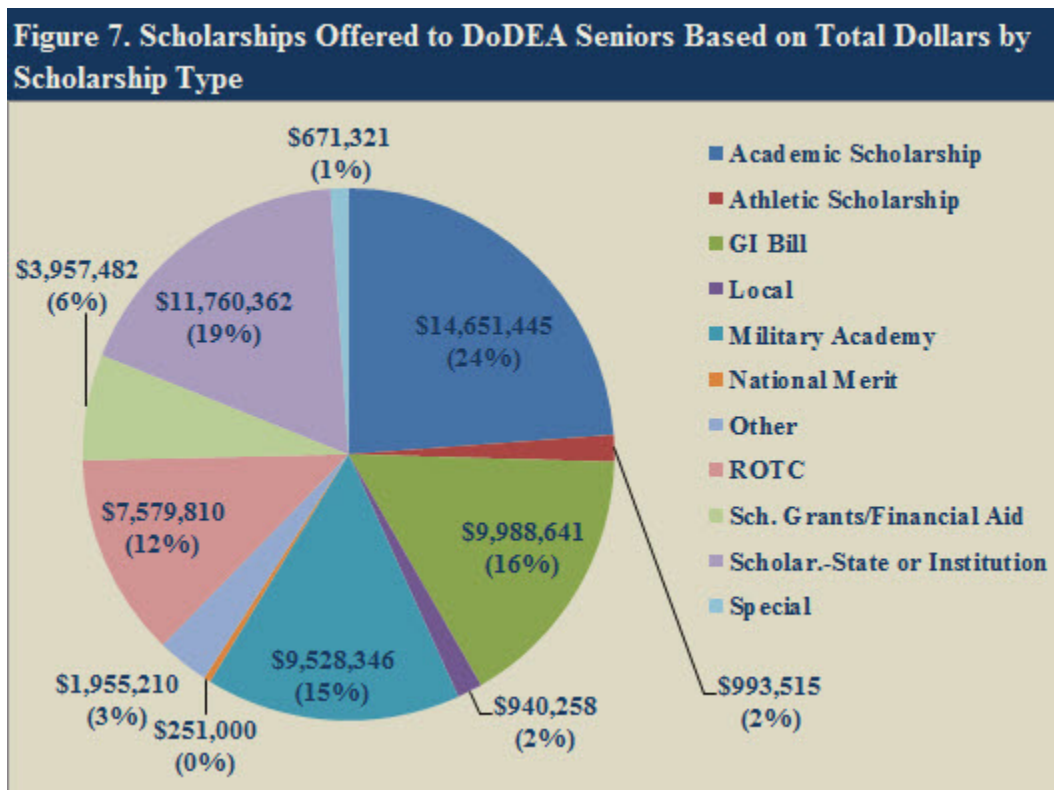


In the past four years, the gap between male and female DoDEA seniors planning to attend a two- or four-year college/university has remained fairly consistent, ranging between 10% and 15% (Figure 6) (Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2014).



