

# DoDEA Seniors' Postsecondary Plans and Scholarships



SY 2011–12

Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA)

Research and Evaluation Branch  
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## Postsecondary Plans and Scholarships

### Background

During their senior year, students in the Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) schools develop a postsecondary plan indicating their intentions upon graduation from high school. Postsecondary plan data was generated and consists of several categories including: attending a 4-year college/university, attending a junior/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, 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) 2011–12.

All analyses in this report are based on those seniors ( $N=3,269$ ) who were enrolled in a DoDEA high school as of April 20, 2012. Therefore, findings do not include seniors who may have withdrawn prior to or entered a DoDEA high school after this date.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 significant.

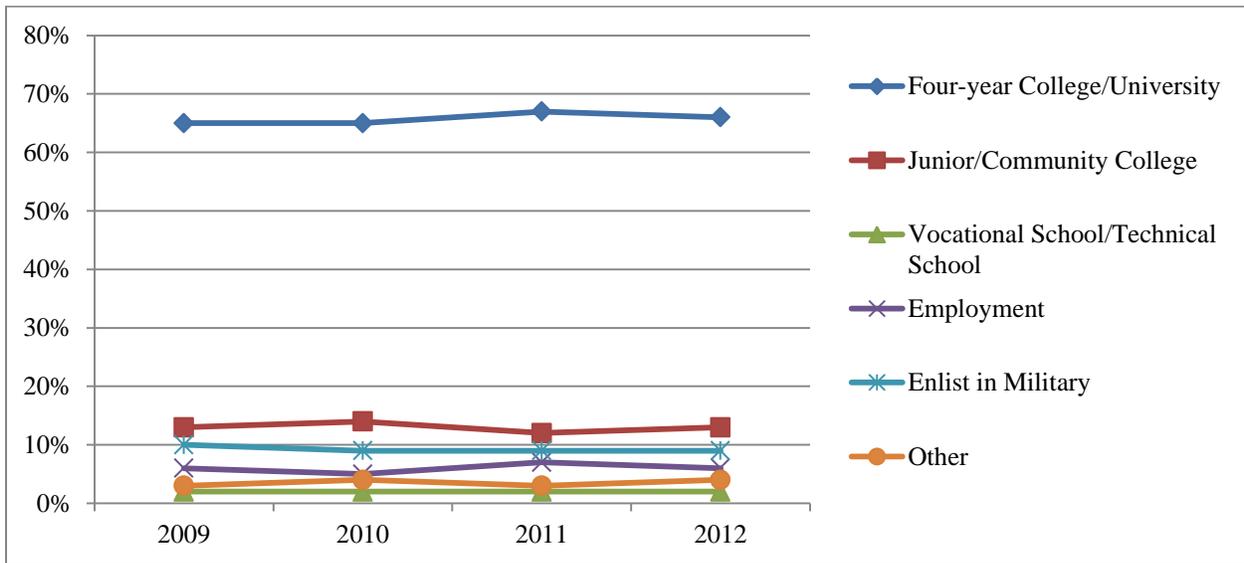
### Postsecondary Plans

In April 2012, during SY 2011–12, a total of 3,269 seniors were enrolled in DoDEA high schools. Of these students, 90% had a documented postsecondary plan.<sup>1</sup> The overwhelming majority (66%) planned to attend a 4-year college/university after graduation, attend junior/community college (13%), or enlist in the military (9%) (Figure 1). These findings have remained relatively stable over the past four years. The percentage of DoDEA seniors planning to attend a college or university is only 2% less than the national average of 68.3% (Bureau for Labor Statistics, 2012).

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<sup>1</sup> 336 students were missing a postsecondary plan data.

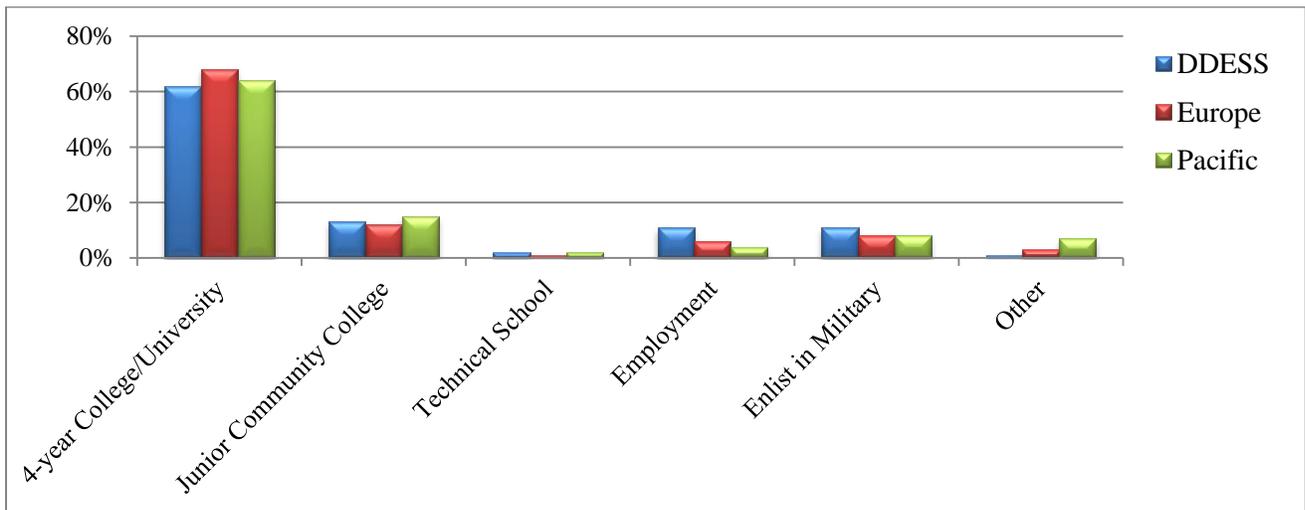
Figure 1. Postsecondary Plans of DoDEA Seniors (SY 2009–2012)



