

# Handbook for Parents of School Age Children 2010-2011



**LUKE SCHOOL LIAISON  
“SERVING DOD FAMILIES”**

*Connecting Families, Schools and Communities*

School Liaison Services  
Airmen and Family Readiness Flight  
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## School Liaison Services Welcome

Welcome to the start of a new school year. We look forward to getting the 2010/2011 school year off to a great start. If you are new to Luke Air Force Base, congratulations and welcome to the 56<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing.

The School Liaison program was created to work with local schools and with parents, to successfully navigate the school transition process for military children. The program provides a range of services to USAF parents and their K-12 children. The vast majority of children of USAF families who live both on and off base attend public schools. The main goals of the program are to identify barriers to academic success, develop solutions, and promote parental involvement in their children's education. Additionally, the School Liaison develops and coordinates partnerships in education, provides parents with the tools they need to overcome obstacles to education that stem from the military lifestyle, and promotes and educates local communities and schools regarding the needs of military children. The role of the School Liaison is to assist families in ensuring their children receive the best possible education regardless of where they attend school. This is accomplished primarily by acting as an advocate and intermediary among the parents, the military community, and the local school district.

There are several school districts serving Luke AFB. An extensive listing of schools located in the different districts serving the military students is included in this handbook and on the [Lukeids.com](http://Lukeids.com) website. If you have any questions about the schools, please contact the School Liaison at DSN 856-6378, commercial **623-856-6378** or email at [schoolliaison@luke.af.mil](mailto:schoolliaison@luke.af.mil)



**[LukeIDS.com](http://LukeIDS.com)**

# School Choice

## Discover Your Options

Some of the most important decisions parents will make are about their child's education. Parents want their child's school to meet the same goals of high academic achievement they have set. School choice is part of the strategy to give children an excellent education. The most common way may be in choosing where to live based on the public school district or neighborhood schools. In many areas, parents can choose from neighborhood schools, charter schools or other public schools of choice, or transfer their child to another public school (in or out of district). They can also select a private school (religious or secular) or teach their child at home.

All parents want the best possible education for their children. Studies have shown that many service members are accepting or rejecting assignments based on their schooling options. Commanders should be aware of the schooling choices and quality of the schools surrounding their installation in order to assist parents in understanding their education options. Because the government regulates education, available options can vary between states.

All students have different learning styles and needs. Children within the same family may not learn in the same way or at the same rate. Finding the right educational setting for each child requires a careful examination of various options that are available to students and their families. Understanding expanded school choice is essential to selecting the best type of school setting for a child. The No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) signed in 2002, has given parents additional options when considering how to educate their children.

Here are some quick resources to help military parents make informed choices:

- Choosing a School for your Child, a publication of the U.S. Department of Education <http://www.ed.gov/parents/schools/find/choose/index.html> offers a series of checklists and pertinent questions to assist parents in making schooling choices.
- Military OneSource is a useful resource for obtaining information on schools. Users can access the service toll free from the United States: (800) 342-9647; from overseas: (800)-3429-6477; or overseas collect: 1-484-530-5908. In addition, Military OneSource offers a website at [www.militaryonesource.com](http://www.militaryonesource.com) for information on a variety of topics and issues.
- The Military Child Education Coalition is a 501(c) (3) non-profit, worldwide organization that identifies the challenges that face the highly mobile military child, increases awareness of these challenges in military and educational communities and initiates and implements programs to meet the challenges. MCEC's goal is to level the educational playing field for

- military children wherever they are located around the world and to serve as a model for all highly mobile children. <http://www.militarychild.org>
- A list of school choice surrounding all heavily impacted military installations is being compiled for DoD. The results of this study will be posted on the MilitaryStudent.org website <http://www.militarystudent.org> and will be available through Military OneSource.
  - MilitaryHOMEFRONT is the official Department of Defense web site for reliable Quality of Life information designed to help troops and their families, leaders and service providers. Whether you live the military lifestyle or support those who do, you will find what you need!  
<http://www.militarystudent.dod.mil/>
  - National Military Family Association goals are to educate military families concerning their rights, benefits and services available to them and to inform them regarding the issues that affect their lives and to promote and protect the interests of military families by influencing the development and implementation of legislation and policies affecting them.  
<http://www.nmfa.org/site/PageServer?pagename=homepage>