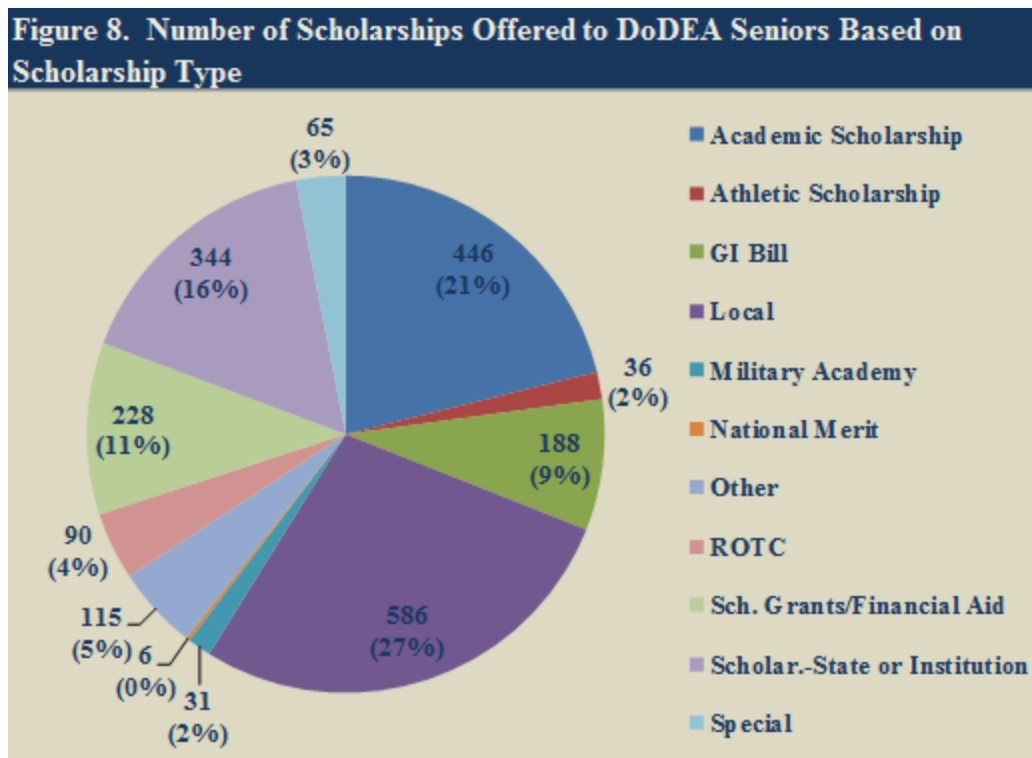
Types of Scholarships Offered and Accepted

Seniors in DoDEA schools were offered a total of \$61.4 million in scholarships and financial aid in SY 2013–14, an increase of approximately \$14.7 million from that reported by seniors in SY 2012–13. There has been an uptick in the number of scholarships in all categories, especially in the number of G.I. Bill benefits transferred to DoDEA students and the number of military academy scholarships, which combined represent 40% of the total dollars offered to DoDEA seniors (as illustrated in Figure 7). Academic scholarships provided the largest source of scholarship monies (24%), followed by state or institutional scholarships (19%) and the G.I. Bill (16%).



