

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE EDUCATION ACTIVITY

Research & Evaluation Report



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Seniors' Postsecondary Plans and Scholarships School Year 2012–2013

Ashley Griffin, PhD

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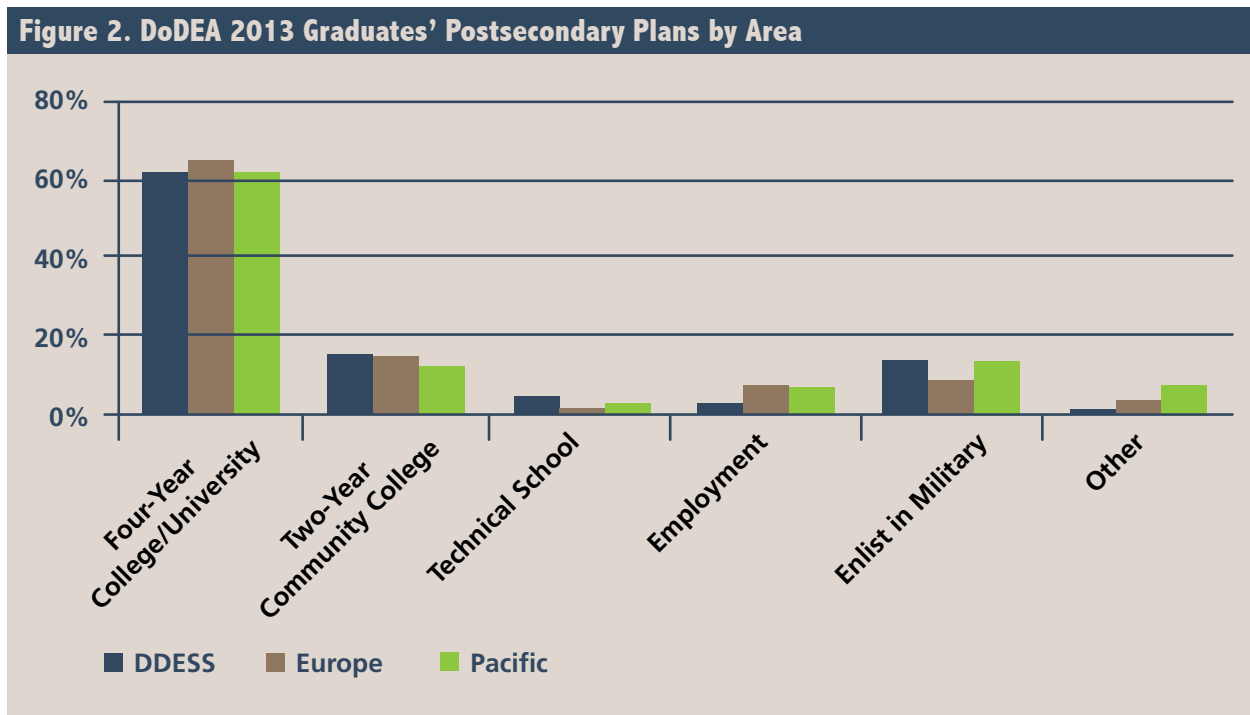
Background

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 were generated and 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) 2012–13.

All analyses in this report are based on those seniors (N=3,134) who were enrolled in a DoDEA high school as of April 20, 2013. Therefore, findings do not include seniors who may have withdrawn prior to or entered a DoDEA high school after this date.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.

Figure 1. Postsecondary Plans of DoDEA Seniors (SY 2010–13)





Postsecondary Plans

In April 2013, during SY 2012–13, 3,134 seniors were enrolled in DoDEA high schools. Of these students, 93% had a documented postsecondary plan. The overwhelming majority (63%) planned to attend a four-year college/university after graduation, attend a two-year/community college (14%), or enlist in the military (10%) (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 66.2% (Bureau for Labor Statistics, 2013).

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 60% of seniors choosing the postsecondary route (Figure 2). A larger percentage of students in DDESS planned to attend a junior/community college (15%) than in the Pacific and Europe, which may be due in part to geographic location. Students in DDESS may have great opportunities to remain with their parents and attend local schools compared to students who are living overseas.

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). All ethnic groups with the exception of African-Americans (56%) and Hawaiian/Pacific Islanders (45%) had between 64 and 65% of students that planned to attend a four-year college/university (Table 1).

