

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE EDUCATION ACTIVITY

Research & Evaluation Report



3/2016

Seniors' Postsecondary Plans and Scholarships School Year 2014-15

Table of Contents

Executive Summary	1
Background	2
Postsecondary Plans	2
Postsecondary Plans by Area	3
Postsecondary Plans by Ethnicity and Race	4
Postsecondary Plans by Gender	5
Types of Scholarships Offered and Accepted	7
Summary and Recommendations	13

List of Tables

Table 1. DoDEA's Seniors' Postsecondary Plans by Ethnicity and Race	4
Table 2. Scholarship Monies Offered and Accepted by Area	10
Table 3. Percentage of Seniors Offered at Least One Scholarship and Average Monies Per Recipient	11

List of Figures

Figure 1. Postsecondary Plans of DoDEA Seniors (SY 2010-15)	2
Figure 2. Percentage of DoDEA Graduates Planning to Attend a Two-or Four Year College or University as Compared to the National Average	3
Figure 3. DoDEA 2014 Graduates' Postsecondary Plans by Area	4
Figure 4. Percentage of DoDEA Seniors by Race/Ethnicity Planning to Attend a Two-or Four-Year College/University.	5
Figure 5. DoDEA Seniors' Postsecondary Plans by Gender.	6
Figure 6. Percentage of Students Planning to Attend a Two-or Four-Year College/University by Gender	6
Figure 7. Scholarships Offered to DoDEA Seniors Based on Total Dollars by Scholarship Type.	7
Figure 8. Number of Scholarships Offered to DoDEA Seniors Based on Scholarship Type.	8
Figure 9. Scholarships Accepted by DoDEA Seniors Based on Total Dollars by Scholarship Type	9
Figure 10. Percentage of Scholarships Accepted by DoDEA Seniors by Scholarship Type	9
Figure 11. Average Scholarship Monies Offered per Recipient by Race/Ethnicity (SY 2010-15).	12
Figure 12. Average Scholarship Monies Offered per Recipient by Gender (SY 2010-15)	12

Executive Summary

- ◇ Postsecondary Plans
 - ◇ Eighty percent of Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) seniors planned to attend a two- or four-year college or university. This rate is higher than the national rate of 69%¹.
 - ◇ Among the areas, DoDEA Americas students reported the highest rate (83%) of planning to attend a two- or four-year college or university, followed by Europe (80%) and the Pacific (76%). DoDEA America's rate is significantly higher than the Pacific's, but not Europe's rate.
 - ◇ When rates of intention to attend two- or four-year college or university are examined by race and ethnicity, the rates vary between 84% for Asian students and 78% for Multiracial students. Asian students planned to attend college or university at a significantly higher rate than other students; however, there were no other significant differences in the college-going plans of seniors by race.
 - ◇ Significantly more female students planned to attend a two- or four-year college or university than male students.
- ◇ Scholarships, Grants, and Financial Aid Offered and Accepted
 - ◇ DoDEA seniors received 1,746 scholarships, grants, and other financial aid totaling over \$41.2 million in school year (SY) 2014-15. This translates to 389 fewer scholarships, resulting in \$20 million less than the previous school year and the lowest total in three years. It is unclear to what degree this finding is due to under reporting.
 - ◇ Among the areas, DoDEA America's SY 2014-15 seniors reported the highest average monies offered to students in scholarships, grants and other financial aid, followed by the Pacific and Europe. These differences are however not statistically significant.
 - ◇ Scholarship, grant, and financial aid information are also broken down by race or ethnicity. Notably, on average, Black or African American students received the lowest amount; however, this finding is tempered by these students having received the highest rate of being offered at least one scholarship, grant, or other financial aid.
 - ◇ On average, in SY2014-15 male students were offered significantly more in scholarship, grants, and other financial aid than female students.

