

# DoDEA Seniors' Postsecondary Plans and Scholarships



# 2011

Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA)



Research and Evaluation Branch  
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## Postsecondary Plans and Scholarships

During their senior year students in the Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) schools develop a postsecondary plan which denotes what they intend to do after graduating from high school. Students report whether they are planning to attend a 4-year college/university, junior/community college, or vocational/technical school; seek employment or an apprenticeship/on the job training; enlist in the military; or join Job Corps.

In addition to reporting their postsecondary plans, seniors are also asked to report the scholarships, financial aid, and grant monies they have been offered as well as which of those monies offered they have accepted or are planning to accept. In school year 2010-11 (SY2010-11) a new reporting category was added to capture GI Bill benefits that may have been transferred to military dependents.

This report summarizes the postsecondary intentions and scholarship monies reported by students who graduated from a DoDEA high school in SY2010-11 (N=3,031). Findings do not include seniors who may have been enrolled but withdrew before graduation or students who did not graduate. It should be noted that the information contained in this report is self-reported by students and may not represent the actual postsecondary status of DoDEA graduates or the entirety of scholarship monies offered and accepted by students.

In interpreting data contained in this report, readers are cautioned to rely on the results of statistical tests to measure differences between groups rather than on the apparent magnitude of these differences. Some differences may appear to be large but are not statistically different. It is also worth noting that due to natural and political events, schools in Japan and Bahrain experienced large numbers of students who temporarily exited the schools during the spring of 2011. It is anticipated that these events affected the data and most likely resulted in under-reporting of scholarship information, especially in the Pacific Area.