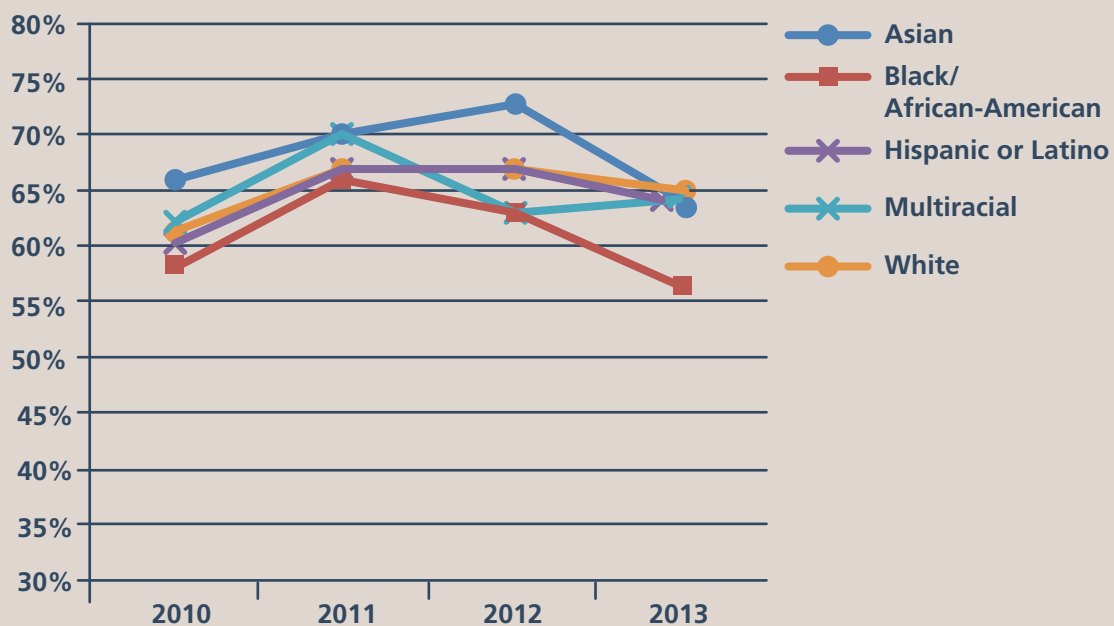
Over the past four years, there were declines in the percentage of seniors planning to attend a four-year college/university regardless of race. African-American students have had the lowest percentage of students planning to attend a four-year college/university over the past four years (Figure 3).

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

	Four-year College/University	Two-Year/Community College	Technical School	Employment	Enlist in Military	Other
Asian	64%	13%	1%	6%	10%	3%
Black/African-American	56%	14%	4%	8%	14%	3%
Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	45%	22%	2%	9%	11%	9%
Hispanic or Latino	64%	13%	1%	6%	10%	3%
Multiracial	64%	12%	2%	6%	12%	3%
White	65%	13%	2%	6%	9%	2%

Note: Percentages may not equal 100 due to rounding; does not include 11 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.

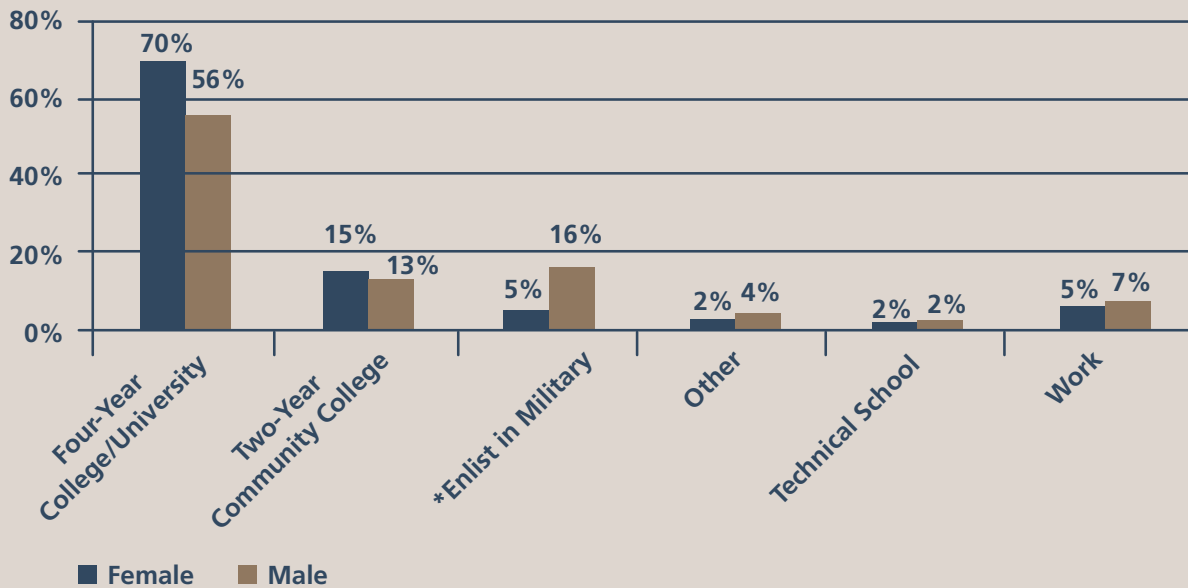
Figure 3. Percentage of DoDEA Seniors by Race/Ethnicity Planning to Attend a Four-Year College/University



Postsecondary Plans by Gender

Males and females significantly differed in the percentages of seniors planning to attend a four-year college/university and enlist in the military. While 70% of females planned to attend a four-year college/university, only 56% of males planned to do so. In contrast, approximately three times as many males (16%) versus females (5%) planned to enlist in the military (Figure 4).