### Postsecondary Plans by Area

Among the three DoDEA Areas analyzed (Department of Defense Elementary and Secondary Schools (DDESS); Europe; and Pacific), the percentages of students planning to attend a 4-year college/university or junior/community college is equivalent, with all three DoDEA Areas reporting at least 60% of seniors choosing the postsecondary route (Figure 2). However, a large percentage of students in DoDEA’s Pacific schools planned to attend a junior/community college (15%), while a large percentage of seniors in DDESS planned to seek employment (11%) upon graduation.

Figure 2. DoDEA 2012 Graduates’ Postsecondary Plans by Area



Note.—Percentages may not equal 100 due to rounding; apprenticeship/on the job training, and Job Corps are not presented as these groups represent <1%.

## Postsecondary Plans by Ethnicity and Race

No statistically significant differences were found in the postsecondary plans of seniors based upon their race/ethnicity (Table 1). Seventy-three percent of Asian American students planned to attend a 4- year college/university. All other race/ethnic groups have between 60–67% of students who planned to attend a 4-year college/university (Table 1).

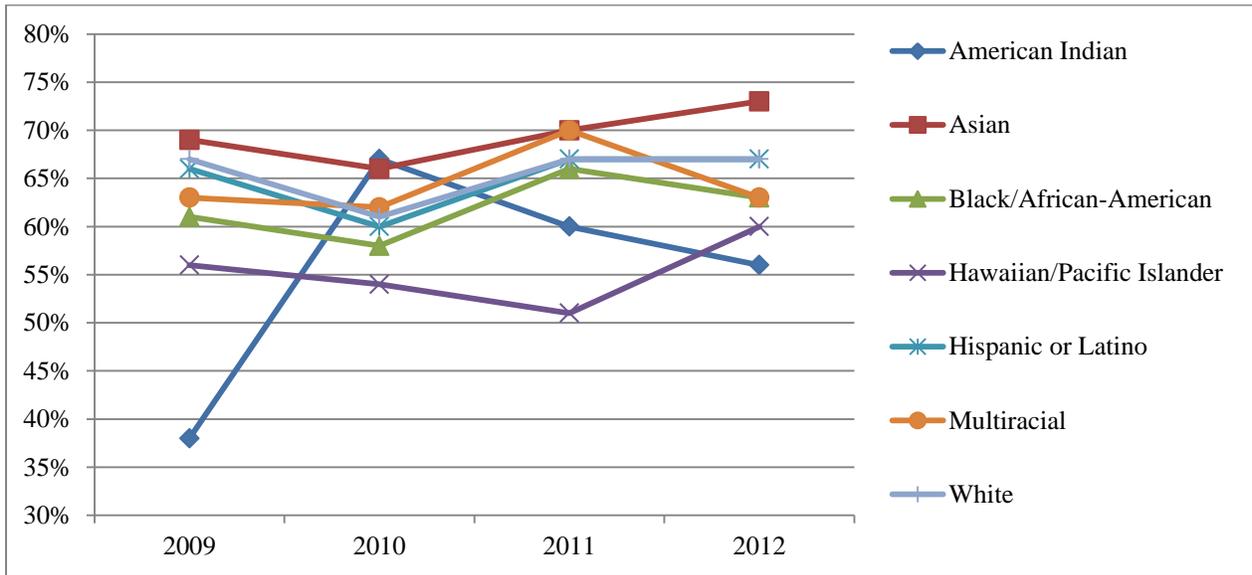
Table 1. DoDEA Seniors' Postsecondary Plans by Ethnicity and Race

	4-year College/University	Junior/Community College	Technical School	Employment	Enlist in Military	Other
Asian	73%	9%	1%	4%	6%	7%
Black/African- American	63%	15%	1%	6%	11%	3%
Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	60%	14%	2%	10%	12%	2%
Hispanic or Latino	67%	14%	2%	7%	8%	2%
Multiracial	63%	17%	2%	5%	8%	5%
White	67%	12%	1%	7%	9%	4%

Note.—Percentages may not equal 100 due to rounding; does not include 28 students who were missing race/ethnicity; apprenticeship/on the job training and Job Corps are not presented as these groups represent <1%; Hispanic/Latino students are not included in their respective racial category.