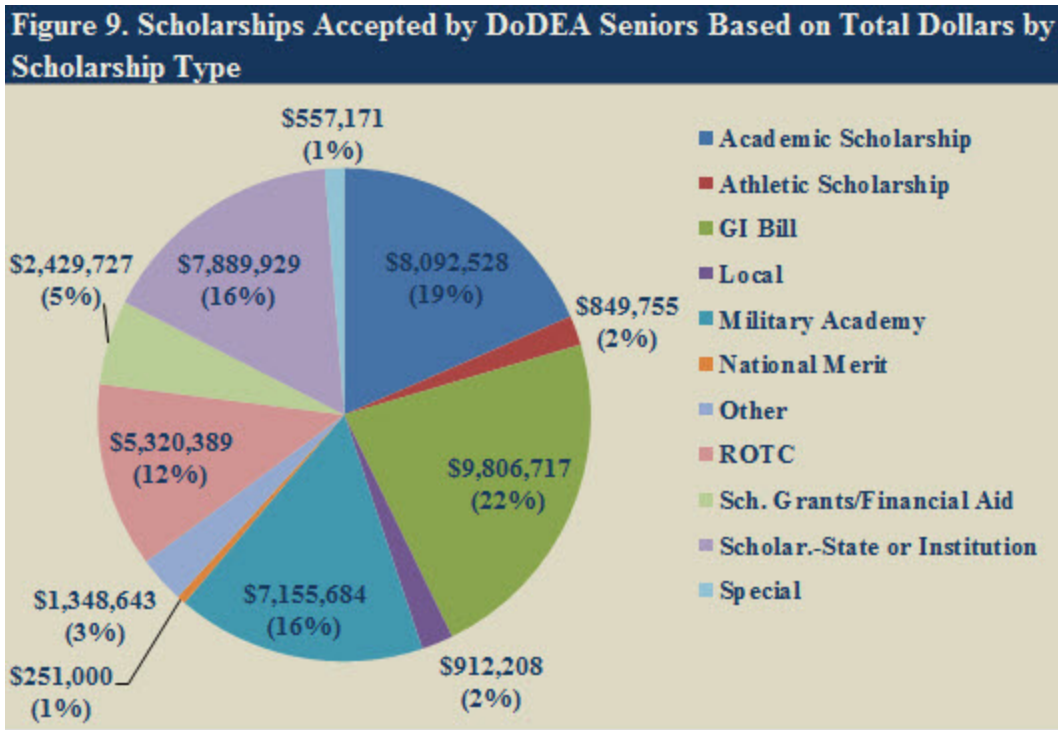
The average monies attached to each type of scholarship differ. For example, local scholarships averaged \$1,607 compared to military academy scholarships which averaged \$307,366. Therefore, the contribution of each scholarship type depends on whether one is considering the total number of scholarships or the sum of scholarship monies. As discussed above, academic scholarships were the largest source of overall scholarship funds, but they account for only 21% of the number of scholarships (Figure 8). In contrast, local organizational scholarships (e.g., Officers' and Enlisted Spouses' Clubs and fraternities/sororities) account for only 2% (\$940,258) of the total scholarship monies (Figure 7) but represent 27% (n=586) of the total number of scholarships offered to students (Figure 8).

Although the number of scholarships has only increased slightly since last year (2039 for SY 2012–13 compared to 2135 for SY 2013–14), the numbers within each category have shifted to reflect a larger proportion of higher average amounts offered per person, such as the Post-9/11 G.I. Bill tuition benefits (115 for SY 2012–13 compared to 188 for SY 2013–14) and the number of students with scholarships to military academies (8 for SY 2012–13 compared to 31 for SY 2013–14).