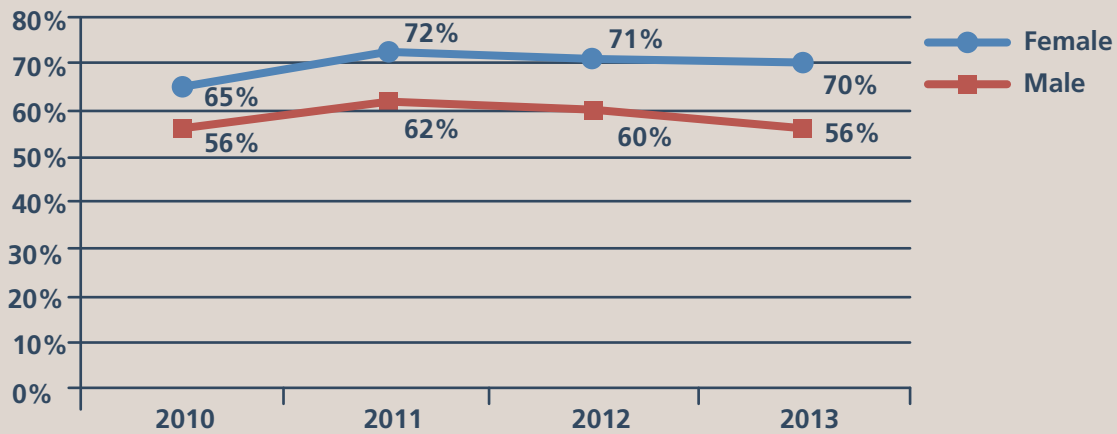
Figure 4. DoDEA Seniors' Postsecondary Plans by Gender



*Significant difference

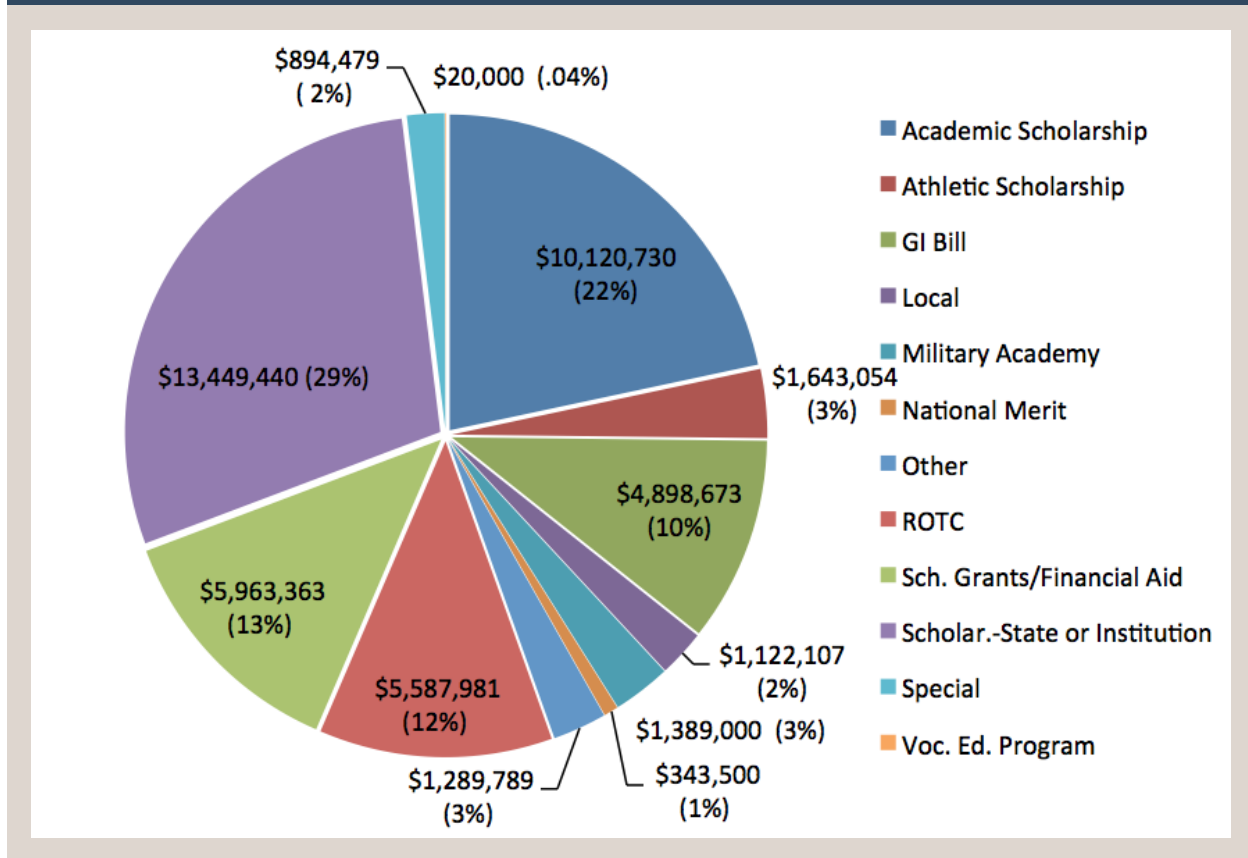
Note: Apprenticeship/on-the-job training, Job Corps and Military Academy are not presented as these groups represent <1%.