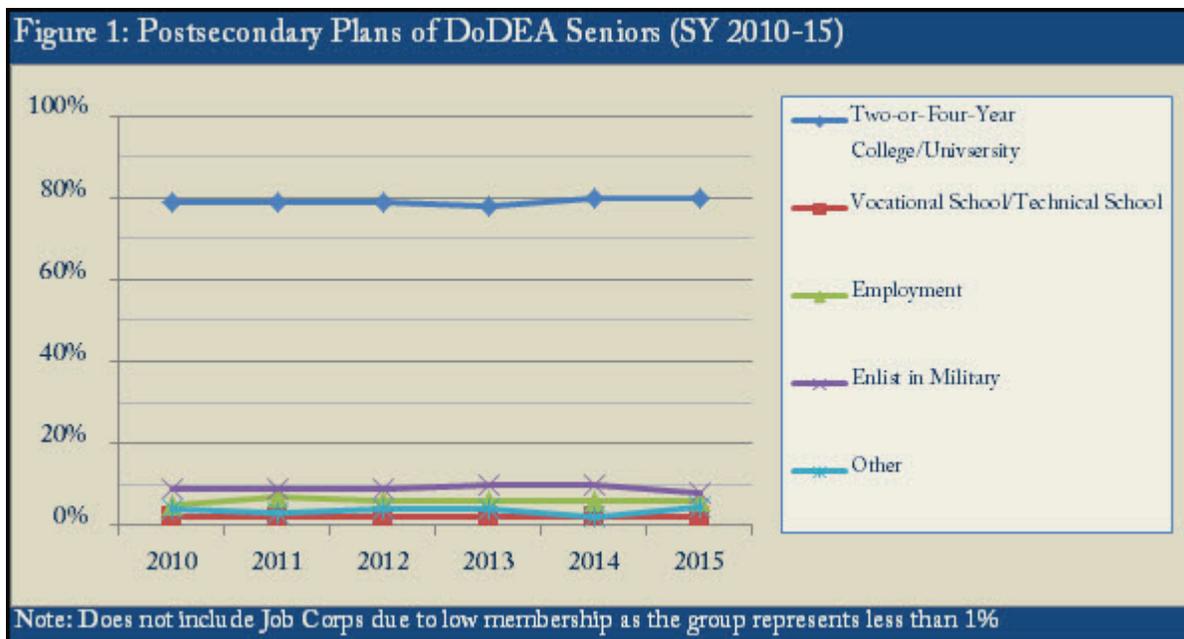
Background

DoDEA collects information on postsecondary plans and scholarship information. Each student reports their educational or career plans for after graduation as well as what scholarship(s), financial aid, or grant monies they have been offered and what monies have been accepted. This report summarizes the postsecondary intentions and scholarship monies reported by students who graduated from DoDEA in SY 2014-15.

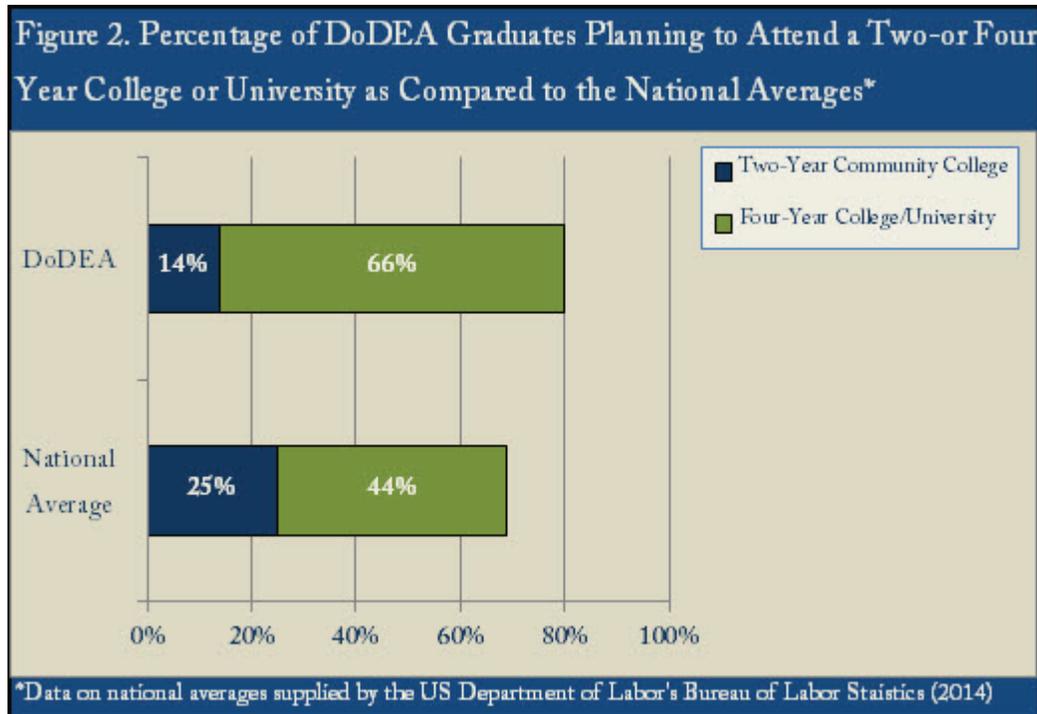
All analyses in this report are based on those seniors (N=2,863) who were enrolled in a DoDEA high school as of April 15, 2014. Therefore, findings do not include seniors who may have withdrawn prior to or entered a DoDEA high school after this date. It should also be noted that the information contained 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, but they may not have achieved statistical significance.

Postsecondary Plans

In April of SY 2014-15, approximately 2,863 seniors were enrolled in DoDEA high schools. Of these seniors, 97% had a documented postsecondary plan. Students were asked to choose among six categories: enroll in a four-year college or university, attend a two-year community college, attend a vocational/technical school, seek employment or an apprenticeship/on the job training, enlist in the military, or join Job Corps. The overwhelming majority (80%) of these seniors planned to attend either two- or four-year colleges or universities. This number represents an uptick from SY13-14's rate of 78%.