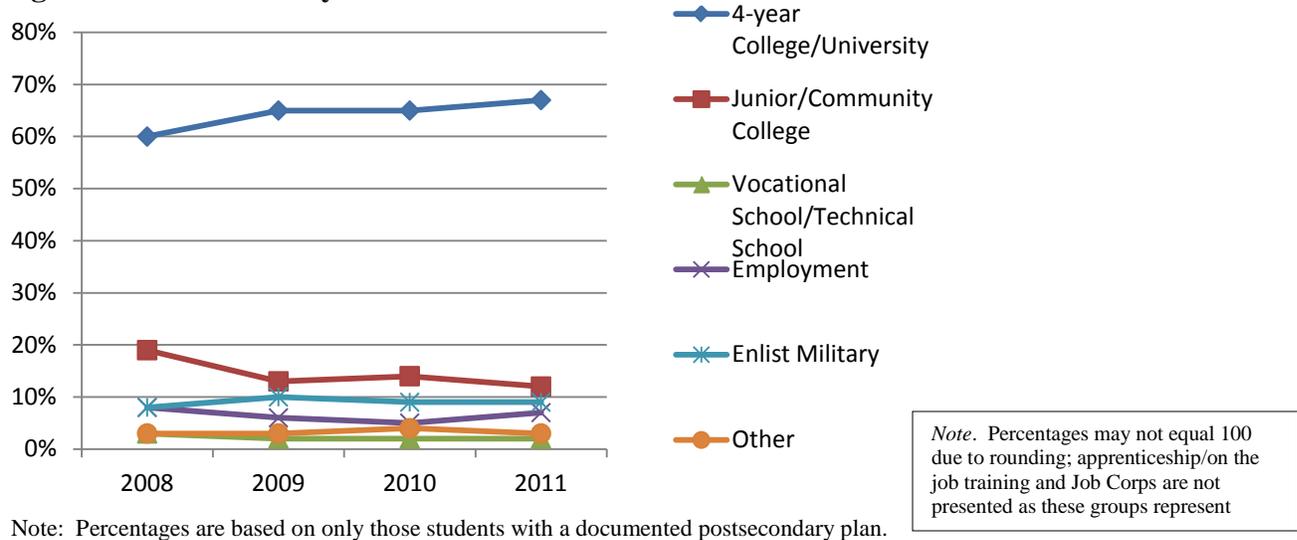
### Postsecondary Plans

Of the 3,031 students who graduated from a DoDEA high school in SY2010-11, 92% (N=2,786) had a documented postsecondary plan entered into the student information system.<sup>1</sup> Of these, the overwhelming majority (67%) planned to attend a 4-year college/university after graduation, followed by junior/community college (12%) or enlistment in the military (9%) (Figure 1). These findings represent a 2% increase in the percentage of students planning to attend a four-year college/university and seek employment and a 2% decrease in the percentage planning to attend a junior/community college. The percentage of DoDEA seniors planning to attend a college or university is similar to that reported nationally; the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that 68.1% of 2010 high school graduates were enrolled in a college or university ([www.bls.gov](http://www.bls.gov)). However, the percentage of DoDEA seniors planning to enlist in the military is higher than the 3% estimated nationally ([www.ed.gov](http://www.ed.gov)).

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<sup>1</sup> 245 students did not have a documented postsecondary plan.

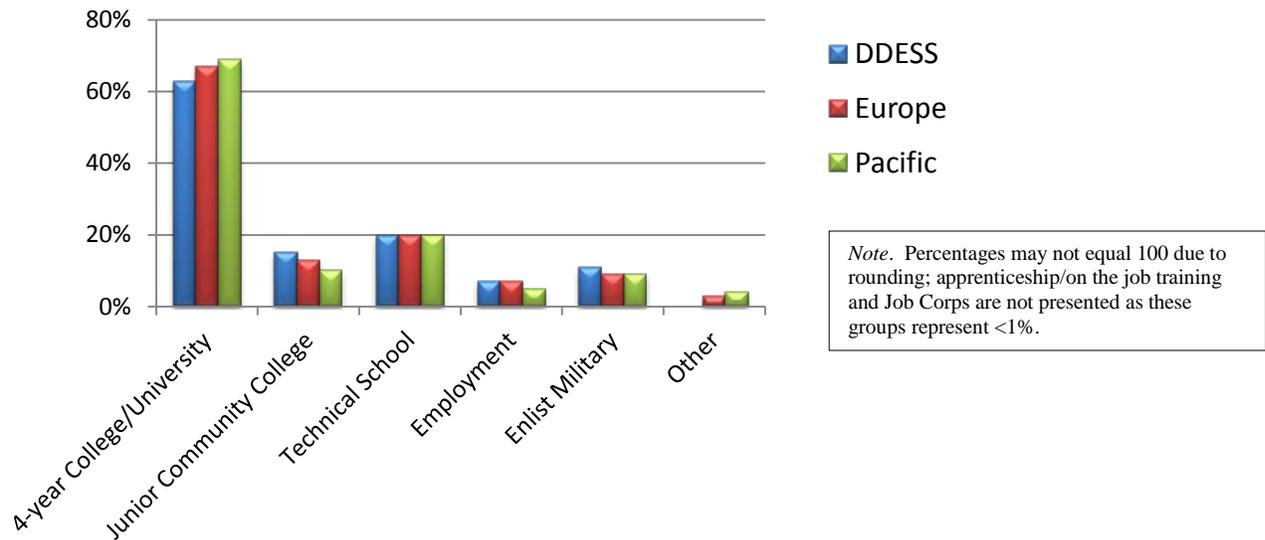
**Figure 1. Postsecondary Plans of DoDEA Seniors Over Time**



Note: Percentages are based on only those students with a documented postsecondary plan.

Among the three DoDEA Areas there were no significant differences in the postsecondary plans of students (Figure 2).

**Figure 2. DoDEA Graduates' Postsecondary Plans by Area (2011)**



Based on race/ethnicity, the only significant differences in postsecondary plans were in the higher percentage of Black/African American students who planned to enlist in the military (Table 1). Although the percentages of American Indian/Alaska Native and Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islanders planning to attend a 4-year college or university appear to be lower and the percentage seeking employment higher than the other groups, these differences are not statistically significant due to the small number of students.

