

# Education & Schools

## **DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE EDUCATION ACTIVITY(DoDEA)- PACIFIC GUAM DISTRICT**

Active duty military, DOD employees on a transportation agreement or in “transferable positions”, and Federal employees certified by their agencies may choose to enroll their children in DoDEA-Pacific Guam District Schools, public schools, private schools or to home school. However, parents choosing to enroll their children in schools other than DoDEA-Pacific Guam District Schools will be responsible for paying any potential costs. Majority of military service members' children attend the four DoDEA-Pacific Guam District Schools. Parents are highly encouraged to **HAND-CARRY COPIES OF SCHOOL RECORDS** such as report cards, test results, IEP, and other records that may help with student placement.

Visit **Pacific Guam District Schools** (under School link in left column) for school websites, eligibility, registration, online preregistration, immunizations (to include PPD or “TB”), calendar, school uniforms, school bus transportation, curriculum, courses, programs, graduation requirements, test data and more.

**ENTRANCE AGE for Early Childhood ON/OR BEFORE SEP 1:** Pre-K: 4 years;  
Kindergarten: 5 years; 1st grade: 6 years.

### **SCHOOL BOUNDARIES**

Andersen Elementary School (Pre-K-5th grade) (671-366-1511) and Andersen Middle School (6th-8th grade) (671-366-3880) located on Andersen Air Force Base (AFB) serves eligible students who reside on Andersen AFB, South Finegayan, NCTS and in Mangilao, Mongmong-Toto-Maite, Tiyan, Barrigada, Tamuning-Tumon, Dededo, and Yigo.

Commander McCool Elementary/Middle School(Pre-K-8th grade) (671-339-8676) located on Naval Base Guam serves eligible students who reside on Naval Base Guam, Apra View or Apra Palms, Naval Hospital, Nimitz Hill and in Chalan Pago, Ordot, Sinajana, Hagatna, Agana Heights, Asan, Piti, Yona, Santa Rita, Agat, Talofof, Umatac, Inarajan, and Merizo. Guam High School (9th-12th grade) (671-344-7410) located next to Naval Hospital serves all eligible students.

**SCHOOL BUS TRANSPORTATION** for K-12th grade students DoDEA-Pacific Guam District: Prior to making off-base housing lease agreements, contact (671)344-9581/76 to ask if the location is within commuting area. Busing is available from on-base, except for K-8th grade Andersen AFB and K-8th grade Naval Base Guam Lockwood Housing. Off-base has limits. Contact School Bus Offices located at McCool Elementary/Middle in the south (671-339-2387) or Andersen Elementary in the north (671-366-5467).

### **GUAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

Guam Public School System (GPSS)

P.O. Box DEHagatna,

Guam 96932(671) 475-0457

The GPSS is responsible for grades K-12 public education. Approximately 31,000 students, representing diverse ethnic groups, attend Guam's 36 public schools. The school year includes 180 instructional days, which usually begins in August and ends in June. The educational system is organized on an elementary (K-5), middle (6-8) and high (9-12) school format. Preschool children of income-eligible families may enroll in Head Start classes at selected locations. Mandatory school ages are 5 to 16 years. Children whose fifth birthday is on or before July 31 must enroll in kindergarten.

The learning environment may range from a modern two-story structure to moveable classrooms. Most teachers are fully certified and the remainder are primarily limited-term teachers who have degrees in their subject area. Total student involvement occurs when parents and school staff form an active team. School officials encourage parents to stay active by meeting with teachers and school staff, participating in school activities, parent organizations or school advisory councils, providing daily-guided study time and resolving concerns as soon as possible. To assure maximum achievement, parents need to take an active role in their children's learning experiences.

The Guam Department of Education implements the K-12 Content Standards and Performance Indicators throughout its schools. The K-12 Content Standards and Performance Indicators specify "what students should know and be able to do" at the completion of a K-12 education. A public school student will be provided instruction in the following content areas: mathematics, science, social studies, language arts, visual and performing arts, world languages, health, physical education, business/marketing, and computer education. To assist in teaching to the standards, the district adopts appropriate textbooks to the specific content areas that reflect both regional and national standards. Instruction at the public schools may include but is not limited to the following:

- 1) at the elementary level, a teaching methodology that can be observed is integrated curriculum,
- 2) at the middle school level, the interdisciplinary curriculum,
- 3) at the high school level, students are provided two general curricula, job entry and college entry.