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



Postsecondary Plans by Gender

In the past four years, the gap between male and female DoDEA students planning to attend a four-year college/university has remained fairly consistent, ranging between 9% and 14% (Figure 5). This finding mirrors national trends. According to the Bureau for Labor Statistics, in 2011–12, 71% of women and 61% of men enrolled in a college/university (Bureau for Labor Statistics, 2013).

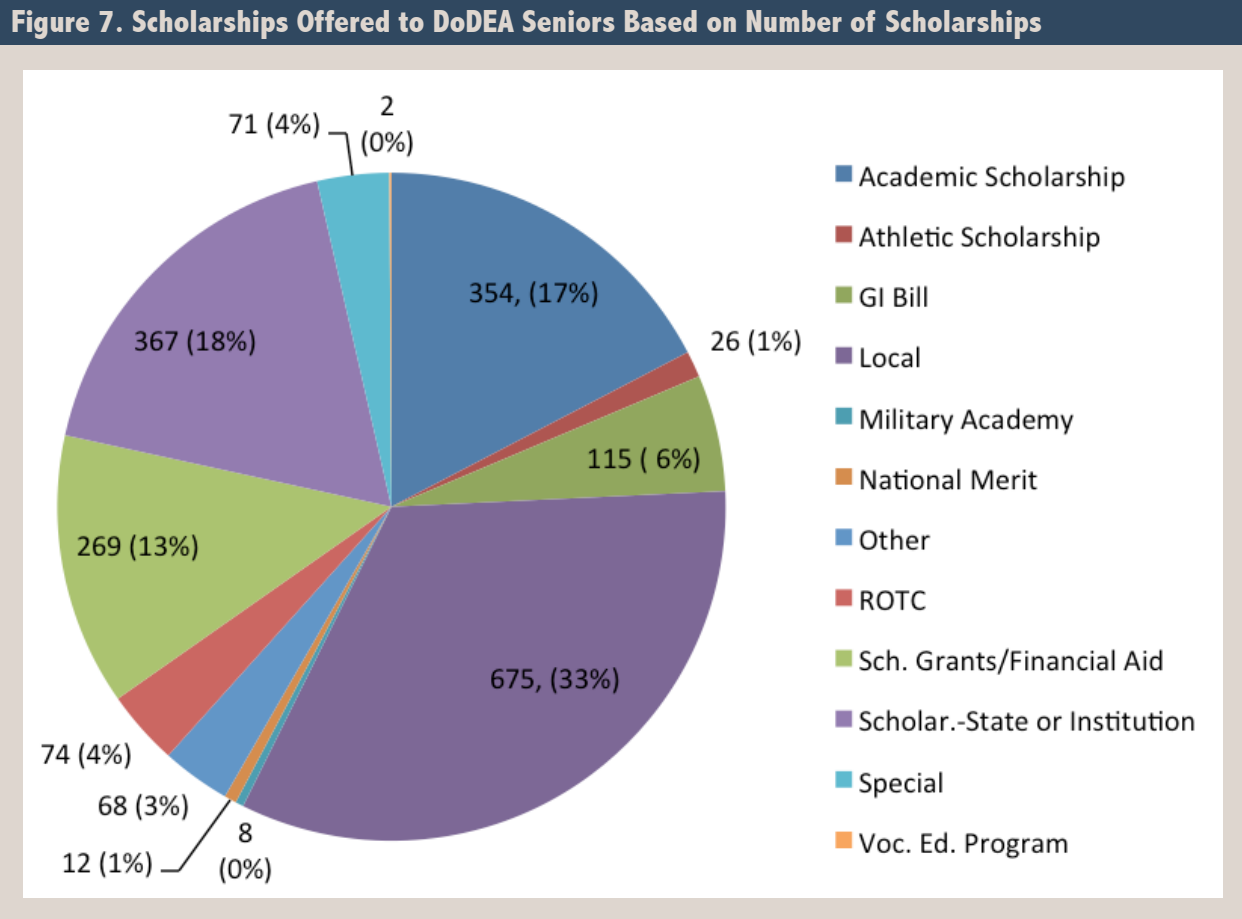
Figure 6. Scholarships Offered to DoDEA Seniors Based on Total Dollars