## **Learn what choices are available to your child**

### **Public, Charter, Magnet, Private Schools and Home schooling**

**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 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/oij> 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 though 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>

**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 homeschooling option. Parents who choose to educate their child at home and who resides in Arizona visit: [http://www.maricopa.gov/Schools/HomeSchool/home\\_school.aspx](http://www.maricopa.gov/Schools/HomeSchool/home_school.aspx) or call 602-506-3144

Parents may decide to perform the schooling themselves in their own home or a relative, neighbor, professional tutor, or homeschooling cooperative may perform the service. Parents who are considering this option should inform themselves completely about time commitments, curricula, relevant state laws, outside resources and available support groups. Please visit the sites listed below to learn more about homeschooling:

<http://www.militarychild.org/homeschoolings.asp>

<http://www.hslda.org/laws/default.asp>

<http://www.nheir.org>

## **General Information**

### New Student Registration

**Bring the following documents at the time of registration for surrounding school districts:**

- If the last school attended was out of state, please provide the school's name, telephone number and address.
- If your child was previously enrolled in an Arizona school, provide an official withdrawal form from the last school attended.
- A Certified State Birth Certificate (military copies are acceptable)  
<http://www.usbirthcertificate.net>  
<http://www.birthcertificatesusa.com>  
<http://www.vitalrec.com>
- An updated copy of Immunization records
- Two proofs of residence w/ name and address of Parent/Guardian  
Home rental agreement or Home builder contract  
Mortgage statements or Utility bills  
Any other business type mail that has been mailed to the residence
- The Social Security Number of the child
- Enrollment forms provided by the school district

### **School/Bus Locator**

#### **Avondale Elementary School District No. 44**

Transportation Department 623-772-5069

<http://www.avondale.k12.az.us/departments.html>

#### **Agua Fria Union High School District No.216**

Transportation Department 623-932-7000

<http://www.aquafria.org/education/dept/dept.php?sectionid=655>

### Buckeye Elementary School District

Transportation Department 623-386-4487 ext. 237

<http://besd.k12.az.us/DistrictInfo/buckeye.pdf>

### Buckeye Union High School District

Transportation Department 623-386-9700

<http://buhisd.org/>

### Dysart Unified School District

Transportation Department 623- 876-7030

<http://www.dysart.org/schools/schools.html#boundary>

### Glendale Elementary School District

Transportation Department 623-237-6261

<http://www.gesd40.org/internetportal/Default.aspx?alias=www.gesd40.org/internetportal/transportation>

### Glendale Union High School District

Transportation Department 623-435-6084

<http://www.guhisdaz.org/cms/one.aspx?pagelid=767573>

### Litchfield Elementary School District No. 79

Transportation Department 623-535-6070

<http://www.lesd.k12.az.us/Trans/WEBPAGESTUFF/BUSSTOPSBYSCHOOL.htm>

### Peoria Unified School District

Transportation Department 623-773-6616

<http://portal.peoriaud.k12.az.us/C6/Public%20Relations/Public%20Relations%20Web%20Part%20Pages/Elementary%20Boundary%2006-07.pdf>

### Tolleson Elementary School District

Transportation Department (623) 936-9740 Ext. 2020

<http://www.tollesonschools.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=browse&pageid=29&id=53913>

## **Parent Teacher Student Association**

Parents interested in becoming a member of the PTSA or have questions about the organization visit the Department of Education site

<http://www.ade.az.gov/resourcecenter/educational.asp>

## **Impact Aid**

The Impact Aid program distributes Federal money to local educational agencies (LEAs) to help offset the impact Federal Government activities have on LEA revenues and expenses. The purpose of the Impact Aid program is to fulfill the Federal responsibility to assist with the provision of educational services to federally connected children because certain activities of the Federal Government place a financial burden on the LEAs serving areas where such activities are carried out and to help children meet challenging State standards (20 USC 7701). More information on Impact Aid Funding can be located at <http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/oese/impactaid/index.html>

## **Special Education**

If you have any questions about Arizona's Special Education or Exceptional Student Services, please call 602-542-4013 or visit the Arizona Department of Education website at <http://www.ade.state.az.us/ess/DAS/> In addition to Arizona's Special Education Services, the military has the Military OneSource resource for special needs assistance. Military OneSource also has free Tip Sheets, Booklets, CDs and Cassettes that families can order online at <https://www.militaryonesource.com>.