Over the past four years Whites and Hispanics/Latinos have remained constant in the percentage of seniors planning to attend a 4-year college. As for Asian students, they reported a 13 % increase in their desire to attend a 4-year college from SY 2010–2011. Blacks and American Indians reported slight declines from SY 2010–11 to SY 2011–12, of 3% and 4% respectively.

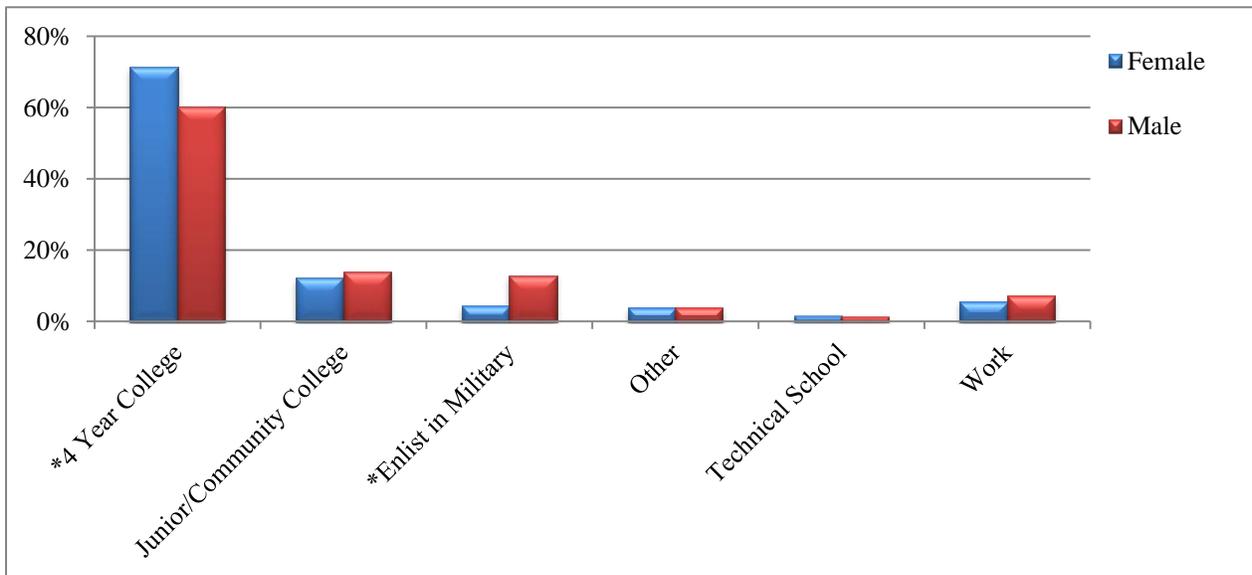
Figure 3. Percentage of DoDEA Seniors by Race/Ethnicity Planning to Attend a 4-Year College/University



### Postsecondary Plans by Gender

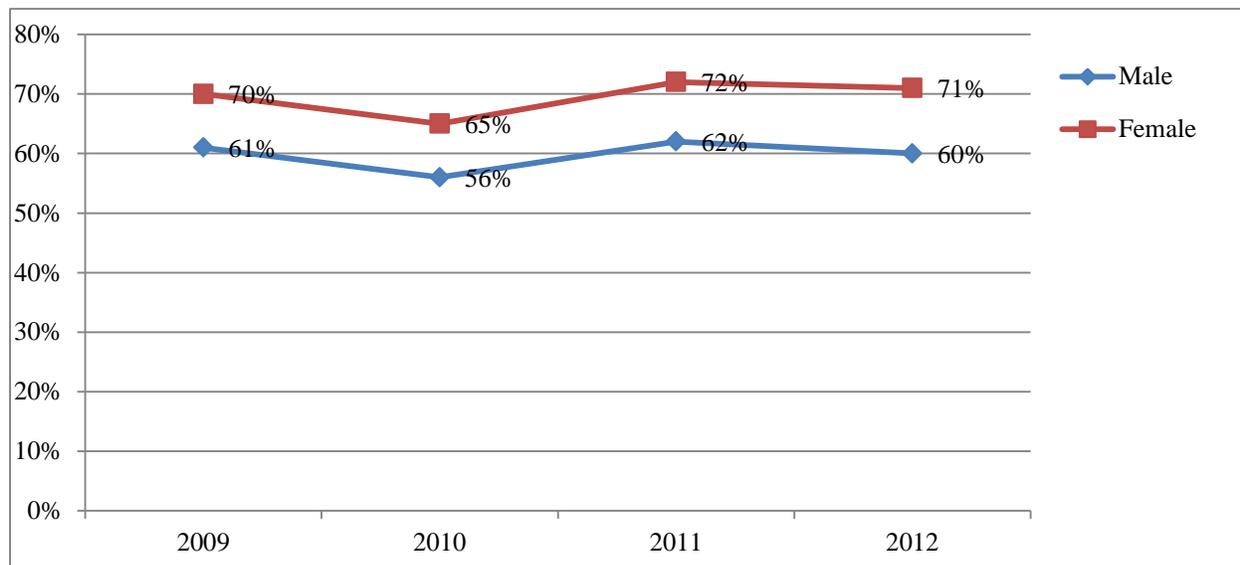
Males and females significantly differed in the percentages planning to attend a 4-year college/university and enlist in the military. While 72% of females planned to attend a 4-year college/university, only 60% of males planned to do so. In contrast, approximately three times as many males (13%) versus females (4%) planned to enlist in the military (Figure 3).