Types of Scholarships Offered and Accepted

Seniors in DoDEA schools were offered a total of \$46.7 million in scholarship and financial aid in SY 2012–13, an increase of approximately \$6.7 million from that reported by seniors in SY 2011–12. As illustrated in Figure 6, state or institutional scholarships provided the largest source of scholarship monies (29%), followed by academic scholarships (22%) and school grants and financial aid (13%).

The average monies attached to each type of scholarship differ. For example, local scholarships averaged \$1,680 compared to military academy scholarships which averaged \$183,571. 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 18% of the number of scholarships (Figure 7). In contrast, local organizational scholarships (e.g., Officers' and Enlisted Spouses' Clubs and fraternities/sororities) account for only 2% (\$1.1 million) of the total scholarship monies (Figure 6) but represent 33% (n=675) of the total number of scholarships offered to students (Figure 7).

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 scholarships from several different states. Therefore, the amount of scholarship monies offered is generally higher than the amount of monies accepted.



Of the \$46 million in scholarships, financial aid, and grant monies offered, DoDEA seniors accepted approximately \$35.8 million (Figure 8). 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%; \$8.9 million) and academic scholarships (20%; \$7.3 million).

The number of scholarships accepted by source also follows the trend of those offered (Figure 9), with local scholarships representing the largest number of scholarships accepted (38%; n=658), followed by academic (16%; n=280) and state or institutional scholarships (15%; n=259).

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. The largest sources of monies offered to students were different by DoDEA Area. State or institutional scholarships were the largest source of funding offered to DoDEA seniors in Europe. In DDESS, the largest sources of monies offered were school grants and financial aid, and in 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 \$15 million less than students in Europe, and there were almost three times as many seniors in Europe than DDESS.