- **Exceptional Family Member Program**

The Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP) is mandatory for all family members who have been identified with a special medical or educational need. Enrolling in the EFMP ensures that the family member's medical needs will be considered during the assignment coordination process. Contact the Luke EFMP Office at 623-856-7595.

- **Children from Birth to Three Years of Age**

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) requires all States and territories to provide early intervention services to children from birth to age three who are developmentally delayed, or who are at high risk of being developmentally delayed. Early intervention services may be provided by local school districts or health departments. Parents of children who receive early intervention services should hand-carry a copy of the Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP) and most current evaluation reports to the new location.

- **Parent Training and Information Centers.**

Each state has at least one Parent Training and Information Center (PTI). PTIs serve families of children and young adults from birth to age 22 with all disabilities: physical, cognitive, emotional, and learning. They help families obtain appropriate education and services for their children with disabilities; work to improve education results for all children; train and inform parents and professionals on a variety of topics; resolve problems between families and schools or other agencies; and connect children with

disabilities to community resources that address their needs.

- The PTI for Arizona is **Raising Special Kids**. Raising Special Kids is a non-profit organization of families helping families of children with disabilities and special health needs. All programs provide support and services in parent-to-parent programs, special education, parent leadership development, and community outreach. As visitors browse this website and cannot locate some information, please contact the office by phone at (602) 242-4366 or (800) 237-3007; or email us at [info@raisingspecialkids.org](mailto:info@raisingspecialkids.org)
- **STOMP (Specialized Training of Military Parents)** is a federally funded Parent Training and Information (PTI) Center established to assist military families who have children with special education or health needs. STOMP will provide military parents with individual assistance and information about parents' rights and responsibilities in achieving special education services for their children whether located in the United States or overseas. STOMP provides tailored workshops on a variety of subjects to meet the unique needs of the community/installation. For more information about the STOMP program, visit <http://www.stompproject.org/>
- **Parent Information Network Specialists (PINS)**, parent consultants with the Arizona Department of Education, Exceptional Student Services (ADE/ESS), serve every county in Arizona. PINS provide essential information for parents to actively participate in their child's special education. PINS offer training and resources to educators, college students, service providers, community agencies, and parent organizations. PINS assist parents and community partners to understand the special education process and related issues. Call toll-free Monday through Friday, 8 am to 5pm, 1-877-230-PINS (7467), or email [PINS@azed.gov](mailto:PINS@azed.gov)

## **Standards of Learning Testing**

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/>.

## **Arizona's Achievement Profiles**

- **Failing to Meet the Academic Standards** - needs to meet state performance and state progress goals. School performance has been designated as Underperforming for three consecutive years and a site review determined that the designation of Failing to Meet the Academic Standards was warranted.
- **Underperforming** - needs to meet state performance and state progress goals.
- **Performing** - meets state performance goals.
- **Highly Performing** - above state performance goals or has demonstrated adequate improvement, in addition a significant number of students have exceeded the standard on the AIMS test.
- **Performing Plus** - above state performance goals, however the number of students exceeding the standard on the AIMS test is not sufficient to earn a highly performing or excelling.
- **Excelling** - significantly above state performance goals, in addition a significant number of students have exceeded the standard on the AIMS test.