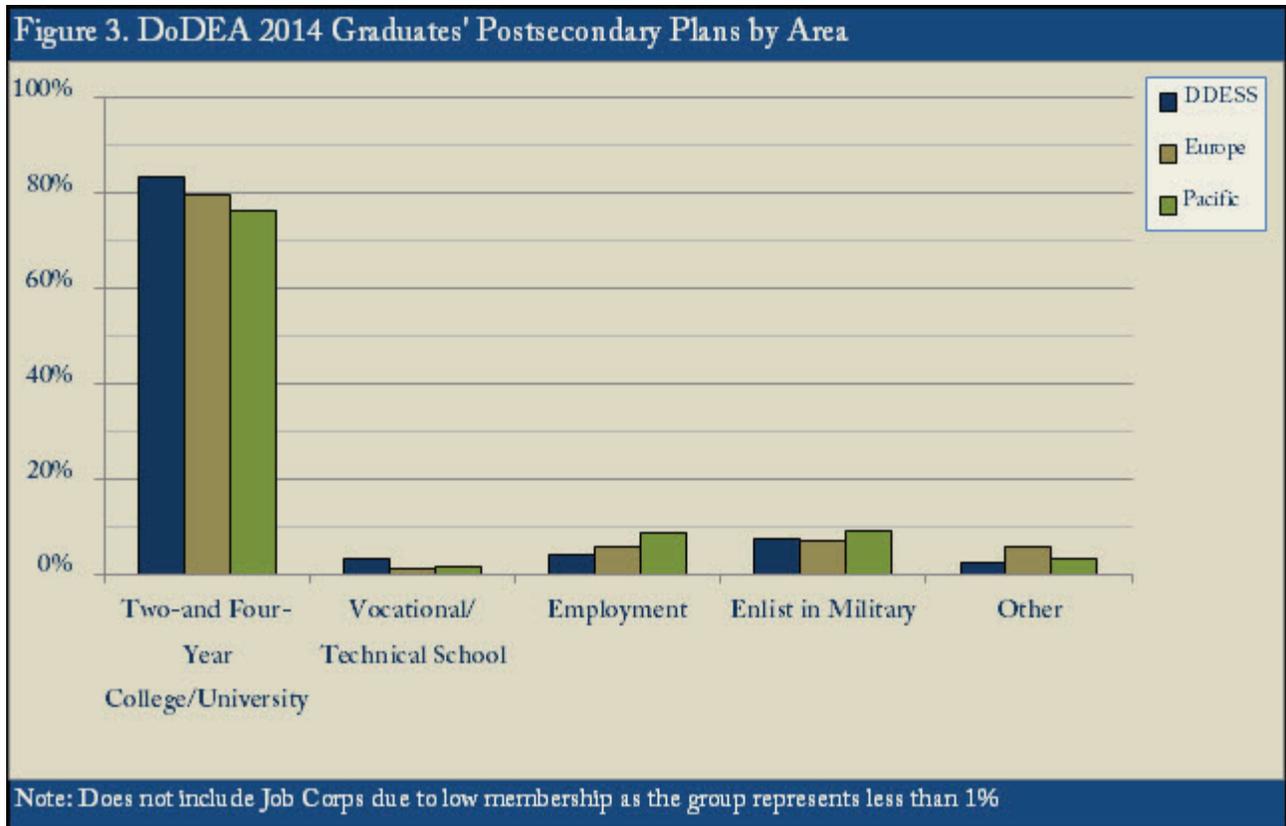
Of the remaining 21% of seniors, approximately 8% planned to enlist in the military. These findings have remained fairly consistent over the past six years, with only a slight variation between years. Furthermore, 66% of seniors planned to attend a four-year college or university after graduation, and 14% planned to attend a two-year community college (Figure 2).



At 80%, the percentage of DoDEA seniors who planned to attend a two-year or four-year college or university is higher than the national average of 69% (Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2015).

Postsecondary Plans by Area

Among the three DoDEA areas Americas, Europe, and the Pacific, the percentage of students who planned to attend a four-year college/university ranges from 76% of students from the Pacific to 83% of students from Americas (Figure 3). Although the range is not wide and is still higher than the national rate, significantly fewer students in the Pacific reported plans to attend a two- or four-year college/university the following year. This differs slightly from SY13-14 when all three areas reported between 80 and 81%. When one examines student's plans to attend a two year college from a four year college or university, it is noteworthy that while 68% of America's students and 67% of students in Europe planned to attend a four-year university, a smaller percentage, 61%, of students in the Pacific planned to do the same. The rates for a two-year college/community college are more closely distributed among the areas, ranging from 12 to 15%.



Postsecondary Plans by Ethnicity and Race

As noted previously, the average rate across DoDEA for planned matriculation into a two- or four-year college or university is 80%. However, when seniors' postsecondary plans are broken down by race and ethnicity, a degree of variation appears between groups (Table 1). The rates of plans to attend a two- or four-year college or university range between 84% for Asian students to 78% for Multiracial students. The range is not large; most of the differences are not statically significant, except for those between Asian and all other students ($p=.01$). This continues the trend for Asian students noted in SY13-14's report.

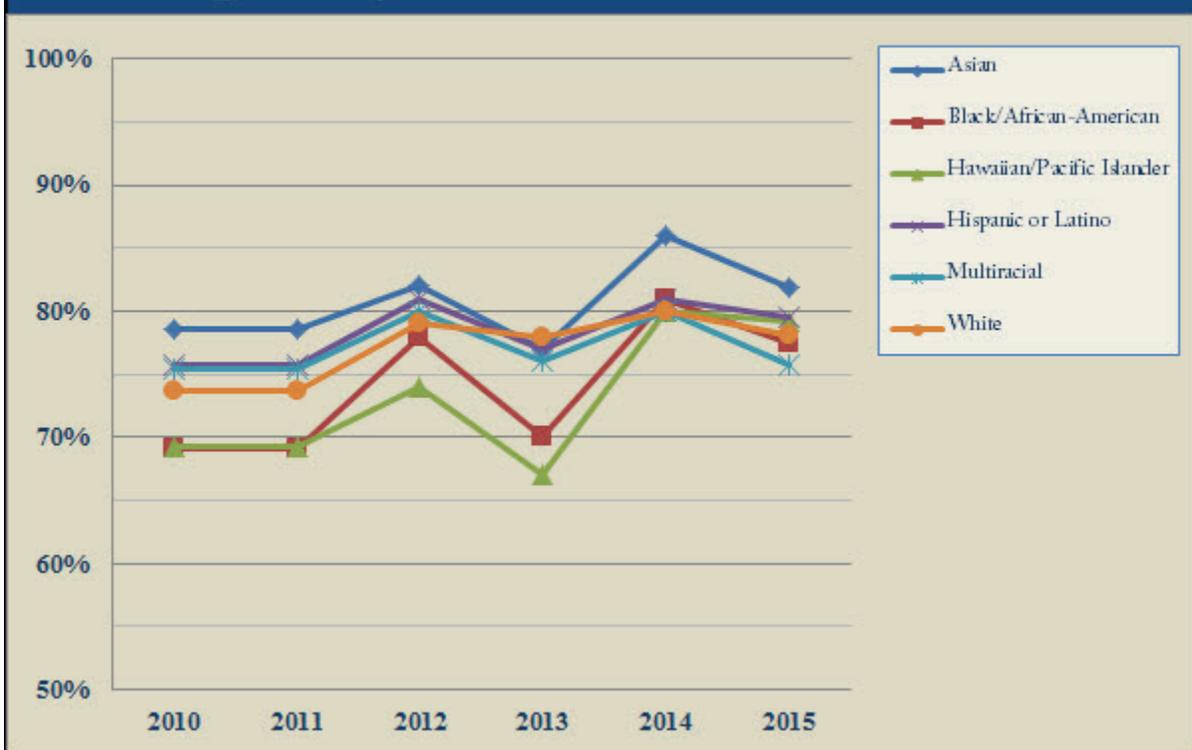
Figure 4 details the trends in plans to attend a two-year or four-year college/university by race/ethnicity for the past six years. In 2015, the rate decreased for all of the races listed here. The largest decrease, four percentage points, is among Asian and Multiracial students. The smallest decreases, only one percentage point, are among Hawaiian/Pacific Islander and Hispanic or Latino students.