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

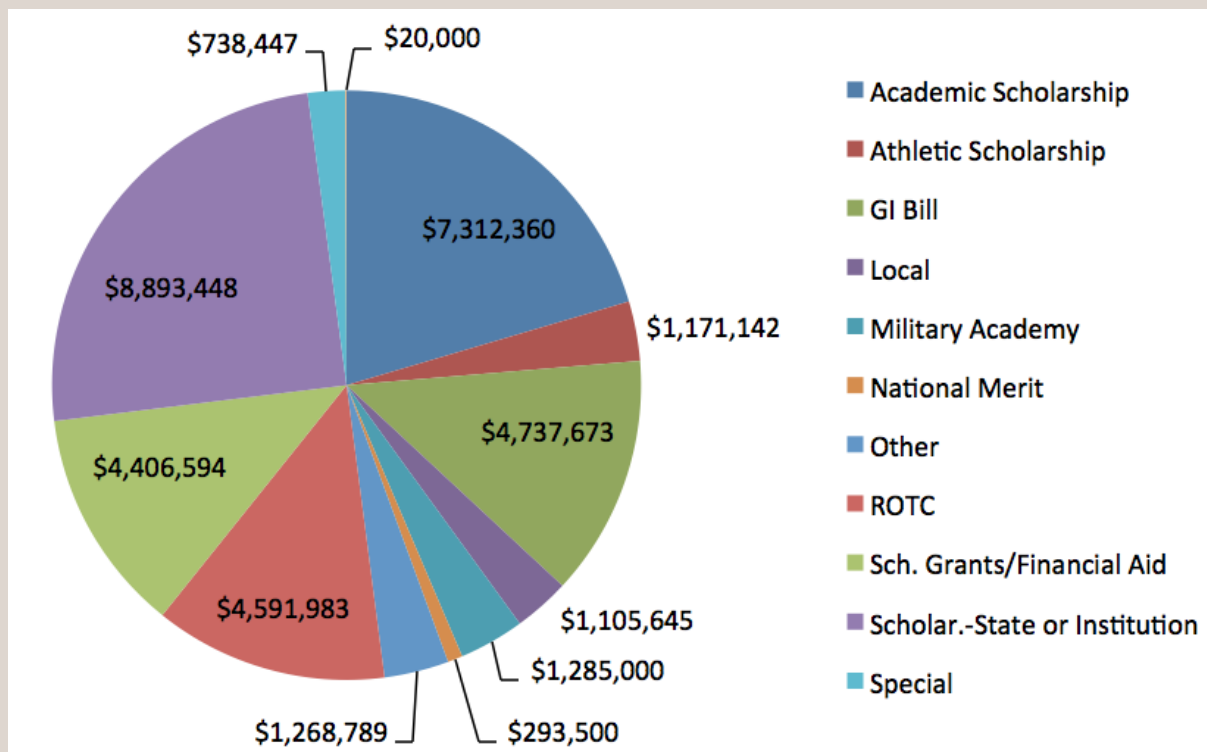


Figure 9. Scholarships Accepted by DoDEA Seniors Based on Number of Scholarships

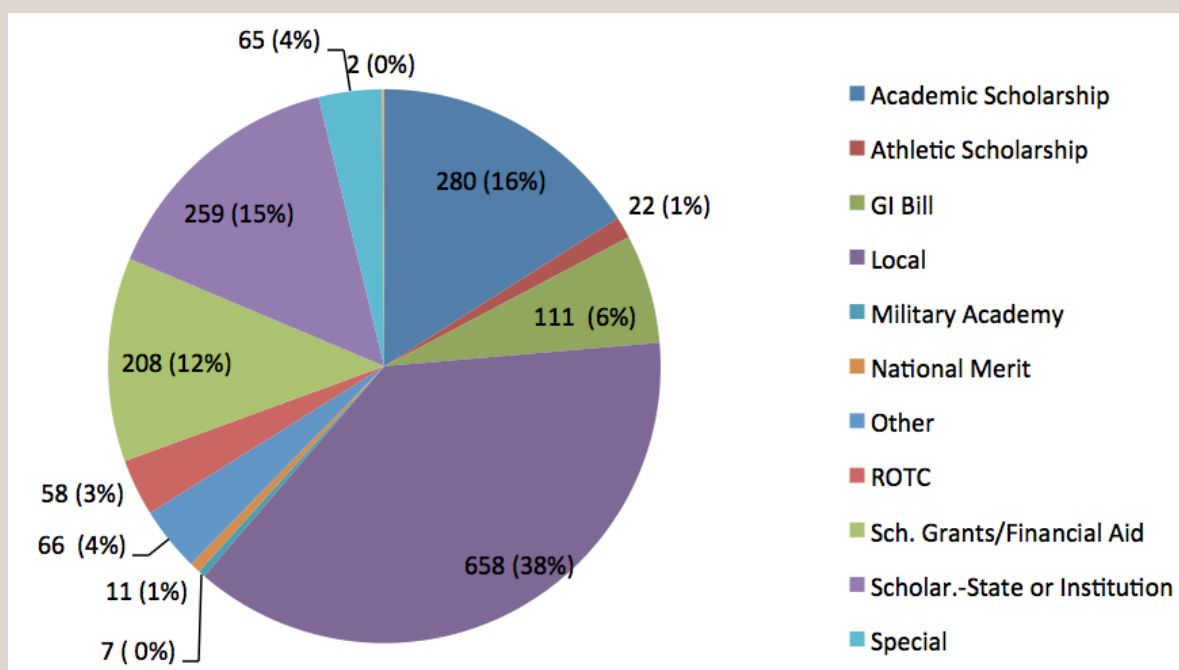


Table 2. Scholarship Monies Offered and Accepted by Area

Type of Scholarship	DDESS		Europe		Pacific	
	Accepted	Offered	Accepted	Offered	Accepted	Offered
Local	\$316,800	\$316,800	\$521,634	\$534,346	\$266,723	\$269,973
Military Academy	\$125,000	\$125,000	\$910,000	\$1,014,000	\$250,000	\$250,000
National Merit	–	–	\$121,000	\$121,000	\$172,500	\$222,500
GI Bill	\$1,254,000	\$1,254,000	\$2,135,348	\$2,196,348	\$1,348,325	\$1,448,325
ROTC	\$460,073	\$588,071	\$3,263,660	\$3,815,660	\$868,250	\$1,184,250
State or Institution	\$1,275,700	\$2,750,400	\$6,275,108	\$8,949,800	\$1,342,640	\$1,749,240
Special	\$46,100	\$47,100	\$621,517	\$776,549	\$70,830	\$70,830
Voc. Ed. Program	\$20,000	\$20,000	-	-	-	-
Other	\$121,300	\$121,300	\$1,053,889	\$1,074,889	\$93,600	\$93,600
Grants/ Financial Aid	\$2,250,236	\$3,254,076	\$1,167,852	\$1,441,641	\$988,506	\$1,267,646
Academic Scholarship	\$1,691,140	\$2,013,689	\$2,614,192	\$4,474,013	\$3,007,028	\$3,633,028
Athletic Scholarship	\$337,532	\$337,532	\$355,410	\$827,322	\$478,200	\$478,200
Total	\$7,897,881	\$10,827,968	\$19,039,610	\$25,225,568	\$8,886,602	\$10,667,592