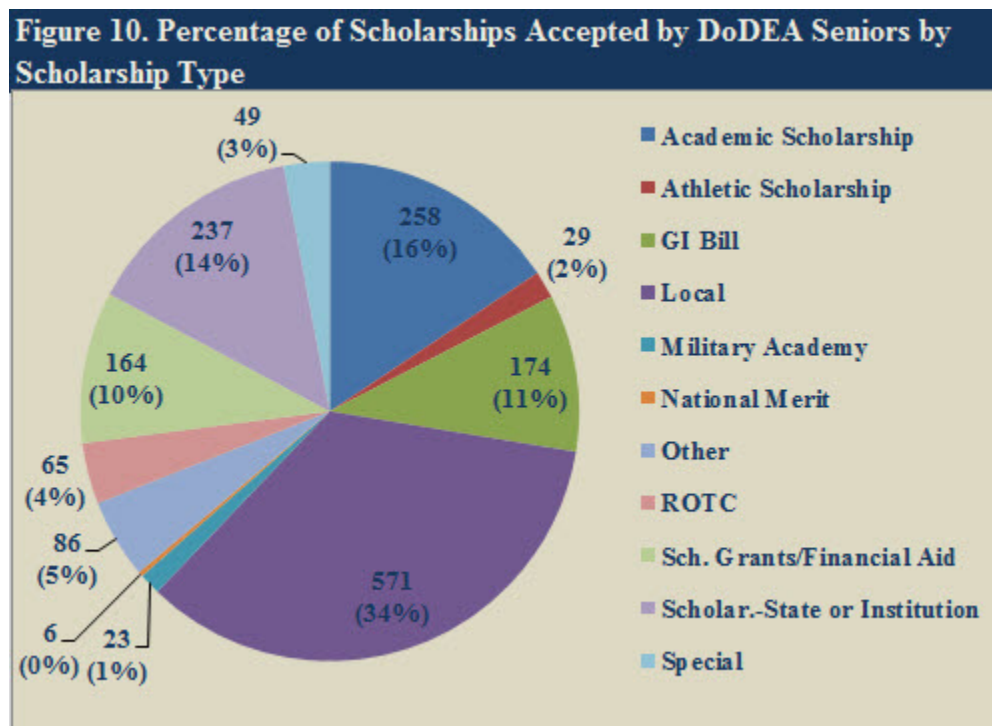


Seniors in DoDEA schools are frequently offered multiple scholarships but are only able to accept a portion of the monies offered. For example, DoDEA seniors can be offered military academy scholarships and/or state/institutional scholarships or scholarships from several different states. Therefore, the amount of scholarship monies offered is generally higher than the amount of monies accepted.

Of the \$61.4 million in scholarships, financial aid, and grant monies offered, DoDEA seniors accepted approximately \$43.8 million (Figure 9). The proportions of accepted scholarship monies follows a pattern different from scholarships offered, with the largest amount of monies coming from the G.I. Bill (22%; \$9.8 million) and academic scholarships (19%; \$8.1 million).



The number of scholarships seniors accepted by scholarship type also follows the trend of the number of scholarships offered (Figure 9), with local scholarships representing the largest number of scholarships accepted (34%; n=571), followed by academic (16%; n=258) and state or institutional scholarships (14%; n=237).



Types of Scholarships by DoDEA Area, Gender, Race and Ethnicity

Table 2 shows the breakdown in average monies offered and accepted by seniors in each of the three DoDEA areas. The largest sources of monies offered to students were different by DoDEA area. In DDESS, the largest sources of monies offered were state or institutional scholarships, and in Europe and the Pacific, students reported being offered more money from academic scholarships. However, due to differences in the number of students, caution should be used when comparing the total monies offered and accepted among the three areas. Seniors in DDESS were offered approximately \$29.8 million less than students in Europe; however, there are almost three-and-a-half times more seniors in Europe than in DDESS.

Table 2. Scholarship Monies Offered and Accepted by Area

		DDESS		DoDEA Europe		DoDEA Pacific	
		Total	Accepted	Total	Accepted	Total	Accepted
Scholarship Type	Academic Scholarship	\$1,151,225	\$164,302	\$9,213,988	\$5,491,394	\$4,252,632	\$2,436,832
	Athletic Scholarship	\$204,600	\$154,000	\$670,415	\$577,255	\$118,500	\$118,500
	GI Bill	\$660,000	\$660,000	\$5,342,401	\$5,298,237	\$3,936,240	\$3,798,480
	Local	\$71,750	\$71,750	\$577,728	\$559,428	\$290,780	\$281,030
	Military Academy	\$1,950,000	\$1,950,000	\$7,218,346	\$4,845,684	\$360,000	\$360,000
	National Merit	\$8,000	\$8,000	-	-	\$243,000	\$243,000
	Other	\$645,881	\$282,114	\$756,450	\$646,450	\$500,697	\$367,897
	ROTC	\$957,452	\$560,031	\$4,781,346	\$3,229,346	\$1,841,012	\$1,531,012
	Sch. Grants/Financial Aid	\$620,510	\$152,930	\$2,211,893	\$1,831,641	\$1,125,079	\$445,156
	Scholar.-State or Institution	\$2,021,300	\$509,000	\$7,391,614	\$5,460,910	\$1,512,359	\$1,084,930
	Special	\$258,200	\$155,550	\$204,321	\$203,821	\$207,800	\$197,800
	Total	\$8,548,918	\$4,667,677	\$38,368,502	\$28,144,166	\$14,388,099	\$10,864,637

Table 3 shows the percentage of seniors offered at least one scholarship and the average amount per scholarship recipient based on the three DoDEA areas, gender, and race/ethnicity. Overall, approximately 34% (n=1052) of DoDEA's seniors were offered at least one scholarship. This rate is similar to the rates found in previous years.