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	84%	2%	6%	7%	2%
Black/African American	79%	3%	5%	8%	5%
Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	81%	4%	6%	9%	0%
Hispanic or Latino	81%	1%	6%	8%	4%
Multiracial	78%	2%	7%	9%	4%
White	80%	1%	7%	7%	5%

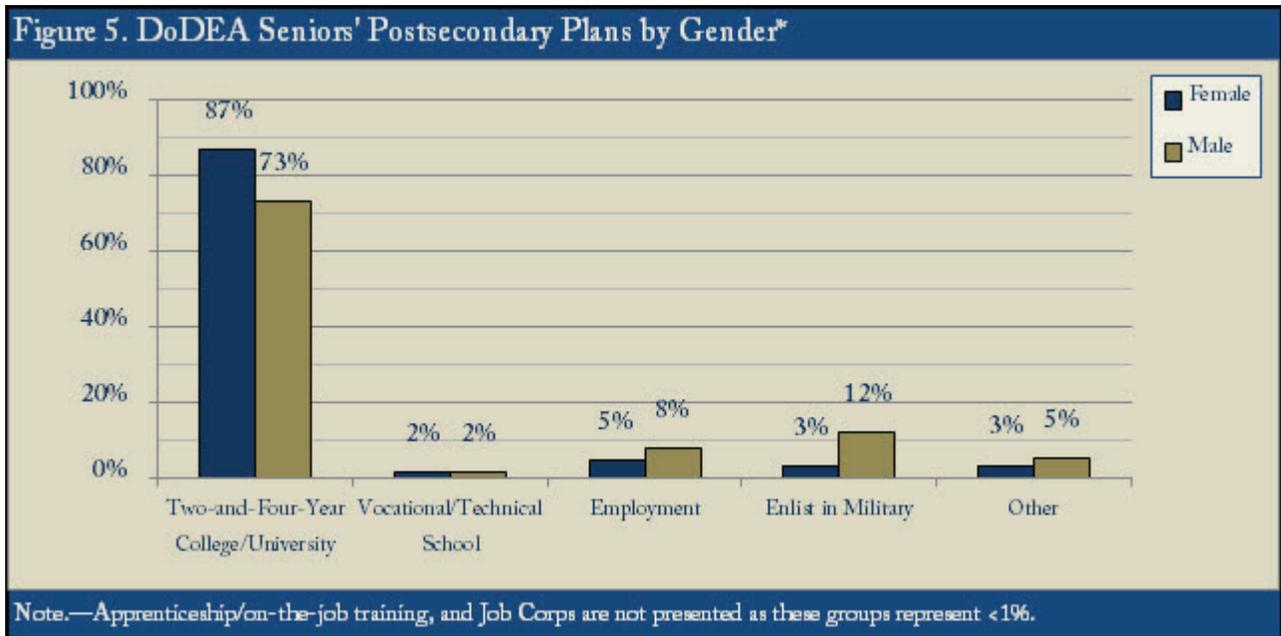
Note: Percentages may not equal 100 due to rounding; does not include 46 students who were missing race/ethnicity, students participating in Job Corps or students identifying as American Indian or Alaskan Native due to low number; Hispanic/Latino students are not included in their respective racial category

Figure 4. Percentage of DoDEA Seniors by Race/Ethnicity Planning to Attend a Two or Four Year College/University

