



## **West Point School Liaison Services Frequently Asked Questions**

### ***Where will my child attend school?***

Your child will attend schools in the district in which they live. If you live in permanent, on-base housing at West Point and meet Domestic Dependent Elementary and Secondary Schools (DDESS) eligibility, your child will attend West Point Elementary School (PreK - 4<sup>th</sup>), West Point Middle School (5<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup>) or James I. O'Neill High School (9<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup>).

### ***What are Domestic Dependent Elementary and Secondary Education Schools (DDESS)?***

The DDESS is one of three operational areas within the DoD Education Activity (DoDEA). DoDEA is a DoD field activity operating under the direction, authority and control of the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness.

DDESS operates 65 schools on 15 installations, in 7 states, Puerto Rico and Guam, serving approximately 27,000 students and employing over 2,300 education professionals.

### ***What are the DDESS eligibility requirements?***

Sponsor must be on active duty or a full time DoD permanent employee on the first day of school. Sponsor must reside in permanent on-base housing OR obtain a 90 day letter from housing, showing housing will be available and that the sponsor intends to accept housing when offered.

### ***Can my child attend West Point Elementary or West Point Middle School if I live off the installation?***

No. Families that reside off the installation are aligned with the school district within which they live. School districts generally do not allow out of district enrollment.

### ***West Point does not have a high school, why is there an eligibility requirement to attend James I. O'Neill High School if I reside on the installation?***

High School students residing on West Point attend James I. O'Neill High School, in Highland Falls, NY. DDESS eligibility criteria is required as a DoD tuition contract (special arrangement) exists which provides fixed payments to the New York State Highland Falls - Fort Montgomery Central School District.

### ***At what age can my child start school?***

DDESS policy requires the child to be five years old on or before 1 September of the academic year he/she is enrolling to start kindergarten. This is the age requirement if enrolling in West Point Elementary School.

New York State Education Department requires the child to be five years old on or before 1 December of the academic year he/she is enrolling to start kindergarten.