The percentage of seniors receiving at least one scholarship significantly differed among the areas. The average amount of scholarship monies offered to each recipient was higher in Europe than in DDESS or the Pacific. While it appears that the average amount of money received by seniors in DDESS is larger than in Europe and the Pacific, these differences are not significant. The percentage of each racial/ethnic groups receiving at least one scholarship ranged from 14–38% (Table 3). There were statistical differences between several racial and ethnic groups. White students were, on average, offered \$65,278 in scholarships, grants, and financial aid, which is statistically significantly greater than other student's average, \$52,262 (p=.03). Asian students, at \$45,510 (p=.02) per average recipient, and

Black/African American students, at \$43,250 ($p=.003$), received significantly less in scholarships, grants and financial aid than their peers.

Although approximately 10% more female students won at least one scholarship than their male counterparts, when examined by gender, male students received a statistically significant larger amount of scholarship monies per recipient than female students ($p=.026$).

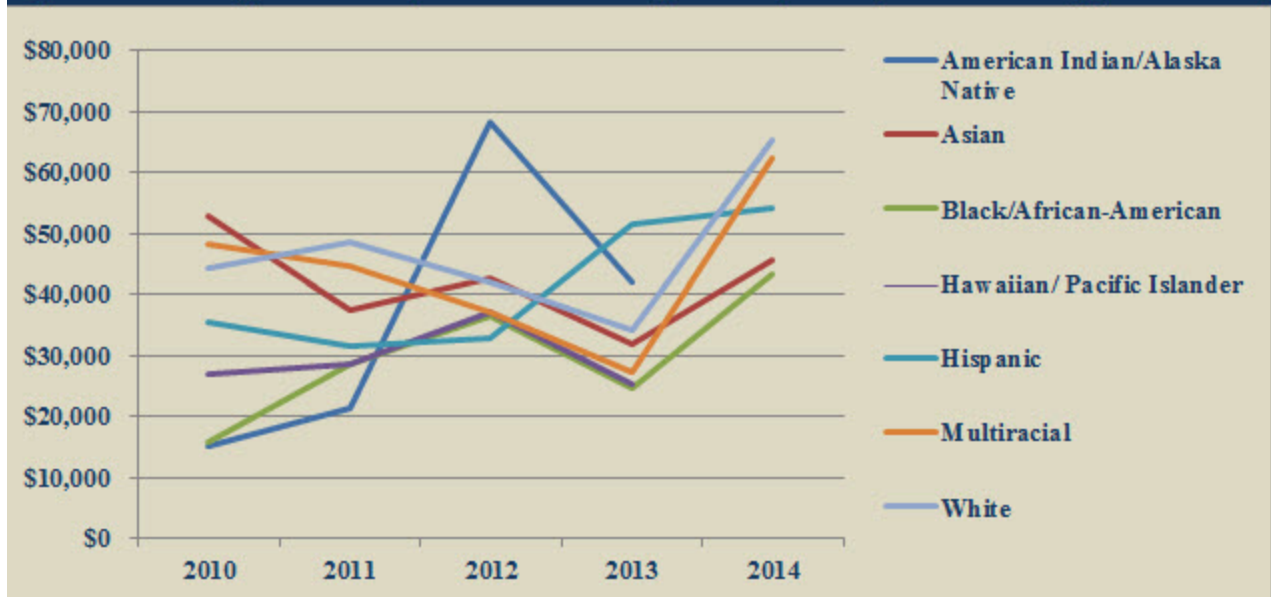
Table 3. Percentage of Seniors Offered at Least One Scholarship and Average Monies per Recipient