**Table 1. DoDEA Seniors' Postsecondary Plans by Ethnicity and Race (2011)**

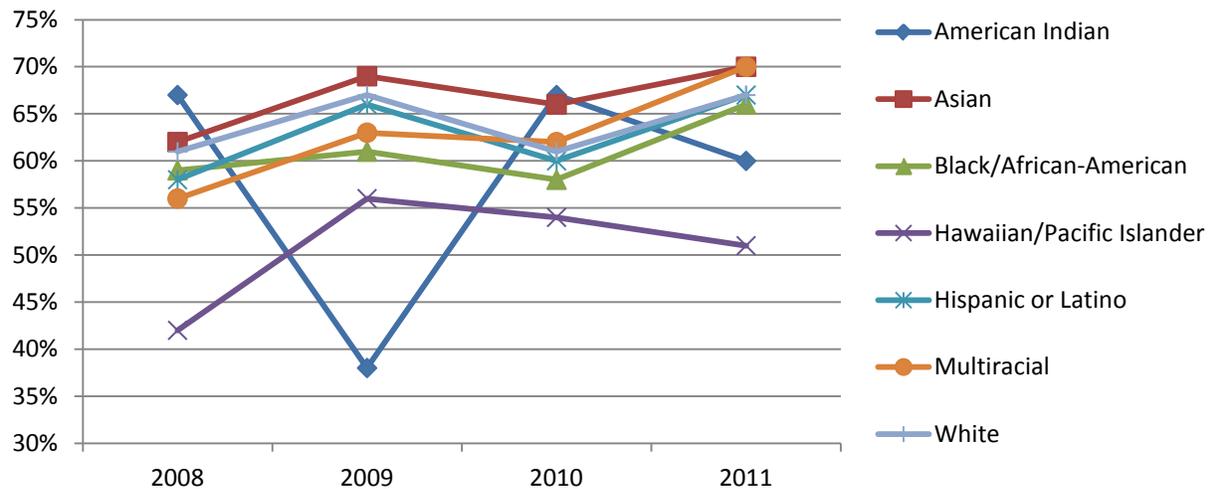
	N	4-year College University	Junior Community College	Technical School	Employ- ment	Enlist Military	Other
American Indian	10	60%	10%	0%	20%	10%	0%
Asian	232	70%	13%	0%	5%	9%	2%
Black/African- American	383	66%	13%	1%	5%	*13%	2%
Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	41	51%	20%	2%	15%	7%	5%
Hispanic or Latino	445	67%	13%	2%	6%	8%	4%
Multiracial	307	70%	12%	1%	5%	7%	3%
White	1311	67%	12%	2%	8%	9%	2%

\*Significant difference

Note. Percentages may not equal 100 due to rounding; does not include 57 students who were missing race/ethnicity and 245 students with no documented postsecondary plan; 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 there has been a slight increase in the percentage of seniors from all racial/ethnic groups, except Hawaiian/Pacific Islanders, reporting plans to attend a four-year college or university (Figure 3). Multiracial and Hispanic/Latino students posted the largest increases, 14% and 12% respectively.