Types of Scholarships by Gender and 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=995) 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 DDESS than in Europe and the Pacific. While it appears that the average amount of money received by seniors in DDES is larger than in Europe and the Pacific, these differences are not significant. And while the percentage of each racial/ethnic groups receiving at least one scholarship ranged from 26–35% (Table 3), the differences were not significant. Hispanic and American Indian/Alaska natives were offered the least amount of scholarships (26%), and White, Asian and Multiracial students received the most (34–35%).

When examined by gender, a statistically significant larger percentage of females were offered at least one scholarship. Although males averaged approximately \$6,000 more in scholarship monies than females, this was not statistically significant. Differences in the total monies between males and females are partially

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

		Total Number of Seniors in April 2013	Percentage Offered at Least One Scholarship	Average Monies Per Scholarship Recipient
Area	DDESS	492	29%	\$49,379.76
	Europe	1681	34%	\$31,575.55
	Pacific	961	29%	\$32,033.78
Gender	Male	1628	26%	\$37,846.22
	Female	1506	38%	\$31,524.28
Race Ethnicity	White	1356	35%	\$34,172.54
	Black/African-American	422	28%	\$24,639.33
	Hispanic or Latino	581	26%	\$51,581.40
	Asian	273	34%	\$31,894.32
	American Indian/Alaska Native	19	26%	\$42,100.00
	Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	57	30%	\$25,213.47
	Multiracial	367	34%	\$27,421.99
DoDEA Total		3134	32%	\$34,218.25

*Significant difference.

Note: Does not include 11 students with no reported ethnicity or race; Hispanic/Latino students are reported as Hispanic and are not included in their respective racial category.