		Total Number of Seniors in April 2014	Percentage Offered at Least One Scholarship	Average Monies Per Scholarship Recipient
Area	DDESS	482	32%	\$56,243
	Europe	1650	37%	\$63,002
	Pacific	973	29%	\$50,485
Gender	Male	1547	29%	\$66,498
	Female	1531	39%	\$52,367
Race or Ethnicity	White	1277	38%	\$65,279
	Black/African American	422	32%	\$43,251
	Hispanic or Latino	617	31%	\$54,192
	Asian	268	34%	\$45,510
	American Indian/Alaska Native	15	20%	\$19,000
	Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	65	14%	\$84,207
	Multiraicial	370	33%	\$62,219
DoDEA Total		3078	34%	\$58,439

*Significant difference
 Note: Does not include students with no reported ethnicity or race; Hispanic/Latino students are reported as Hispanic and are not included in their respective racial category

Figure 11 shows the average scholarship monies offered to DoDEA seniors for five years (as broken down by race and ethnicity). White and Asian students have consistently been offered the highest average scholarship monies, whereas African-American and American Indian/Alaska Native students have been offered the lowest average amount. However, SY 2013–14 yielded a significant uptick in scholarship monies offered among all groups.

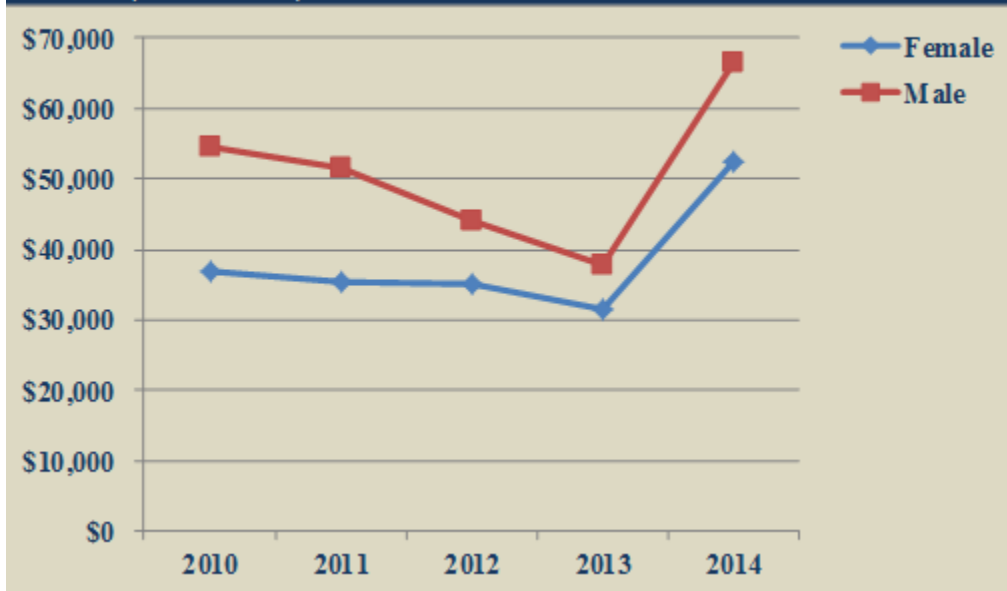
Figure 11. Average Scholarship Monies Offered per Recipient by Race/Ethnicity (SY 2010-14)



Note: Caution should be used when interpreting the trend for American Indian/Alaska Native and Hawaiian/Pacific Islander students due to the small number of students in these groups. Scholarship monies are not reported for these groups for SY 13-14; the number of students is less than 10.

Differences in scholarship monies offered have remained constant over the past five years, with males being offered more scholarship monies on average than females. This gap is statistically significant. While both groups earned more scholarship money this year than last year, the gain made by male students is approximately \$8,000 greater than the gain made by female students.