Figure 4. DoDEA Seniors' Postsecondary Plans by Gender



\* Significant difference

Figure 5. Percentage of Males and Females Planning to Attend a 4-Year College/University



## Scholarships and Financial Aid

### Types of Scholarships Offered and Accepted

Seniors in DoDEA were offered a total of \$ 40.6 million in scholarship and financial aid in SY 2011–12, an increase of approximately \$1.9 million from that reported by seniors in SY 2010–11. As illustrated in Figure 5, state or institutional scholarships provided the largest source of scholarship monies (33%), followed by military academies (21%) and GI Bill (16%).

The average monies attached to each type of scholarship differs. For example, local scholarships averaged \$1,440 compared to military academy scholarships, which averaged \$297,076. Therefore, the contribution of each scholarship type depends on whether one is considering the total number of scholarships or the sum of scholarship monies. State and institutional scholarships were the largest source of overall scholarship funds (\$13.4 million), but they account for only 28% ( $n=553$ ) of the number of scholarships (Figure 6). In contrast, local organizational scholarships (e.g., Officers' and Enlisted Spouses' Clubs; fraternities; and sororities) account for only 3% (\$1,042,240.00) of the total scholarship monies (Figure 5) but represent 37% ( $n=731$ ) of the total number of scholarships offered to students (Figure 6).