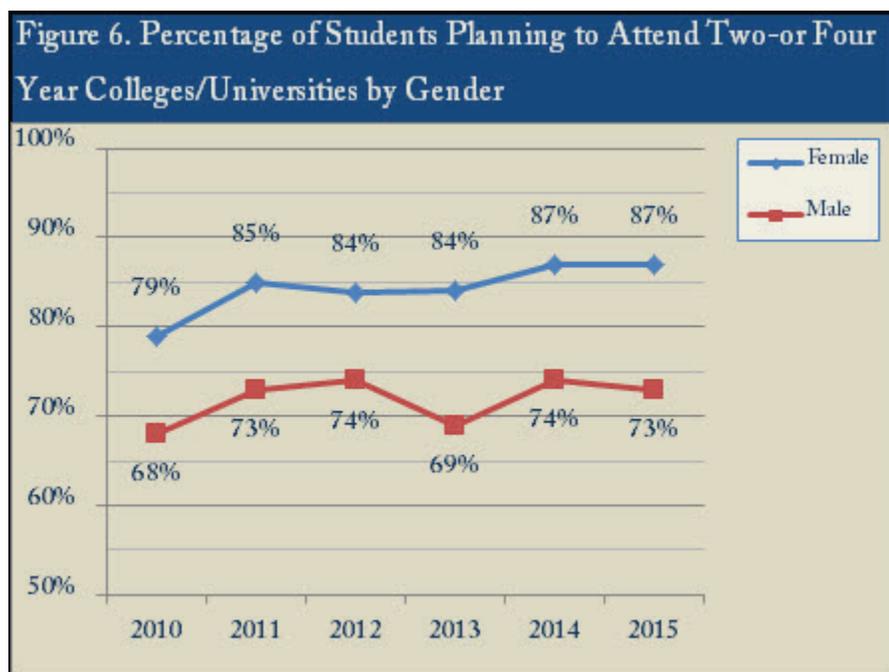


Postsecondary Plans by Gender

Male and female seniors planned to attend a two- or four-year college/university or enlist in the military at statistically different rates ($p < .001$) (Figure 5). While 87% of females planned to attend a two- or four-year college/university, only 73% of males planned to do so. In contrast, approximately four times as many males (12%) stated their intention to enlist in the military, as compared to females (3%).



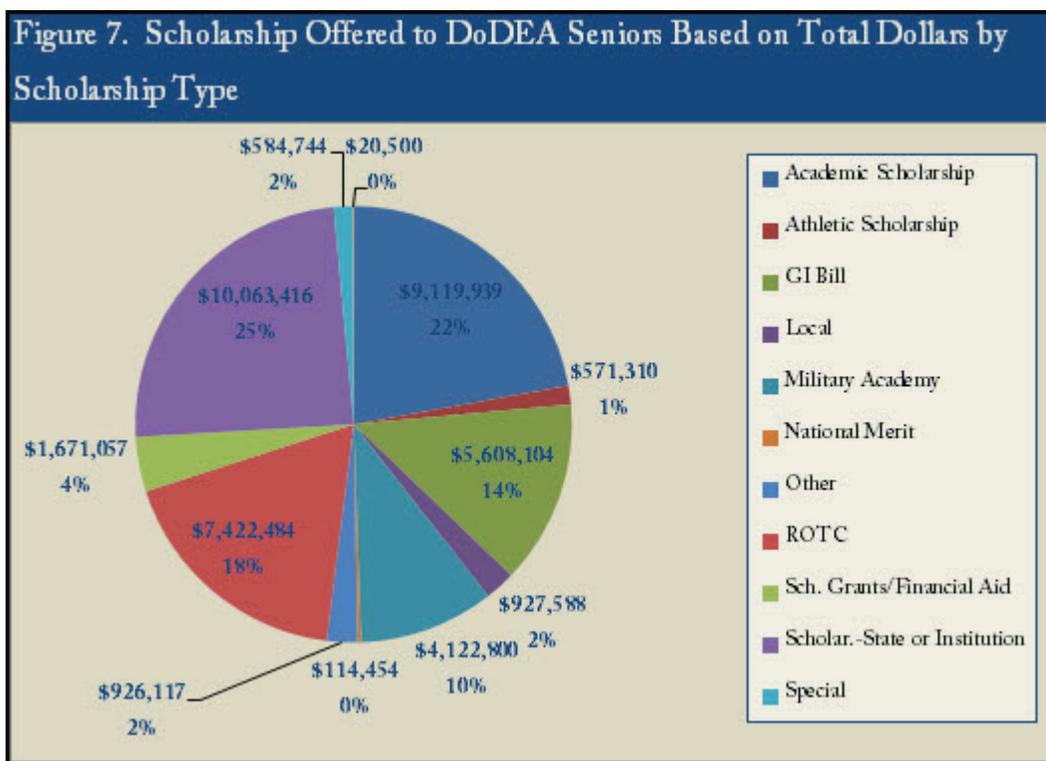
In the past six years, the difference between students planning to attend a two- or four-year college or university by gender ranged between 10 and 15 percentage points.



Types of Scholarships Offered and Accepted

Seniors in DoDEA schools were offered approximately \$41.2 million in scholarships and financial aid in SY 2014-15, a decrease of approximately \$20.2 million when compared to that reported by seniors in SY 2013-14. DoDEA students were offered 1,766 scholarships and grants, representing a decrease of 389 when compared to SY 2013-14. Of the 1,766 scholarships offered to DoDEA students, they accepted 1,439, which is approximately 81% of scholarships and grants offered to DoDEA students.

Nearly half of these scholarships are categorized as academic scholarships or as state or institutional scholarships. However, it is interesting to note that while academic scholarships represent 22% of the total amount, they sustained the sharpest decrease in money offered, with a decrease of over \$5.5 million when compared to the amount offered in SY13-14 report.



When examining each type of scholarship reported in SY 2014-15, it is important to note that the contribution of each scholarship type depends on whether one is considering the total number of scholarships across DoDEA or the sum of scholarship monies offered. For example, when considering the amount offered in scholarships, military academy scholarships at \$4,122,800 appear to eclipse local scholarships totaling \$927,588. However, the reverse is true when one considers the number of scholarships offered, as 16 students were offered military academy scholarships compared to 515 students who were offered local scholarships. Overall, the largest number of scholarships were offered by local organizations (30%; n=515), followed by academic scholarships (20%; 345). The smallest number of scholarships were offered by Vocational Education Programs (<1%; n= 7) and National Merit Scholarships (1%; n=9).