Figure 12. Average Scholarship Monies Offered Per Recipient by Gender (SY 2010-14)



Graduation Rates

Ninety-one percent of DoDEA's seniors graduated in SY 2013–14. DoDEA's overall graduation rate is impacted by exceptions made to the minimum graduation requirements as reported in seniors' postsecondary plans. Students may request an exception to the minimum graduation requirements when they do not meet specific course requirements, have less than the required 26 credits, or if they have a grade point average of less than 2.0. Students with these exemptions are included in the graduation rate. The most recently reported national graduation rate is 80% for SY 2011–12 (Klein, 2014). However, due to a difference in calculation methods, a direct comparison cannot be made between DoDEA schools and national or state graduation rates. In DoDEA, a significantly smaller percent of male students (89%) graduated than female students (93%) ($p=.001$). Furthermore, Asian (94% as compared to 91%) and Hispanic students (94% as compared to 91%) graduated at statistically significant higher rates than other students ($p=.019$ and $p=.002$, respectively).

Summary and Recommendations

This report examines DoDEA seniors' secondary and postsecondary experiences from three main angles: 1) postsecondary plans; 2) the level of scholarships, financial aid, and grants offered and accepted; and finally, 3) student graduation rates. In general, seniors' plans to enter a two- and four-year college or university have remained steady over the last 5 years, with 80% the class of 2013–14 planning to attend such an institution. There are persistent and statistically significant differences between gender and race and ethnicity in this area; however, SY 2013–14 saw a convergence in the percentage of students of different races planning to attend college.

For the second year, the amount of scholarship monies saw a large increase from \$40.0 million in SY 2011–12, to \$46.7 million in SY 2012–13, to \$61.4 million this year. Although the number of scholarships offered between SY 2012–13 and SY 2013–14 has only slightly increased, a portion of the increase between the two years could be explained by the increase in the number of the types of scholarships that offer a larger amount of money per person, including Post-9/11 G.I. Bill tuition benefits transferred to DoDEA students and military academy scholarships.

The data also displayed a staggering 91% graduation rate, which is over 10 points higher than the national graduation rate. However, this rate is not comparable to national graduation rates. The inability to compare DoDEA's graduation rate to graduation rates in the Nation is due to differences in the calculation methods. Nationally, the graduation rate is calculated by using a "4-year on-time graduation rate." Due to data limitations, DoDEA is unable to calculate the graduation rate using this method. It is recommended that the use of a "4-year on-time graduation rate" be examined to allow for valid comparisons between DoDEA and the Nation.

¹Editorial Projects in Education Research Center uses the Cumulative Promotion Index (CPI) to calculate high school graduation rates. The CPI method represents the high school experience as a process. It captures three grade-to-grade promotions (9 to 10, 10 to 11, and 11 to 12) and earning a diploma (grade 12 to graduation). Each of these individual components corresponds to a grade-promotion ratio. Multiplying these four grade-specific promotion ratios together produces the graduation rate. This is one of various methods used to calculate the graduation rate (EdWeek, 2012).

Other data limitations exist within the current report. The data used are self-reported plans of DoDEA seniors. While self-report data provide a general sense of students' future plans, they do not accurately depict what students actually do after high school graduation. This problem will be resolved in future reports due to its participation in the National Student Clearing House, which will provide DoDEA with the actual college enrollment and degree completion information for DoDEA high school graduates. These data will indicate if students initiated or completed four-year college/university or two-year/community college aspirations. Furthermore, access to this type of data will enhance stakeholders' understanding of college readiness/preparedness for DoDEA students.

Finally, it is imperative that DoDEA continue its efforts to ensure that accurate and reliable data are provided by schools, districts, and areas. Continuing to request that schools provide postsecondary plan and scholarship data as a part of the end-of-year process increases the amount and accuracy of the data provided. Implementing this type of process may have accounted for the increase in the amount of scholarship monies reported as offered in SY 2012–13 and SY 2013–14. It is essential that policies enhance the data collection processes at the schools to guarantee report of precise and consistent data.

For questions regarding this report, please contact Stephanie O’Neill at
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All data and charts/graphics from this report should use the following citation:

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DoDEA Research & Evaluation Branch
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