Figure 6. Scholarships Offered to DoDEA Seniors Based on Total Dollars

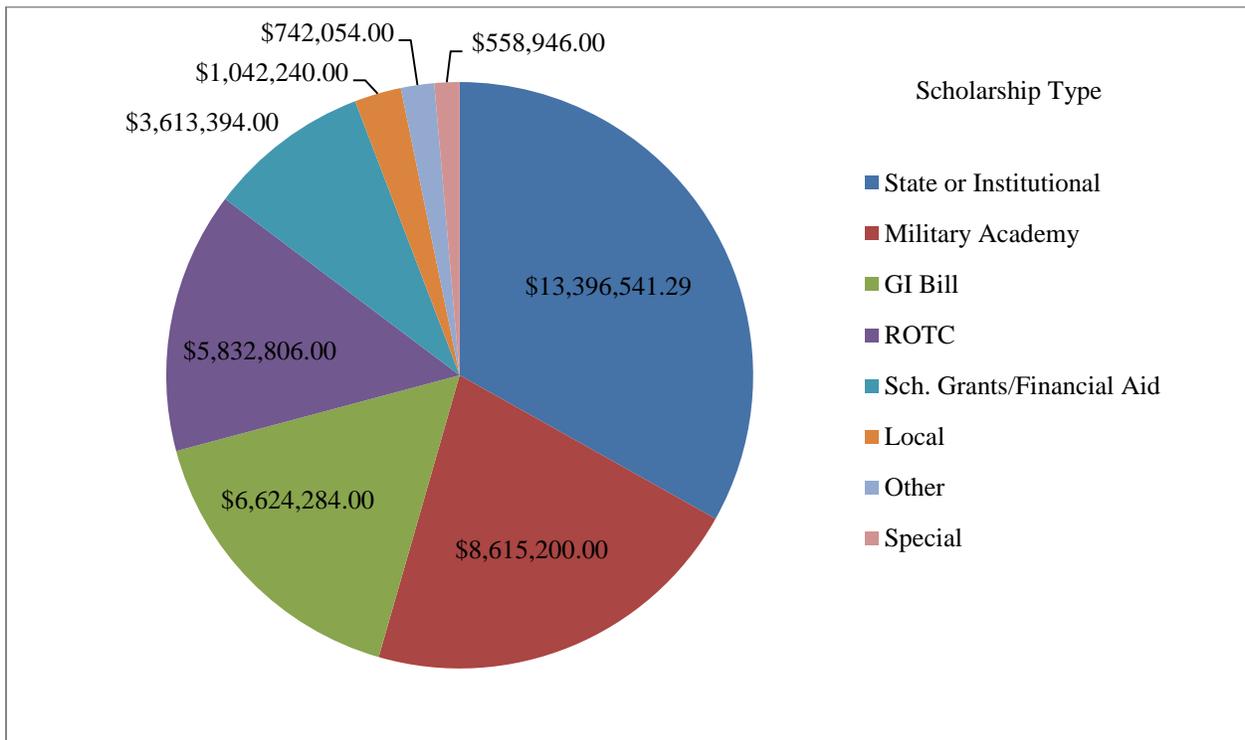
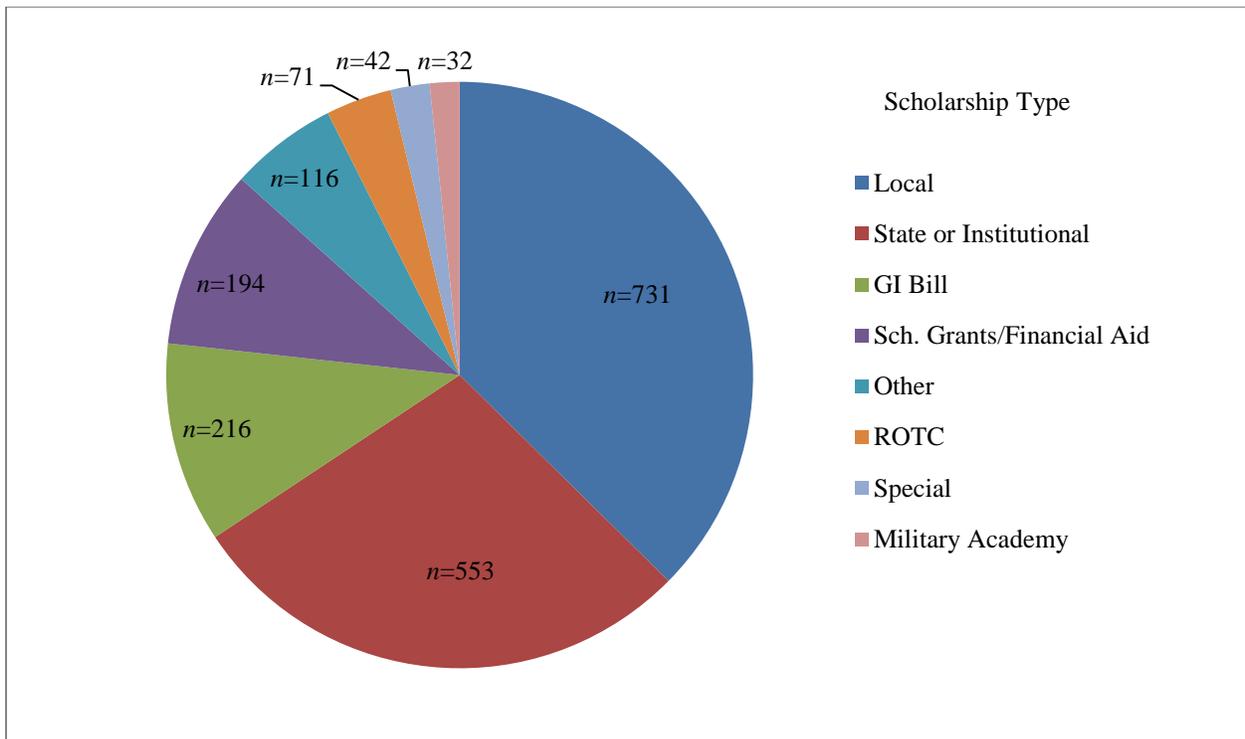


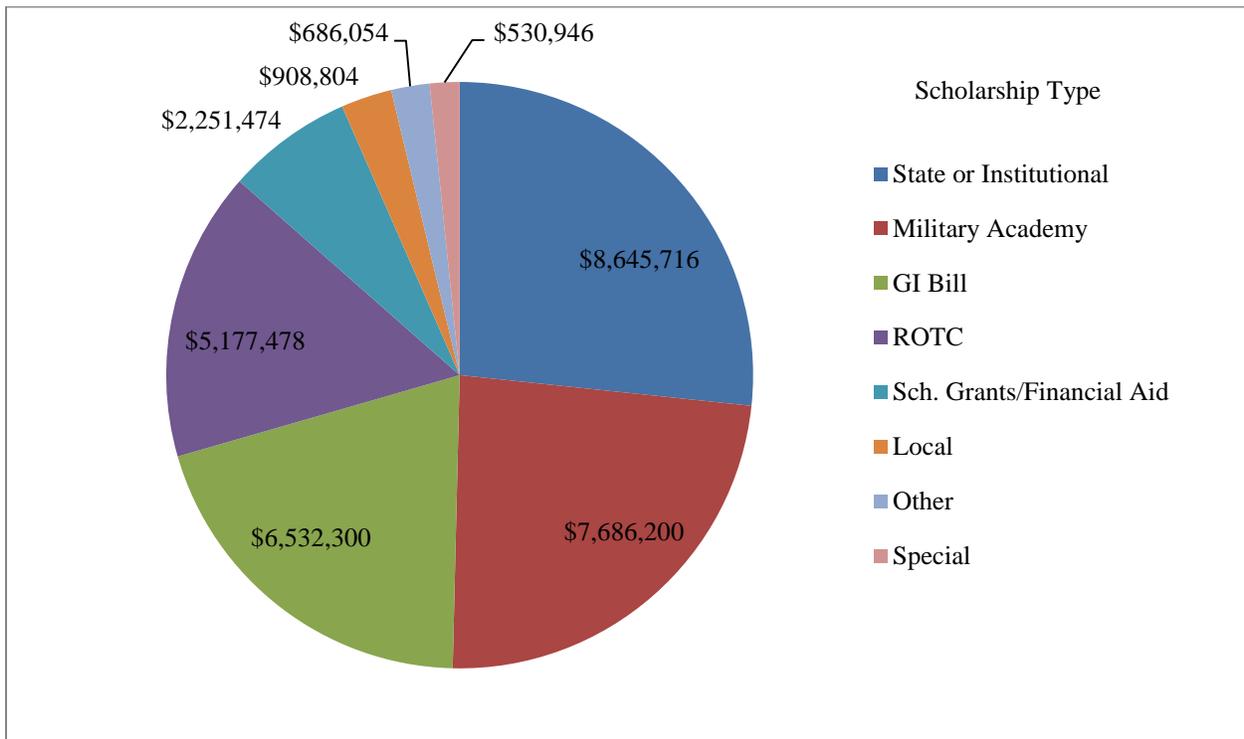
Figure 7. Scholarships Offered to DoDEA Seniors Based on Number of Scholarships