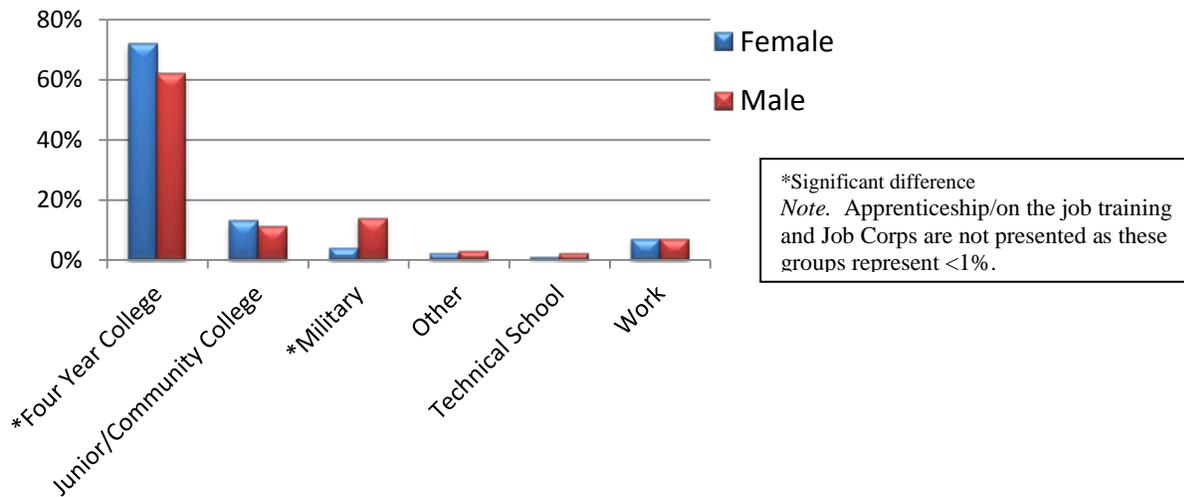
**Figure 3. Percentage of DoDEA Seniors' Planning to Attend a Four-Year College/University by Ethnicity and Race Over Time**



Note. Hispanic/Latino students are reported as Hispanic and are not included in their respective racial category; data for American Indian and Hawaiian/Pacific Islanders should be interpreted with caution due to the small number of students in these subgroups.

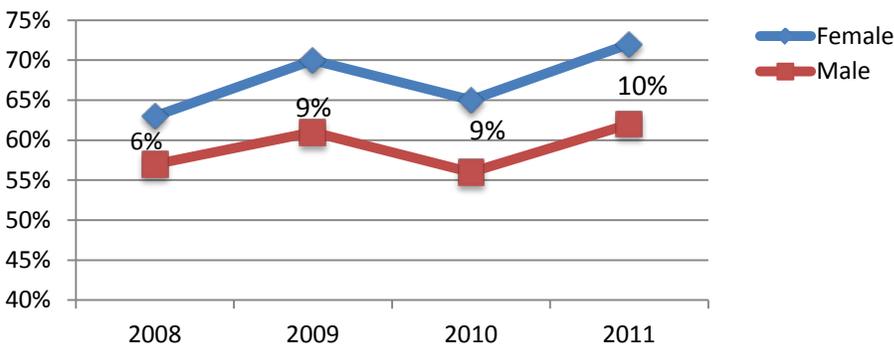
Males and females differed in the percentages planning to attend a 4-year college/university and enlist in the military. While 72% of females planned to attend a 4-year college/university, only 62% of males planned to do so. In contrast, three and a half times as many males as females planned to enlist in the military (Figure 4).

**Figure 4. DoDEA Seniors' Postsecondary Plans by Gender (2011)**



Although the overall percentage of females reporting plans to attend a four-year college/university has increased by 9% over the past four years, the gap between males and females has also increased over time, widening by four percentage points between 2008 and 2011 (Figure 5). This finding mirrors national trends. According to the Bureau for Labor Statistics, in 2010 the enrollment rate for females was 74% compared to 62.8% for men ([www.bls.gov](http://www.bls.gov)) and the gap has been steadily increasing since 1991.