## **Arizona Graduation Requirements**

Arizona requires that all high school students meet certain requirements to graduate. Those requirements are:

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

For more information about graduation requirements and required standardized tests, please visit the Arizona Department of Education website at

[www.ade.az.gov/](http://www.ade.az.gov/)

## **School Districts, Schools, and School Websites**

### **Avondale Elementary School District No. 44** <http://www.avondale.k12.az.us/>

Centerra Mirage School	Michael Anderson School
Desert Star School	Eliseo Felix School
Desert Thunder School	Wildflower School
Lattie Coor School	Copper Trails School

### **Agua Fria Union High School District No. 216**

<http://www.aquafria.org/education/district/district.php?sectionid=1>

Agua Fria High School	Millennium High School
Desert Edge High School	Verrado High School
Cold Water Academy	

### **Buckeye Elementary School District No. 33** <http://besd.k12.az.us/>

Buckeye Elementary School	West Park Elementary
Bales Elementary	Buckeye Primary School
Sundance Elementary	Steven R. Jasinski Elementary
Inca Elementary	

### **Buckeye Union High School No. 201** <http://buhisd.org/>

Buckeye Academy	Estrella Foothills High
Buckeye Union High	Youngker High

### **Dysart Unified School District No. 89** <http://www.dysart.org/>

Ashton Ranch Elementary	Sonoran Heights Elementary
Cimarron Springs Elementary	Sunset Hills Elementary
Countryside Elementary	Surprise Elementary
Dysart Elementary	Thompson Ranch Elementary
El Mirage Elementary	West Point Elementary
Kingswood Elementary	Western Peaks Elementary
Luke Elementary	Canyon Ridge Elementary School
Marley Park Elementary	Mountain View Elementary School
Parkview Elementary	Desert Moon Elementary
Rancho Gabriela Elementary	Riverview Elementary
Dysart High School	Shadow Ridge High School
Willow Canyon High School	Valley Vista High School

### **Glendale Elementary School District No. 40**

<http://www.gesd40.org/internetportal/>

Bicentennial North	Don Mensendick	Sunset Vista
Bicentennial South	Glendale American	Horizon
Challenger School	Glendale Landmark	Isaac E. Imes
Coyote Ridge	Glenn F. Burton	Melvin E. Sine
Desert Garden	Desert Spirit	William C. Jack
Discovery	Harold W. Smith	

**Glendale Union High School District** <http://www.guhsdaz.org/>

Apollo	Moon Valley
Cortez	Sunnyslope
Glendale	Thunderbird
Greenway	Washington
Independence	Glendale Union Online
Metrocenter Academy	

**Litchfield Elementary School District No. 79** <http://www.lesd.k12.az.us/>

Barbara B. Robey Elementary	Scott Libby Elementary
Corte Sierra Elementary	Verrado Elementary
Dreaming Summit Elementary	Verrado Middle
Litchfield Elementary	Western Sky Middle
Palm Valley Elementary	Wigman Creek Middle
Rancho Santa Fe Elementary	White Tanks Learning Center
Mabel Padgett Elementary	L. Thomas Heck Middle School

**Peoria Unified School District No.11**

<http://portal.peoriaud.k12.az.us/Schools/Lists/Sites/AllItems.aspx>

**Tolleson Elementary School District No. 17** <http://www.tollesonschools.org/>

AZ Desert Elementary	Porfirio H. Gonzales Elementary
Desert Oasis Elementary	Sheely Farm Elementary

**Tolleson Union High School District** <http://www.tuhsd.org/>

Copper Canyon High School	Tolleson Union High School
La Joya High School	Westview High School

**Charter Schools and School Websites**

Carden Traditional School of Surprise

15688 West Acoma Road

Surprise, AZ 8537

[www.cardenschools.org](http://www.cardenschools.org)

(preK-8) 623-556-2179

Heritage Elementary School

13419 West Ocotillo Road

Glendale, AZ

[www.HESGlendale.org](http://www.HESGlendale.org)

(K-8) 623-935-1931

Paradise Educational Ctr.

15533 West Paradise Lane

Surprise, AZ

[www.pec-eagles.com](http://www.pec-eagles.com)

(K-8) 623-975-2646

Imagine Schools at Rosefield

12050 North Bullard Ave.

Surprise, AZ

[www.imagineschools.com](http://www.imagineschools.com)

(K-8) 623-344-4300