All four high schools are accredited by Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC), which revisits schools periodically to ensure their high standards are maintained. The Department's Board Policy Number 351.4 indicates that each student must have a minimum of twenty-four (24) credits to graduate. Students and their families work with counselors to choose a course of study in the college path or career path. Selected courses of study are expected to lead students to advanced study at community colleges, technical institutions, or four-year colleges and universities or direct entry into the world of work. Programs for qualified students included advanced placement, honors, and college study programs.

Vocational technical courses of study include coordinated sequences of academic and technology courses in clusters such as business technology, agriculture science, consumer and family sciences, tourism, trade and industrial education, technology education, health education and physical education, recreation and dance.

High school students may choose to participate in the interscholastic program. Competitions include debate, public speaking, soccer, volleyball, basketball, baseball, football, tennis, golf, track and field, wrestling and cross-country. Each high school hosts a Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) program. John F. Kennedy High School has Air Force JROTC and three schools offer Army ROTC.

### **SPECIAL EDUCATION**

Military families with special-needs children enrolling in Guam public schools should contact the Special Education Child Find Coordinator at the Guam Public School System. Parents should hand-carry copies of the most recent evaluations, to include test names and scores, as well as the Individual Education Plan (IEP).

Additionally, parents should discuss their children's needs with the classroom teacher and the consulting resource teacher. The Guam Special Education Division programs serve eligible students, ages birth through 21, with a wide range of academic, emotional, behavioral and physical needs, as well as the academically and creatively gifted and talented. In Guam public schools, students with disabilities attend class with non-disabled students. Special classes are available only when the nature or severity of the disability precludes achieving satisfactory services in the regular classroom, with supplemental support.

Contacts: Child Find Coordinator for the Guam Public School System: (671) 475-0546/57 or doesped1@ite.net and mailing address is P.O. Box DE, Hagatna Guam 96932.

Exceptional Family Member Program Coordinator-Naval Hospital, Guam, Patient Administration: DSN: 344-9726 or Exceptional Family Member Program Coordinator-Andersen Air Force Base: DSN: 315-366-8217.

### **PRIVATE EDUCATION**

There are about 25 private schools in Guam. Many of these are affiliated with religious denominations. Many private schools are limited in the number of spaces available for new students, so parents should register early. Tuition/registration costs average about \$4,400 per year and range from \$2,600 to \$13,400. For a list of private schools in Guam, contact the Navy Fleet and Family Support Center or DSN (671) 366-4552 for Air Force.

### **HIGHER EDUCATION**

Navy College Office  
(671) 339-8291  
Air Force Education Office  
(671) 366-3170

Both Navy and Air Force education offices offer degree programs through the University of Maryland University College and Central Texas College for undergraduate studies. Both colleges offer instruction in a variety of academic fields. University of Oklahoma and University of Phoenix offer courses towards Masters degree program. The latter two only have classes at Andersen. The University of Oklahoma has a Masters degree program in human relations. The

University of Phoenix offers a non-thesis Master of Arts degree program in organizational management.

Both education centers offer a number of tests, including College Level Examination Program (CLEP), DANTES Subject Standardized Tests (DSST), American College Test (ACT), Scholastic Aptitude Tests (SAT) and Excelsior Examination. Tests are free to active-duty members; civilians must pay a fee. Many tests are in stock, which means there is no waiting to test, but the education centers cannot stock some tests. Students completing distance learning courses, either from a civilian institution or from a military school, can take their exams in the testing room.

For off-base facilities, there are:

University of Guam  
University of Guam Station  
Mangilao, Guam 96923  
(671) 735-2990

Guam Community College  
P.O. Box 23069 GMF  
Barrigada, Guam 96921  
(671) 735-4422

University of Guam, located on a 120-acre campus in Mangilao, offers undergraduate and graduate degrees within five colleges: the College of Arts and Sciences, the College of Education, the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, College of Business and Public Administration and the College of Nursing and Health Science.

The Guam Community College offers two-year degrees and certificate programs in 50 areas of study in vocational-technical fields. GED, adult education and continuing education courses are also offered. The Western Association of Schools and Colleges accredits both University of Guam and Guam Community College.