**Figure 5. Gap Between Percentage of Males and Females Planning to Attend a Four-Year College/University**

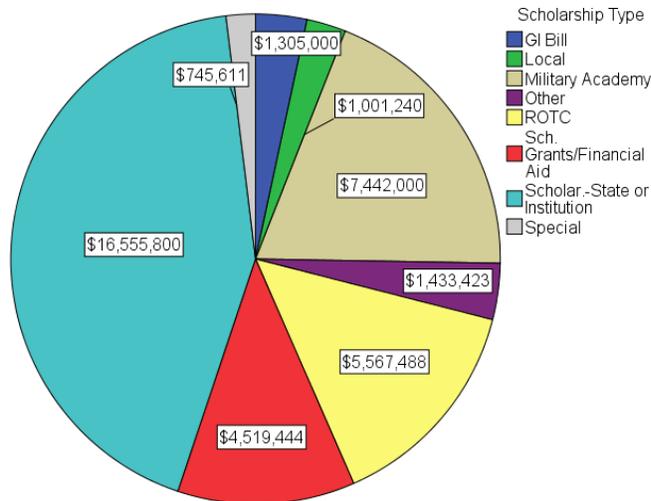


### Scholarships and Financial Aid

DoDEA seniors in SY2010-11 were offered a total of approximately 38.7 million dollars in scholarships and financial aid, a decrease of approximately 7 million dollars from that reported by seniors in SY2009-10 (Figure 6). As mentioned previously, this decrease could be due in part to the temporary evacuation of students from Japan and Bahrain in the spring of 2011. Consistent with prior years, state or institution scholarships provided the largest source of scholarship monies (43%), followed by military academies (20%), and ROTC (14%) which show a 2-4% decrease

from previous years respectively. This decrease, however, may be attributable to the addition in SY2010-11 of the GI Bill benefits category. Previously, schools accounted for GI Bill benefits in the category for which they most closely aligned.

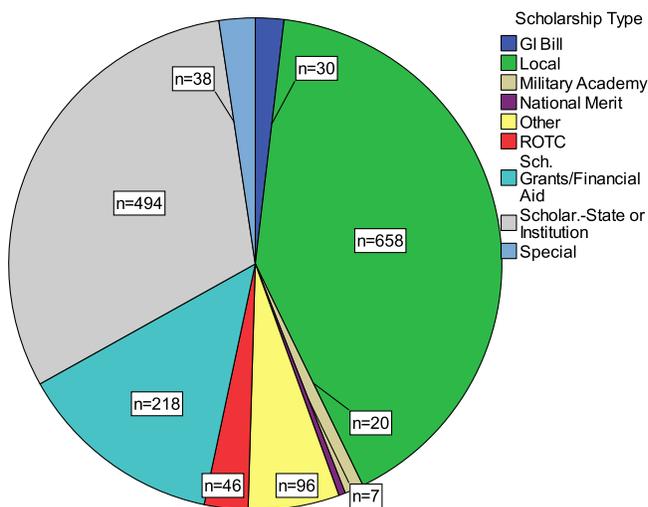
**Figure 6. Scholarships Offered to DoDEA Seniors Based on Total Dollars**



Note: Totals do not include vocational scholarships or monies with no associated type.

The average monies attributed to each scholarship type vary greatly. For example, local scholarships averaged \$1,522 compared to military academy scholarships which averaged \$372,100. Therefore, the overall contribution of each scholarship type depends on whether one is considering the total number of scholarships or the sum of scholarship monies. While state and institutional scholarships were the largest source of overall scholarship funds, accounting for over 40% of total scholarship monies (Figure 6), they account for only 14% of the total number of scholarships (Figure 7). In contrast, local scholarships (offered by organizations such as the Officer and Enlisted Spouses' Clubs, fraternities and sororities) account for only 3% of the total scholarship monies but represent 41% of the total number of scholarships offered to students.

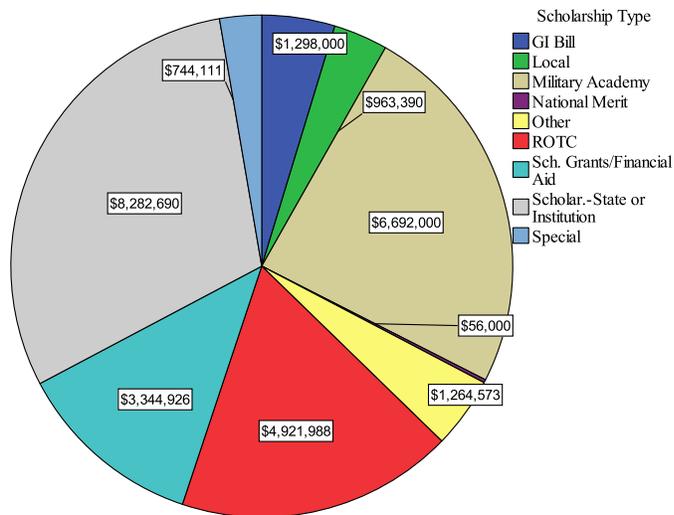
**Figure 7. Scholarships Offered to DoDEA Seniors Based on Number of Scholarships**