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

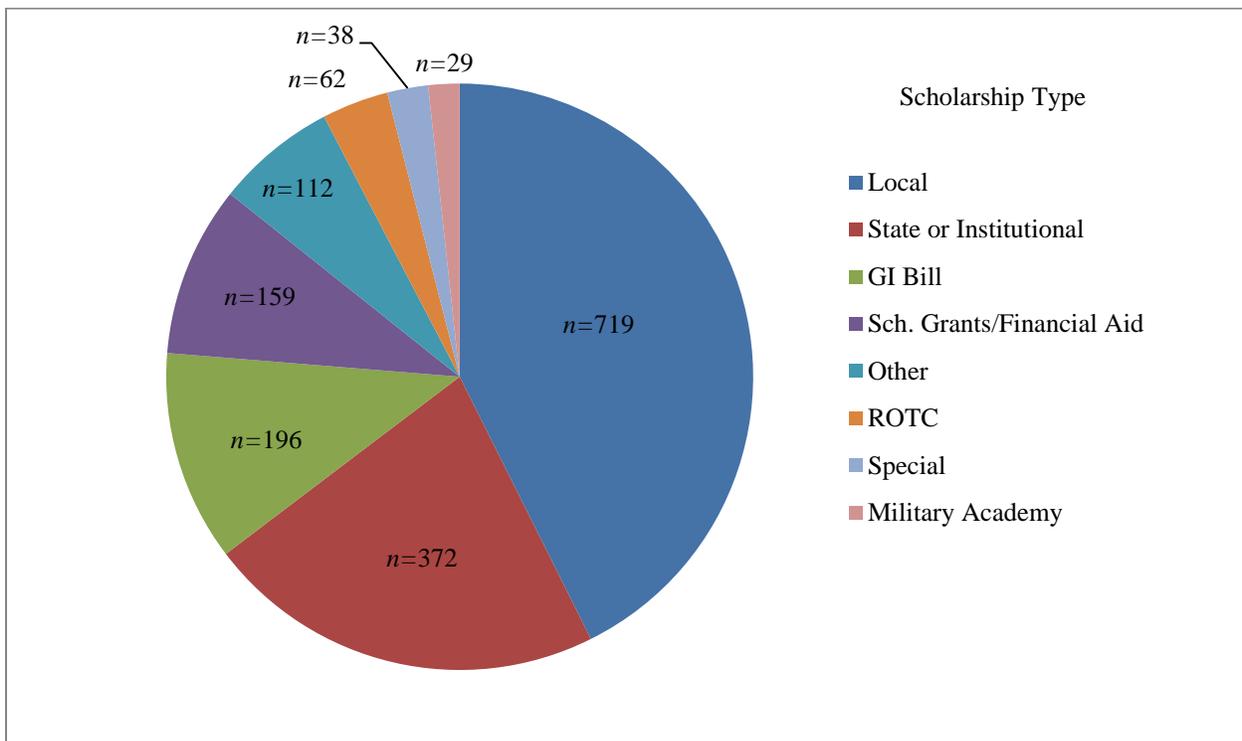
Of the \$40.6 million scholarships, financial aid, and grant monies offered, DoDEA seniors accepted approximately \$32.6 million (Figure 7). The proportions of accepted scholarship monies follows the same pattern as scholarships offered with the largest amount of monies coming from state or institutional scholarships (27%; \$8.6 million) and military academies (24%; \$7.6 million).

Figure 8. Scholarships Accepted by DoDEA Seniors Based on Total Dollars



The number of scholarships accepted by source also follows the trend of those offered (Figure 8), with local scholarships representing the largest number of scholarships accepted (42%;  $n=719$ ), followed by state or institutional scholarships (22%;  $n=372$ ).