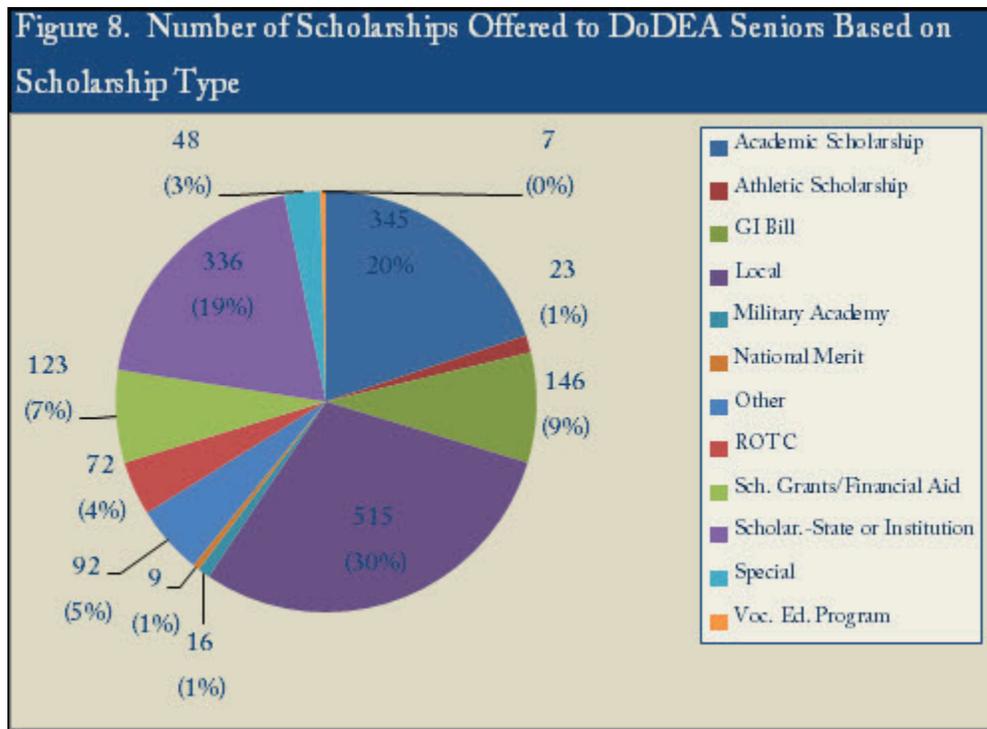


Table 2 shows the breakdown in average monies offered and accepted by seniors in each of the three DoDEA areas. The largest sources of monies for both DoDEA America and Europe are state or institutional scholarships, while the largest source for the Pacific is academic scholarships. However, due to differences in the number of students, caution should be used when comparing the total monies offered and accepted among the three areas. While seniors in DoDEA America were offered over approximately \$7.8 million in scholarships compared to nearly \$21.2 million in Europe, there were also nearly 1,000 more seniors in April of 2015 in Europe than in DoDEA America.

Table 2. Scholarship Monies Offered and Accepted by Area

		DoDEA America		DoDEA Europe		DoDEA Pacific	
		Total	Accepted	Total	Accepted	Total	Accepted
Scholarship Type	Academic Scholarship	\$1,003,098	\$835,098	\$3,850,160	\$2,313,626	\$4,266,681	\$3,212,471
	Athletic Scholarship	\$293,310	\$265,310	\$129,500	\$129,500	\$148,500	\$148,500
	GI Bill	\$1,095,850	\$1,095,850	\$2,845,811	\$2,845,811	\$1,666,443	\$1,666,443
	Local	\$139,758	\$139,758	\$435,895	\$394,145	\$351,935	\$345,435
	Military Academy			\$2,692,000	\$2,442,000	\$1,430,800	\$1,430,800
	National Merit			\$17,454	\$3,500	\$97,000	\$94,500
	Other	\$153,300	\$153,300	\$547,367	\$297,251	\$225,450	\$151,950
	ROTC	\$1,247,500	\$962,500	\$4,112,828	\$3,320,828	\$2,062,156	\$1,702,156
	Sch. Grants/Financial Aid	\$449,044	\$340,044	\$935,738	\$695,122	\$286,275	\$286,275
	Scholar.-State or Institution	\$3,225,122	\$1,008,122	\$5,273,775	\$3,624,791	\$1,564,519	\$1,261,835
	Special	\$213,850	\$205,850	\$342,894	\$296,894	\$28,000	
	Vocational Education Program	\$12,500				\$8,000	
	Total	\$7,833,332	\$5,005,832	\$21,183,422	\$16,363,468	\$12,135,759	\$10,300,365

Table 3 shows the percentage of seniors offered at least one scholarship and the average amount per scholarship by area, gender, and race/ethnicity. Overall, approximately 32% (n=2,863) of DoDEA's seniors were offered at least one scholarship, grant, or other financial aid. This rate is slightly lower but similar to SY13-14's rate of 34%.

The average amount of scholarship and other aid per senior varies between \$48,654 in DoDEA America and \$42,391 in Europe. However, these differences are not statistically significant. On average, male students received approximately \$8,500 more per student than their female counterparts. This difference is statistically significant ($p=.002$). The average scholarship monies and other aid for male and female students are discussed in more depth below.

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

		Total Number of Seniors in April 2014	Percentage Offered at Least One Scholarship	Average Monies Offered Per Recipient
Area	DoDEA Americas	459	35%	\$48,654
	DoDEA Europe	1443	33%	\$42,391
	DoDEA Pacific	961	27%	\$46,592
Gender	Male	1444	26%	\$49,613
	Female	1419	37%	\$41,118
Race or Ethnicity	White	1243	35%	\$42,244
	Black/African American	330	37%	\$36,508
	Hispanic or Latino	555	29%	\$43,530
	Asian	262	26%	\$50,888
	American Indian/Alaska Native	11	-	-
	Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	73	18%	\$69,592
	Multiracial	332	30%	\$55,446
DoDEA Total		2863	32%	\$44,674

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. Categories with less than 10 members are not reported.