Note: Totals do not include vocational scholarships or scholarships with no associated type.

Students are frequently offered multiple scholarships but are able to accept only a portion of those that are offered. For example, students can be offered several different state or institution scholarships or can be offered military and state or institutional scholarships. Therefore, the scholarship monies offered to students is generally higher than the amount of monies accepted. Of the 38.7 million dollars in scholarships, financial aid, and grant monies offered, DoDEA seniors accepted approximately 27.6 million dollars (Figure 8). The proportions of accepted scholarship monies follows the same trend as scholarships offered with the majority of monies accepted coming from state or institution scholarships (34%) and military academies (25%).

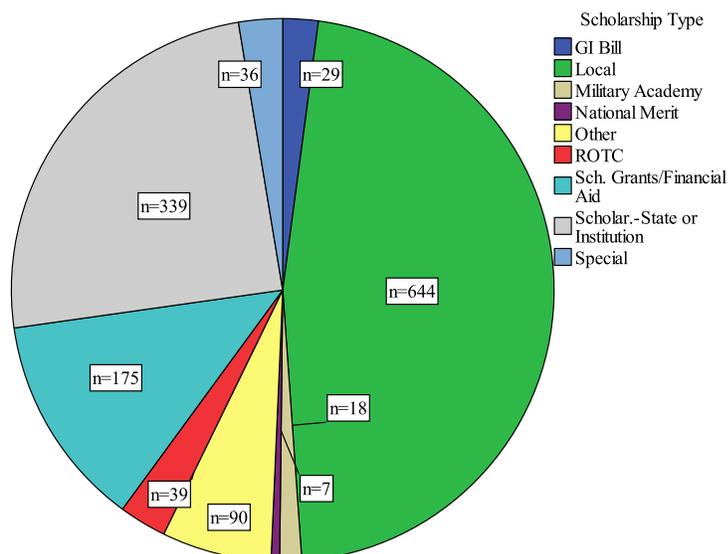
**Figure 8. Scholarships Accepted by DoDEA Seniors Based on Total Dollars**



Note: Totals do not include vocational scholarships or monies with no associated type.

The number of scholarships accepted by source also follows the trend of those offered (Figure 7) with local scholarships representing the largest number of scholarships accepted (47%), followed by state or institution scholarships (24%).

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



Note: Totals do not include vocational scholarships or scholarships with no associated type.

Table 2 shows the breakdown in average monies offered and accepted by seniors in each of the three DoDEA Areas. Direct comparisons of the total monies offered and accepted among the three Areas should not be made due to differences in the number of students. Seniors in DDESS were offered approximately nine million dollars 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 (2011)**