Figure 9. Scholarships Accepted by DoDEA Seniors Based on Number of Scholarships



### Types of Scholarships by DoDEA Area

Table 2 shows the breakdown in average monies offered and accepted by seniors in each of the three DoDEA Areas. State or institutional scholarships were the largest source of funding offered to DoDEA seniors regardless of Area. 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 \$15 million less than students in Europe, yet there were almost three times as many seniors in Europe than DDESS.

Table 2. Scholarship Monies Offered and Accepted by Area

Type of Scholarship	DDESS		Europe		Pacific	
	Accepted	Offered	Accepted	Offered	Accepted	Offered
Local	\$130,700	\$130,700	\$481,128	\$581,864	\$296,176	\$296,876
Military Academy	\$1,274,200	\$1,274,200	\$6,110,000	\$6,225,000	\$302,000	\$1,116,000
National Merit	-	-	\$102,200	\$102,200	\$38,500	\$38,500
GI Bill	\$1,663,300	\$1,727,300	\$4,590,999	\$4,590,999	\$208,001	\$235,985
ROTC	\$284,850	\$354,850	\$3,486,298	\$3,486,298	\$1,406,330	\$1,991,658
State or Institutional	\$1,287,010	\$3,159,230	\$4,621,969	\$5,987,628	\$2,632,737	\$4,127,683
Special	\$241,797	\$269,797	\$281,149	\$281,149	\$8,000	\$8,000
Voc. Ed. Program	\$39,000	\$39,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$2,000	\$2,000
Other	\$46,500	\$46,500	\$521,010	\$575,010	\$94,544	\$96,544
Sch. Grants/Financial Aid	\$456,900	\$1,259,900	\$1,303,525	\$1,750,445	\$457,049	\$569,049
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$5,424,257</b>	<b>\$8,261,477</b>	<b>\$18,011,980</b>	<b>\$23,580,593</b>	<b>\$5,445,337</b>	<b>\$8,482,295</b>

## Types of Scholarships by Gender, Race/Ethnicity

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 one-third ( $n=1,043$ ) of DoDEA's seniors were offered at least one scholarship.<sup>2</sup> 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 DDESS than in Europe and 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. Also, while the percentage of each racial/ethnic group receiving at least one scholarship ranged from 24%–34% (Table 3), the differences are not significant. Hawaiian/Pacific Islanders were offered the least amount of scholarships (23%), and Whites received the most (34%).

When examined by gender, a statistically significant larger percentage of females were offered at least one scholarship. Although males averaged approximately \$10,000 more in scholarship monies than females, this is not statistically significant. Differences in the total monies between males and females are partially due to the types of scholarships offered to each. Eighteen males were offered military academy scholarships compared to 14 females, and 50 males were offered a Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) scholarship compared to 21 females.

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

		Total Seniors in April 2012	Percentage Offered at Least One Scholarship	Average Monies Per Scholarship Recipient
<b>Area</b>	DDESS	468	*39%	\$45,393
	Europe	1810	34%	\$38,725
	Pacific	991	24%	\$35,196
<b>Gender</b>	Female	1616	35%	\$34,958
	Male	1653	28%	\$44,041
<b>Race Ethnicity</b>	American Indian/Alaska Native	17	24%	\$68,363
	Asian	261	30%	\$42,543
	Black/African American	511	30%	\$36,836
	Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander	62	23%	\$37,051
	Hispanic or Latino	554	34%	\$32,987
	Multiracial	370	26%	\$37,247
	White	1444	34%	\$42,110
<b>DoDEA Total</b>		<b>3,269</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>\$39,771</b>

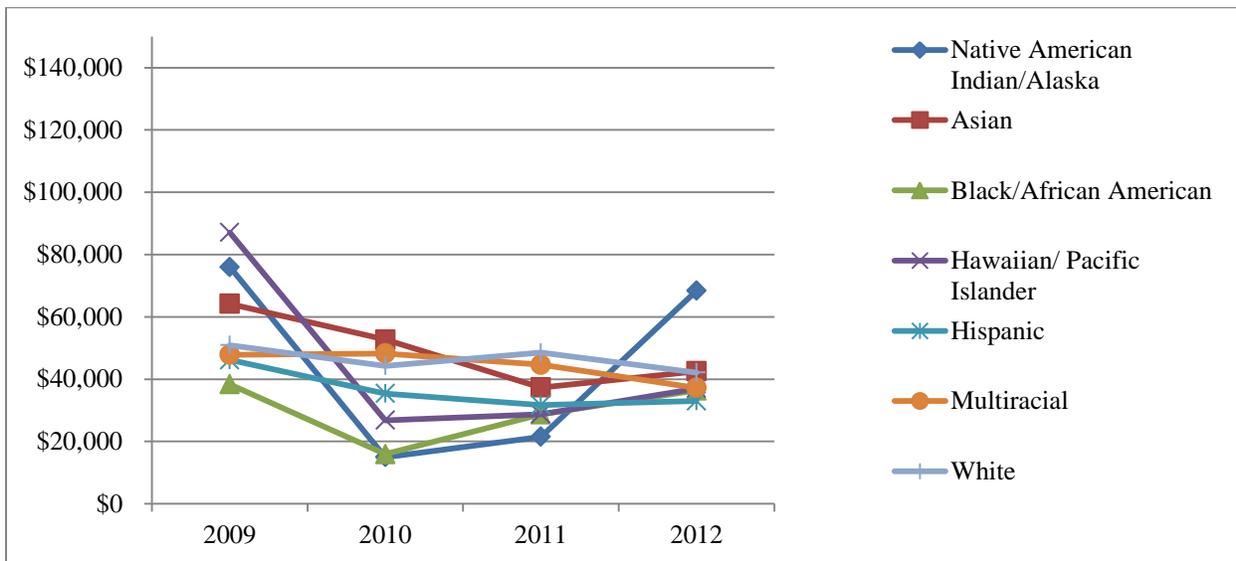
\*Significant difference.