Figure 11 shows the average scholarships and other aid offered to DoDEA seniors as broken down by race and ethnicity. In general, the average aid per student fell below SY13-14's rate, but it is still higher than that of SY 2012-13. The amount received per student ranged between \$36,508 and \$69,592. On average, Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander students received the most in scholarships and other aid per student at \$69,592, followed by Multiracial students who received an average of \$55,446 per student and Asian students who received an average of \$50,888 per student. Black or African American students received the least per student on average at \$36,508, followed by White students with an average of \$42,224 per student and Hispanic or Latino students who received an average of \$43,530 per student. While the range between average monies is over \$33,000, the only

difference that is statistically significant is between Black or African American students, who received the smallest amount per student, and all other groups. Conversely, students who identified as Black or African American represents the group with the highest percentage of students who were offered at least one scholarship.

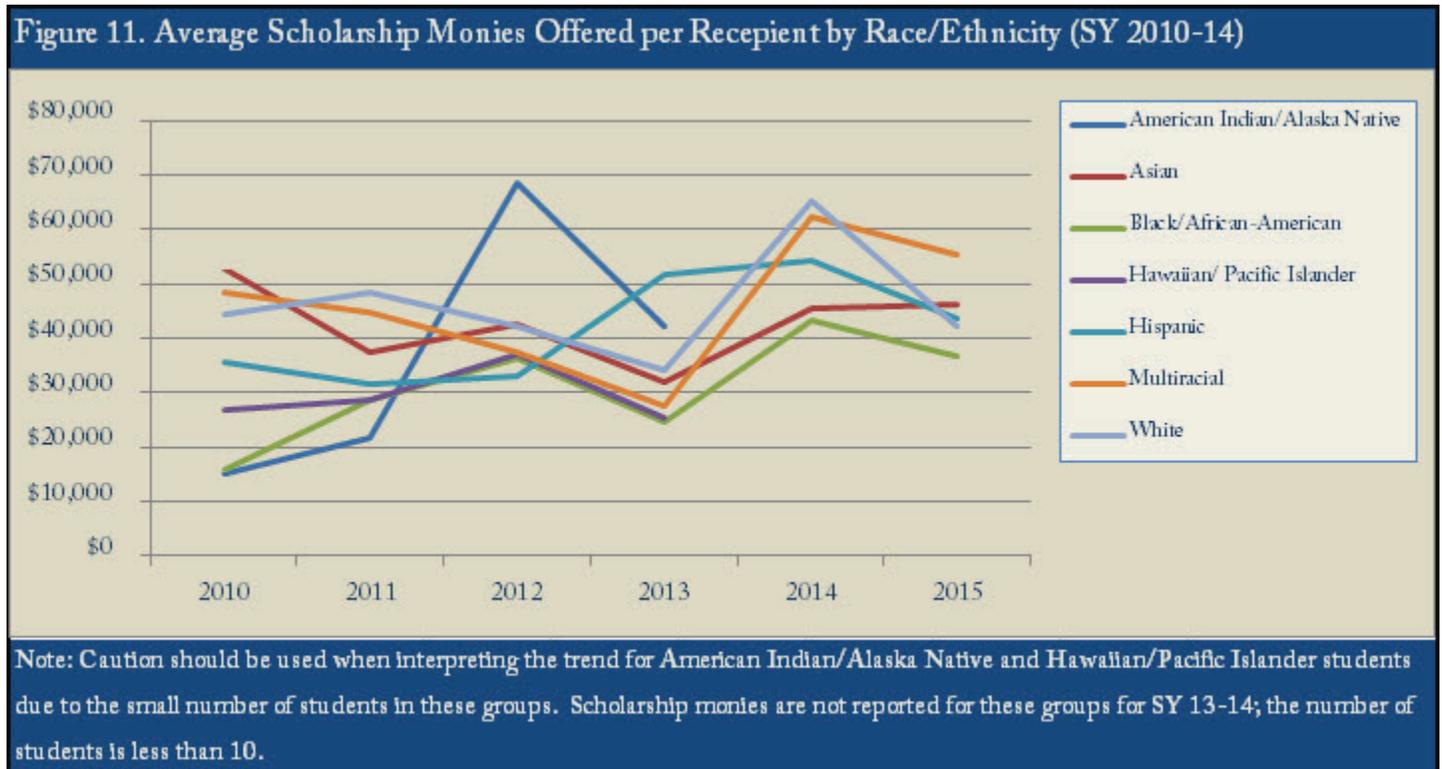
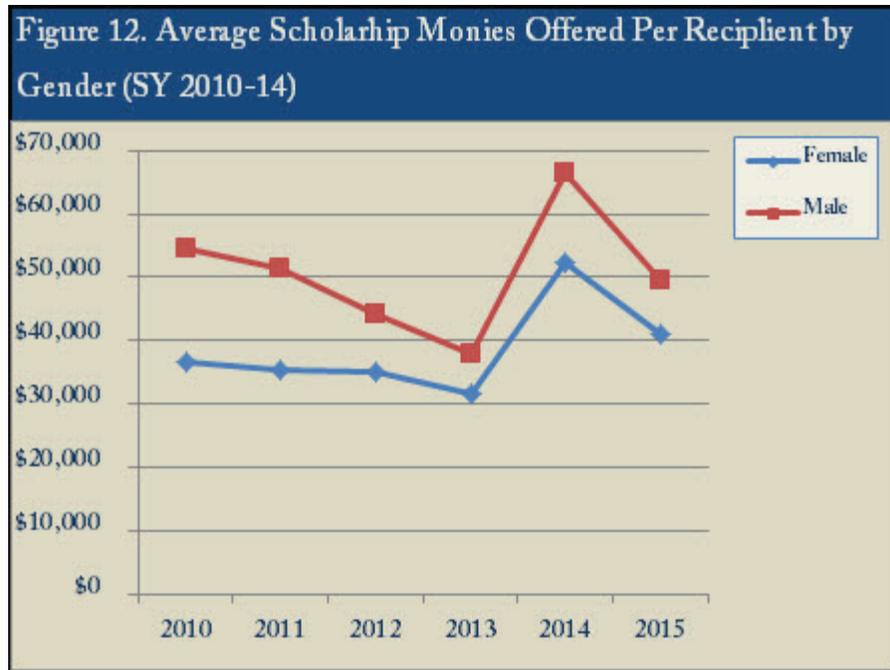