	DDESS		Europe		Pacific	
	Offered	Accepted	Offered	Accepted	Offered	Accepted
GI Bill	--	--	\$1,290,000	\$1,283,000	\$15,000	\$15,000
Local	\$121,250	\$121,250	\$562,234	\$528,634	\$317,756	\$313,506
Military Academy	\$2,339,000	\$2,039,000	\$3,055,000	\$2,605,000	\$2,048,000	\$2,048,000
National Merit	--	---	\$16,000	\$16,000	\$400,00	\$40,000
Other	\$218,900	\$198,900	\$1,115,523	\$966,673	\$99,000	\$99,000
ROTC	\$569,488	\$409,488	\$2,725,500	\$2,310,000	\$2,272,500	\$2,202,500
Grants, Financial Aid	\$1,090,666	\$633,938	\$2,630,476	\$2,164,546	\$798,302	\$546,442
Scholarship-State/Institution	\$5,352,507	\$1,465,604	\$8,573,296	\$4,815,089	\$2,629,997	\$2,001,997
Special	--	--	\$387,344	\$386,344	\$358,268	\$357,768
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$9,746,811</b>	<b>\$4,923,180</b>	<b>\$20,397,227</b>	<b>\$15,095,140</b>	<b>\$8,581,823</b>	<b>\$7,627,213</b>
<b>Total Number of Seniors</b>	<b>460</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>1,645</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>926</b>	<b>--</b>

Note: Totals do not include vocational scholarships or approximately \$41,854 in monies with no associated scholarship type.

Table 3 shows the percentage of seniors offered at least one scholarship and the average amount per scholarship recipient broken down by Area, race/ethnicity, and gender. Overall, slightly less than one-third (n=926) of DoDEA's seniors were offered at least one scholarship, a rate similar to that found in previous years.

Among the three Areas, seniors in DDESS were significantly more likely to receive a scholarship than seniors in Europe and the Pacific, but the average amount of scholarship monies offered does not differ among the Areas. While it appears that the average amount earned by seniors in DDESS is larger than seniors in Europe and the Pacific, these differences are not significant.

Statistically equal percentages of students across all racial/ethnic groups were offered at least one scholarship. There are also no significant differences in the average amount of monies earned by seniors when broken down by race/ethnicity. While the average amount of monies offered to Black/African American students was almost \$20,000 less than that received by White students, this difference was not statistically significant.

**Table 3. Percentage of Seniors Offered at Least One Scholarship and Average Monies per Recipient (2011)**

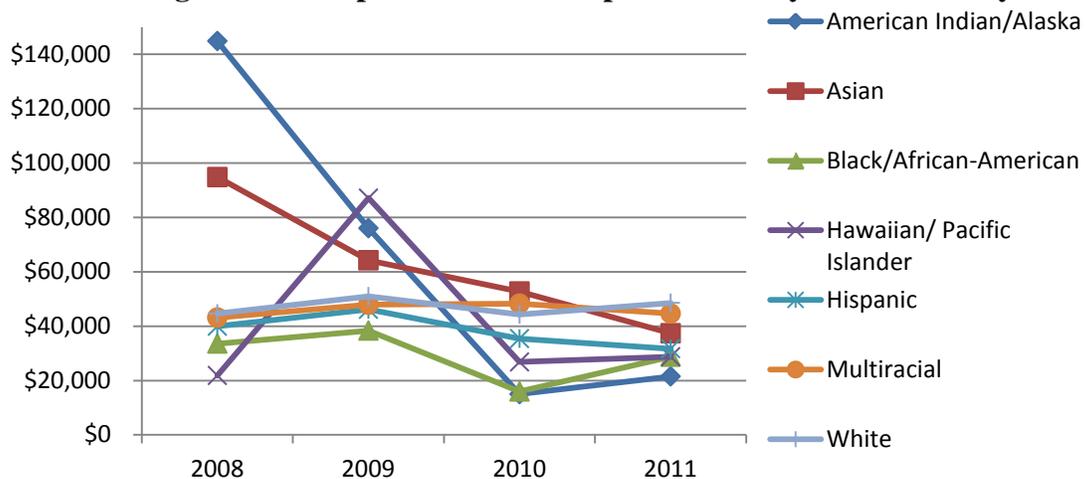
	N	Percent Offered at Least One Scholarship	Average Monies Per Scholarship Recipient
<b>Area</b>			
DDESS	460	39%*	<b>\$54,506</b>
Europe	1645	30%	<b>\$39,545</b>
Pacific	926	27%	<b>\$37,202</b>
<b>Race/ethnicity</b>			
Hispanic/Latino	485	32%	<b>\$31,676</b>
White	1408	33%	<b>\$48,530</b>
Black/African-American	423	29%	<b>\$28,728</b>
Asian	249	28%	<b>\$37,356</b>
Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	47	17%	<b>\$28,737</b>
American Indian/Alaska Native	10	30%	<b>\$21,502</b>
Multiracial	344	27%	<b>\$44,629</b>
<b>Gender</b>			
Male	1,503	25%	<b>\$51,407*</b>
Female	1,528	36%*	<b>\$35,355</b>
<b>DoDEA TOTAL</b>	<b>3,031</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>\$41,821</b>

