

Q. Where do children in on base housing attend school?

A. Base housing is divided by Glendale Avenue, which separates residents into two school districts. Children of base housing residents north of Glendale Avenue, in Saguaro Manor, are assigned to the Dysart Unified School District, which includes Luke Elementary School (kindergarten through eighth grade) and Dysart High School (ninth through twelfth grade). Children residing in base housing south of Glendale Avenue, in Ocotillo Manor, are assigned Litchfield Elementary School District, which includes Barbara B. Robey Elementary School (kindergarten through fifth grade), and L. Thomas Heck Middle School (sixth, seventh, and eighth grade). High school students are in the Agua Fria Union High School District and attend Millennium High School (ninth through twelfth grade). Incoming families who need to enroll their children in school while staying in temporary living quarters on base (Papago Village) need to apply to the appropriate school within the district they will be living. The Temporary Living Facilities (TLF) or Papago Village is located in the Dysart School District. Elementary School children attend the Luke Elementary School and High School students attend Dysart High School. Parents must have proof of residency prior to enrolling their children in the school districts. If parents want their children to attend a school not in their housing attendance area, they may complete an Open Enrollment form to request permission to enroll at the local campus.

Q. If I live off base, how can I find out which school my child will attend and how can I research local schools.

A. – Children are assigned to the district in which they live, making it important to research schools before making a housing decision. Within a 15-20 mile radius of Luke AFB, there are over ten school districts. Each school district has a webpage where parents can research test scores, school safety, teacher-pupil ratio and boundary maps posted on the webpage. The School Liaison also has information about local schools and maps of the different districts which shows their boundaries.

Listed are school districts surrounding Luke AFB. Contact numbers and websites are included:

Agua Fria Union High School District—623-932-7000 or www.aguafria.org

Avondale Elementary School District—623-772-5000 or www.avondale.k12.az.us

Buckeye Elementary School District—623-386-4487 or www.besd.12.az.us

Buckeye Union High School District—623-386-9700 or www.buhsd.org

Dysart Unified School District— 623-876-7000 or www.dysart.org

Glendale Elementary School District—623-237-7100 or www.gesd40.org

Glendale Union High School District—623-435-6000 or www.guhsdaz.org

Litchfield Elementary School District—623-535-6000 or www.lesd.k12.az.us

Peoria Unified School District—623-486-6000 or www.peoriaud.k12.az.us

Tolleson Elementary School District - 623-936-9740 or www.tollesonschools.org

Wickenburg Unified School District— 928-668-5350 or www.wickenburgschools.org

Q. Can I choose which school district my child will attend?

A. The local school districts require a student to attend the school designated for their residence. Most local school districts do not allow children to transfer out of their assigned school. However, some school districts have developed an open enrollment or variance policy for students who wish to attend a school outside the area for which they are zoned. Applications for these requests are offered at one specific time of the year. In most cases, open enrollment is limited by space including program space availability in the receiving school. Transportation is the responsibility of the parent or legal guardian for students who currently live outside district boundaries. Parents are encouraged to register their child at the designated school as defined by the attendance zone. If the application is approved to attend the requested school, parents are notified by the school. Parents should contact the local school district or school liaison for specifics.

Q. At what age can my child start school in Arizona?

A. Children must be 5 years old on or before September 1.



Q. What information will I need to enroll my child in school?

A.

- original copy of birth certificate
- information on last school attended, official withdrawal from last school and academic records
- proof of residence (water bill, lease or purchase agreement, housing office letter)
- custody or guardianship papers and/or any other court documents
- proof of immunization (shot records).

Q. What are the Standards of Learning tests?

A. Arizona's Instrument to Measure Standards (AIMS), a Standards-Based test, provides educators and the public with valuable information regarding the progress of Arizona's students toward mastering Arizona's reading, writing and mathematics Standards. If parents have additional questions about the AIMS tests, please visit the Arizona Department of Education website at <http://www.ade.state.az.us/standards/>.