Note.—Does not include 50 students with no reported ethnicity or race; Hispanic/Latino students are reported as Hispanic and are not included in their respective racial category.

<sup>2</sup> Approximately 14% of DoDEA seniors were offered two or more scholarships.

Figure 9 shows the average scholarship monies offered to DoDEA seniors for three years as broken down by race and ethnicity. Asian students have consistently been offered the highest average scholarship monies, whereas African American students have uniformly been offered the lowest average amount. However, for SY 2011–12, American Indian/Alaska Natives had a \$40,000 increase in the average scholarship monies offered (Figure 9), thus surpassing all other groups.

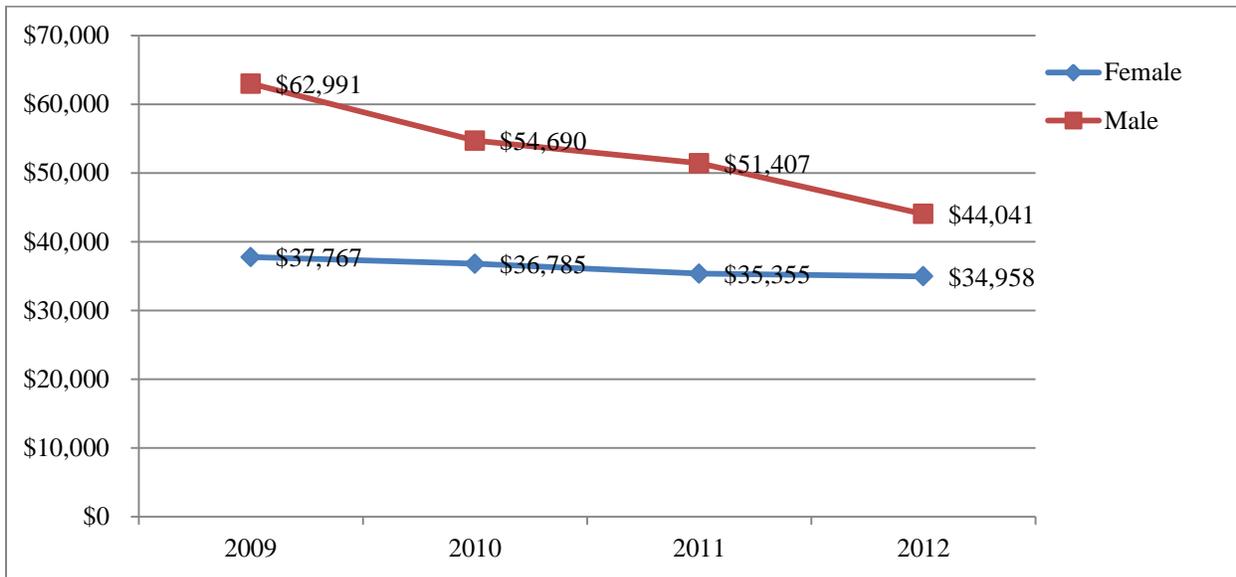
Figure 10. Average Scholarship Monies Offered Per Recipient by Race/Ethnicity (SY 2009–12)



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.

Differences in scholarship monies offered have remained constant over the past three years with males being offered more scholarship monies on average than females. This gap is not statistically significant. Although the gap between males and females decreased in 2012, this decrease was due to a decline in the average monies received by males and not by an increase in the average monies offered to females.

Figure 11. Average Scholarship Monies Offered Per Recipient by Gender (SY 2009–12)



### Graduation Rates

Ninety-seven percent of DoDEA’s seniors graduated in SY 2011–2012. The Nation’s graduation rate was 73.4% (EdWeek, 2012). However, due to a difference in calculation methods, a direct comparison cannot be made between DoDEA schools and national or state graduation rates.<sup>3</sup> When disaggregated by race/ethnicity and gender, unlike most state and national trends, equal numbers of males and females graduated, and there were no differences between White and minority students in DoDEA.

<sup>3</sup>Editorial Projects in the 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 (9-10, 10-11, and 11-12) and earning a diploma (grade 12-graduation). Each of these individual components corresponds to a grade-promotion ration. Multiplying these four grade specific promotion rations together produces the graduation rate. This is one of various methods used to calculate the graduation rate (EdWeek, 2012).

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