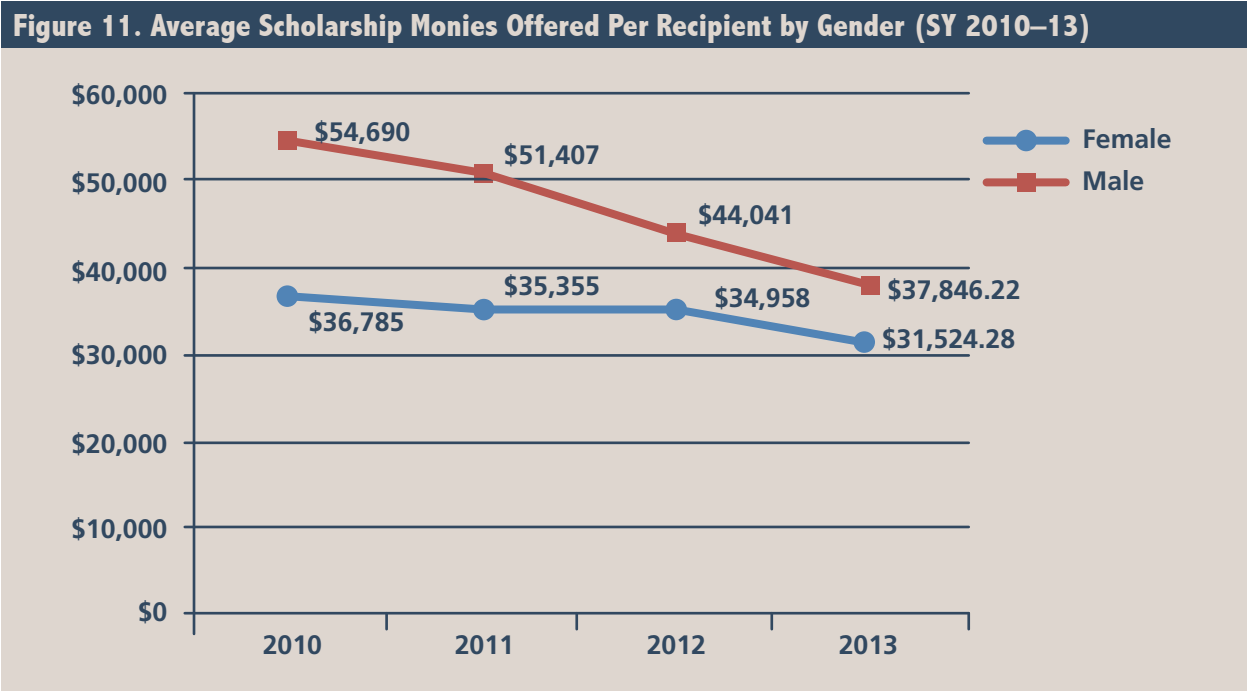
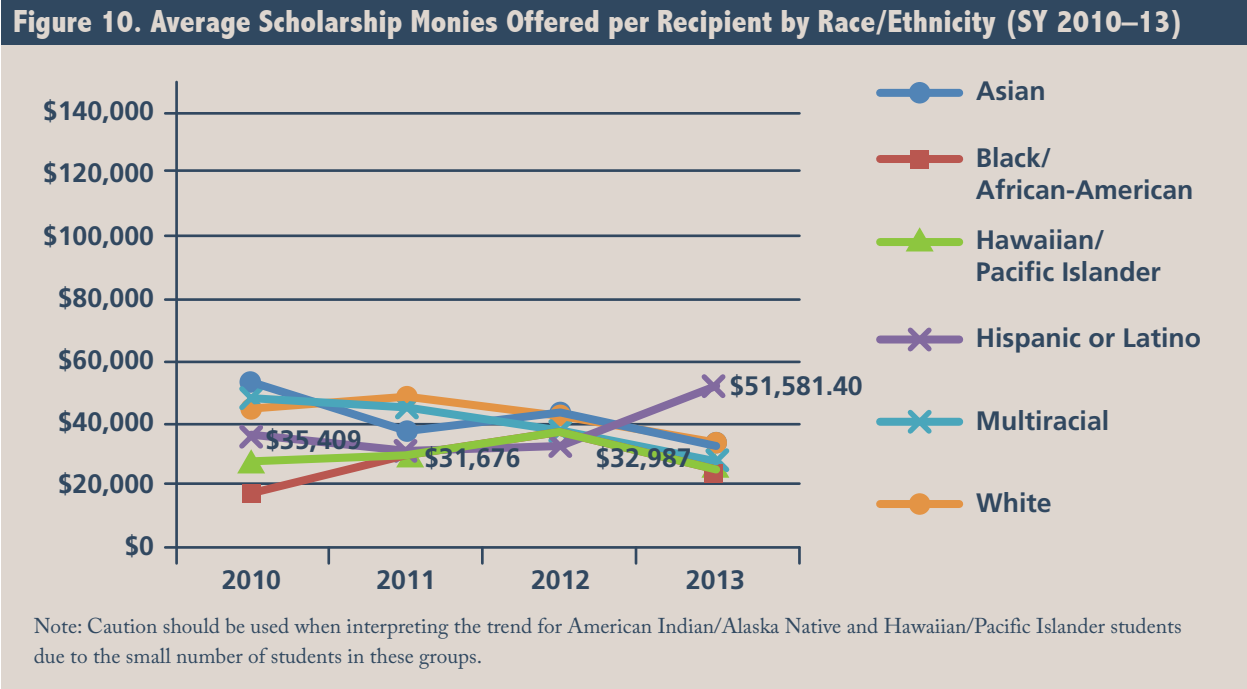
due to the types of scholarships offered to each.

Figure 10 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. In SY 2012–13, Hispanic students had an increase of approximately 19,000 in the average scholarship monies offered (Figure 10), thus surpassing all other 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 2013, 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.

Graduation Rates

Ninety-five percent of DoDEA's seniors graduated in SY 2012–13. DoDEA's overall graduation rate is impacted by exceptions made to the minimum graduation requirements. 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 GPA of less than 2.0. Students with these exemptions are included in the graduation rate. The Nation’s graduation rate was 75% (Swanson & Llyod, 2013). However, due to a difference in calculation methods, a direct comparison cannot be made between DoDEA schools and national or state graduation rates. 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.

Summary and Recommendations

Analyses revealed that DoDEA seniors' post-secondary plans have remained consistent over the past 4 years regardless of race, gender, or area. Also, students reported a substantial increase in the amount of scholarship monies they were offered from SY2011-12 to SY2012-2013.

The data reveal a 95% graduation rate for DoDEA. This rate cannot be compared to national graduation rates due to differences in the methodologies used. Nationally, the graduation rate is calculated by using a "4-year on-time graduation rate." Due to current data limitations, DoDEA is unable to calculate the graduation rate using this method.

Finally, the data used in this report are self-reported plans of DoDEA seniors. While self-report data provide a general sense of students' future plans, they may not accurately depict what students actually do after high school graduation. To gain insight and provide validity to the plans reported by students, DoDEA should examine options for acquiring data on student's actual postsecondary status.

References

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Endnote

¹ Editorial 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).

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