Q. What are the course requirements for graduation?

A. Arizona requires that all high school students meet certain requirements to graduate.

These are the current requirements:

- 4 credits in English · 2 credits in Math
- 2 credits in Science · 2.5 credits in Social Studies
- 1 credit in CTE/Fine Art · 8 credits of electives

Students who graduate in 2012 will be required to complete:

- 4 credits in English · 3 credits in Math



- 2 credits in Science · 3 credits in Social Studies
- 1 credit in CTE/Fine Art · 7 credits of electives

For more information about graduation requirements and required standardized tests, please visit the Arizona Department of Education website at www.ade.az.gov/

Q. Where can I find information on the process for transitioning a special needs child?

A. If your child has special education needs, the districts require an Individualized Educational Plan (IEP). Questions about Arizona's Special Education or Exceptional Student Services can be asked by calling 602-542-4013 or visit the Arizona Department of Education site at www.ade.az.gov . Additionally, parents should take the following steps before the transition:

- A. Contact the child's current school to request assistance as to what should be done before the transition to a new school.
- B. Schedule an Annual Review and Dismissal meeting to discuss the progress of the child since the last Individualized Education Program (IEP) review. Ask for written suggestions that may assist the child and the staff at the new school.
- C. Request a copy of the child's complete educational record to include a copy of the most recent IEP. Parents are encouraged to hand carry all records, samples of the child's work and other information related to the child's education.
- D. Contact the local Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP) or Special Needs Identification Assignment Coordinator (SNIAC) to get assistance with identifying resources at the new duty station.
- E. Contact the School Liaison to assist with locating information about the child's new school.



Q. What are the state procedures for home schooling?

A. Home schooling is educating children outside the public-private-parochial school establishment. Parents may decide to home school their children for a variety of reasons – religion, special needs, concern about physical conditions and danger in formal school settings or fear of unacceptable teaching or religious curricula. Each state has specific mandatory requirements for parents who choose the home schooling option. Parents who choose to educate their child at home and who resides in Arizona visit the Maricopa County Superintendent of Schools site at www.maricopa.gov/schools or call 602-506-3144.

Q. What schooling choices are available for my child?

A. Arizona has several school choices for parents. Parents can choose from public schools, charter schools, magnets and private schools.

Public schools get their financing from local, state, and federal government funds. In most cases, they must admit all students who live within the borders of their district. Charter schools and magnet schools are two relatively new kinds of public schools.

Charter schools began appearing in the early 90s. They are “alternative” public schools started by parents, teachers, community organizations, and for-profit companies. These schools receive tax dollars but the sponsoring group must also come up with private funding. Charter schools must adhere to the basic curricular requirements of the state but are free from many of the regulations that apply to conventional schools and the day-to-day scrutiny of school boards and government authorities. Charter schools allow parents, community leaders, educational entrepreneurs, and others the flexibility to innovate, create and provide students with increased educational experiences. To find out more about charter schools and where to find them in your area, visit [the U.S. Charter Schools Web site](#).

Magnet schools are highly competitive, highly selective public schools renowned for their special programs, superior facilities, and high academic standards. They may specialize in a particular area, such as science or the arts. Students who apply to these schools go through a rigorous testing and application process. Some magnet schools have boarding facilities to allow five students from out of state to attend. Magnet schools were first launched in the late 1970s to help desegregate public school systems by encouraging children to attend schools outside their neighborhoods. Student diversity is still an explicit goal of most magnet schools.

Non-Public Education

Religious Private Schools are private schools which generally espouse a specific religious belief based on the denomination or faith established by the governing board. Often religious schools have open enrollment and do not require their student body to be members of the faith or denomination, although they do require that all students abide by the rules established by the school leadership. In addition to academic coursework, religious schools usually require coursework in religious studies. Students must apply to attend the school and entrance exams may be required. Private religious schools can refuse admission to any student or dismiss a student after enrollment for an infraction of the rules. Teachers are not required to be certified by the state, though they may be required to be a member of the religious denomination. Teachers may hold a variety of degrees and certifications. Requirements vary by school. Tuition costs vary widely. Transportation may be included in the cost of tuition or may be separate charge. For more information on religious private schools visit <http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/oii> and <http://www.parochial.com>

Private Secular Schools are schools without religious affiliation. Many secular schools have a long history and tradition while others are relatively new. Secular schools often give preference for admission to students whose relatives are alumnae of the schools. Secular schools may offer a traditional education that centers around preparation for college while others focus on an educational philosophy or a specific approach to learning such as those that accommodate individuals with special needs, i.e., schools for deaf or blind students. Tuition

costs vary widely. Transportation may be included in the cost of tuition or may be separate charge. Teachers are not required to be certified by the state however, they may hold a variety of degrees and certifications. If you want to read more about private secular schools visit <http://www.schoolmatters.org> and <http://www.schooltree.org>