Figure 12 describes the average scholarship monies offered per recipient for male and female students. As noted previously, male students were offered significantly more in scholarship monies, grants, and other financial aid than female students. However, the amount of monies offered to both groups of students decreased in SY 2014-15 when compared to the previous year. Male students experienced a sharper loss than female students, losing on average \$16,885 as compared to \$11,249 for female students. The difference (\$8,495) between male and female students represents one of the smallest differences in the past 6 years.



Summary and Recommendations

This report examines DoDEA seniors' postsecondary plans and scholarship information for SY 2013-14.

The postsecondary plans of DoDEA seniors have remained consistent for the past six years. The percentage of students who plan to attend a two- or four-year college or university is up 2 percentage points in SY 2014-15 over SY13-14, from 78% to 80%. This rate is higher than the national average of 69%. However, the amount of monies offered in scholarships, grants, and other financial aid has fallen over \$20 million to \$41.2 million; the lowest amount offered to DoDEA students in three years. As the number of scholarships, grants, and other financial aid offers reported has also fallen in SY 2014-15 as compared to SY13-14 by 389, it is possible that this drop is due to a lack of reporting, but it is also possible that other factors are at play.

When postsecondary plans are examined by area, the rate of planned attendance at a two- or four-year college or university ranges between 76% and 83%. DoDEA America's students represent the upper end of this scale their rate is significantly higher than that of students in the DoDEA Pacific, but not that of students from Europe. DoDEA America's students are also reported to have received the highest average monies per student in scholarships and financial aid (\$48,654 on average per person), followed by the Pacific (\$46,592) and Europe (\$42,391). However, these differences are not statistically significant.

Seniors' postsecondary plans are also examined by race and ethnicity. This report finds that the rate of students who planned to attend a two- or four-year college or university ranges between 84% for Asian students and 78% for Multiracial students. Asian students planned to attend college or university at a significantly higher rate than other students; however, there were no other significant differences between the college-going plans of seniors by race. In terms of the average monies offered to DoDEA

students, Black or African American students received the lowest amount; however, this finding is tempered by these students having received the highest rate of being offered at least one scholarship, grant, or other financial aid.

When the rates of students planning to attend a two- or four-year university are broken down by gender, significantly more female students (87%) planned to attend a two- or four-year college or university than male students (73%); however, male students received significantly more in scholarships, grants, and other aid.

It is recommended that schools continue their efforts to encourage students to pursue their post-secondary plans and to apply for scholarship, financial aid, and grants for all types of educational plans. One example of a proactive policy in this area is a Louisiana State requirement that students either apply for financial aid or submit a form signed by themselves and their parents stating that they will not apply for aid². It is hoped that this requirement will increase the number of students applying for financial aid, thereby increasing the number of students further pursuing their education (EdWeek, 2015).

Furthermore, it is recommended that efforts to ensure that accurate and reliable data are provided by schools, districts, and areas are continued. As was stated previously it is unclear if the drop in scholarships, grants, and other financial aid is due to a lack of reporting or if other factors are at play. It is imperative that current policies regarding precise data reporting are enforced so that policy makers can be guided by the most accurate information.

Finally, it is also recommended that this annual report evolve to reflect the newly available post-secondary enrollment data from the National Student Clearinghouse. This data will allow us to analyze phenomenon like summer melt and to identify where interventions would be best directed.

References

- Bureau of Labor Statistics. (2015, April 16). *Table 1. Labor force status of 2014 high school graduates and 2013-14 high school dropouts 16 to 24 years old by school enrollment, educational attainment, sex, race, and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, October 2014*. Retrieved May 18, 2015).
<http://www.bls.gov/news/release/hsgcc/t01.htm>.
- The Advocate. (December 6, 2015). *BESE approves new policy requiring high school seniors to apply for financial aid for college*. Retrieved December 10, 2015 2015,
<http://theadvocate.com/news/14187986-123/bese-approves-new-policy-requiring> 12/6
- Ed Week (December 10, 2015). *Louisiana Requires all Students to Apply for Financial Aid*. Retrieved December 6, 2015
http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/high_school_and_beyond/2015/12/louisiana_requires_all_students_to_apply_for_financial_aid.html
- Ed Week (September 23, 2009). *How Much Does Help With FAFSA Boost College Going*. Retrieved 12/10/2015. http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/high-schoolconnections/2009/09/how_much_does_fafsa_help_boost.html

For questions regarding this report, please contact Stephanie O'Neill at
stephanie.oneil@hq.dodea.edu

All data and charts/graphics from this report should use the following citation:
DoDEA Research and Evaluation Branch, "Seniors' Postsecondary Plans and Scholarships
School Year 2013-14." 2014. p. x.

DoDEA Research & Evaluation Branch
www.dodea.edu/datacenter/research/index.cfm