\*Significant difference

Note. Hispanic/Latino students are reported as Hispanic and are not included in their respective racial category; data for American Indian and Hawaiian/Pacific Islanders should be interpreted with caution due to the small number of students in these subgroups.

The gap between White and minority students, although not statistically significant, has persisted over time with African American and Hispanic students earning less average scholarship monies than White students (Figure 10).

**Figure 10. Average Scholarship Monies Offered per Student by Race/Ethnicity**

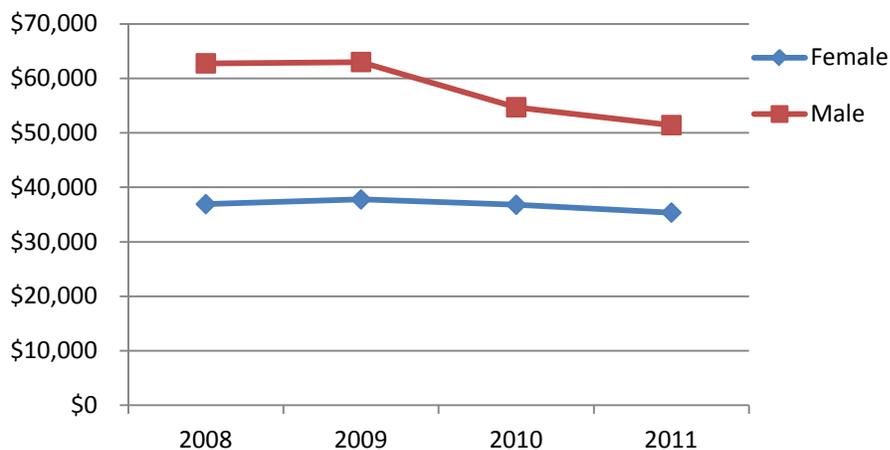


Note. Hispanic/Latino students are reported as Hispanic and are not included in their respective racial category; data for American Indian and Hawaiian/Pacific Islanders should be interpreted with caution due to the small number of students in these subgroups.

When examined by gender, a significantly larger percentage of females were offered at least one scholarship, but the average monies offered to males was higher than for females (Table 3). When examined over time, the gap between males and females has persisted, decreasing only slightly over the past four years (Figure 11).

Differences in the total monies between males and females appear to be partially influenced by the types of scholarships offered to males and females. Males are more likely to be offered higher value scholarships, such as military academy scholarships while females are more likely to receive local and state institution scholarships. For example, in SY2010-11 three females were offered military academy scholarships compared to 17 males, and 31 males were offered ROTC scholarships compared to 15 females.

**Figure 11. Average Scholarship Monies Offered Per Recipient by Gender**



### Graduation Rates

Approximately 96% of DoDEA’s seniors graduated in SY2010-11, a rate higher than the 72% reported nationally ([www.edweek.org](http://www.edweek.org)). This rate is higher than the leading state, New Jersey (86.9%) and the highest district, Montgomery County Maryland (85.7%).<sup>2</sup> However, caution should be used when comparing DoDEA’s graduation rate to states due to differences in the calculation methods. While most states use a four-year “on time” graduation rate, DoDEA’s rate is based on the percentage of seniors enrolled the spring semester who graduate at the end of the school year.

<sup>2</sup> State and district percentages are based on 2008 data, the latest date for which data are available.

## References

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