



# Education

## Benefits for Veterans Education

There were eight active education programs in fiscal year 2013:

- Post-9/11 Educational Assistance (Post-9/11 GI Bill),
- All-Volunteer Force Educational Assistance Program (Montgomery GI Bill-Active Duty),
- Educational Assistance for Members of the Selected Reserve (Montgomery GI Bill-Selected Reserve),
- Veterans Retraining Assistance Program (VRAP) (Program ended March 31, 2014),
- Survivors and Dependents Educational Assistance (Dependents' Educational Assistance - DEA),
- Post-Vietnam Era Veterans Educational Assistance Program (VEAP),
- Reserve Educational Assistance Program (REAP), and
- National Call to Service Program (NCS).

**4 Regional processing offices**  
**1 million beneficiaries and**  
**\$12 billion in payments**  
**in FY 2013 for**  
**8 programs**

### Noted information:

VA Education programs provide Veterans, Servicemembers, reservists, and certain family members of Veterans with educational resources to supplement opportunities missed because of military service. These programs are also meant to help the Armed Forces both recruit and retain members. For members of the Armed Forces, VA educational benefits assist in the readjustment to civilian life. On a broader scale, educational benefits are meant to enhance the Nation's competitiveness through the development of a more highly educated and more productive workforce



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### Release history

Version & changes	Date
V1: Initial release	09/26/2014



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## Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Program (Post-9/11 GI Bill)

The Post-9/11 GI Bill is the most comprehensive education benefit package since the original GI Bill of Rights was signed into law in 1944. This education benefit became effective on August 1, 2009.

Requirements and features of the Post-9/11 GI Bill are:

- A minimum of 90 days of aggregate active duty service after September 10, 2001, or a service-connected disability discharge after 30 continuous days of service,
- Honorable discharge from the Armed Forces or continue on active duty,
- Basic benefits include tuition and fees, monthly housing allowance, books and supplies stipend,
- Generally, receive 36 months of full-time education benefits,
- Generally, 15 years from last discharge to use benefits,
- Eligible to transfer educational benefit to dependent if individual meets Department of Defense eligibility criteria.

## All-Volunteer Force Educational Assistance Program (Montgomery GI Bill - Active Duty or MGIB-AD)

Montgomery GI Bill-Active Duty (MGIB-AD) is a contributory program. The Servicemember's pay is automatically reduced by \$100 per month for the first 12 months of active duty unless the Servicemember declines participation at the time of enlistment.

Requirements and features of MGIB-AD are as follows:

- First entered active duty after June 30, 1985,
- Must fulfill one's service obligation unless released for an acceptable reason,
- Must receive an honorable discharge,
- Must complete the requirements of a secondary school diploma, or its equivalent, before applying for benefits,
- Maximum entitlement is 36 months,
- Generally, 10 years from last discharge to use benefits.



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## Educational Assistance for Members of the Selected Reserve (Montgomery GI Bill - Selected Reserve or MGIB-SR)

Montgomery GI Bill-Selected Reserve (MGIB-SR) is the first GI Bill to provide educational assistance to members of the Selected Reserve (including National Guard members). DoD funds this program and is responsible for determining eligibility. VBA administers the program.

Requirements and features of MGIB-SR include:

- Must agree to a six-year Selected Reserve obligation after June 30, 1985,
- Must remain a member in good standing in the Selected Reserve,
- Must complete the requirements of a secondary school diploma, or its equivalent, before applying for benefits,
- Maximum entitlement is 36 months.

## Veterans Retraining Assistance Program (VRAP)

Veterans Retraining Assistance Program (VRAP) offers 12 months of assistance for training pursued between July 1, 2012, and March 31, 2014, by Veterans who:

- Are at least 35 but no more than 60 years old on the date of application,
- Are unemployed on the date of application,
- Are not eligible for any other VA education benefit program (e.g., the Post-9/11 GI Bill, Montgomery GI Bill, Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Assistance, etc.) on the date of application,
- Were not enrolled in a federal or state job-training program within 180 days before the date of application,
- Have an other than dishonorable final discharge,
- Are not in receipt of VA compensation due to un-employability,

Features and requirements of VRAP are as follows:

- Educational allowance paid at the MGIB-AD three-year enlistment rate for full-time training in an approved program leading to employment in a high-demand occupation offered by a community college or technical school,
- Applications must have been submitted on or before October 1, 2013.

## Survivors and Dependents Educational Assistance

### (DEA)

DEA is a VA educational assistance program designed for spouses and children of certain Veterans or Servicemembers.

Requirements and features of DEA include:

- Eligibility is based on the Veteran's service-connected death; service-connected disability rated as total and permanent; or MIA, POW, or Hostage status,
- Effective December 22, 2006, the program was expanded to grant eligibility to spouses and children of Servicemembers who are hospitalized or receiving outpatient care for a permanent and total disability while still on active duty.
- Maximum entitlement is 45 months,
- Children generally have eight years in which to use benefits, usually between ages 18 and 26,
- Spouses generally have 10 years in which to use benefits , or 20 years if the Veteran dies on active duty or if Veteran receives a permanent and total rating within 3 years of release from active duty,
- A spouse loses entitlement if remarried before age 57 but may have entitlement restored if that marriage terminates by death or divorce.

## Post-Vietnam Era Veterans Educational Assistance Program

### (VEAP)

VEAP was the first GI Bill program that required a contribution by the Servicemember.

Requirements and features of VEAP are as follows:

- First entered active duty after December 31, 1976, and before July 1, 1985,
- Contributed to VEAP while on active duty and before April 1, 1987,
- Maximum contribution of \$2,700 by the Servicemember with a government matching contribution \$2 for \$1, for a total basic benefit of up to \$8,100,
- Additional "kickers" or contributions from the Department of Defense (DoD) under certain circumstances,
- Current full-time VEAP rate is based on the monthly contributions plus any DoD "kicker" adjustment,
- Unused contributions may be refunded,
- Maximum entitlement is 36 months,
- Benefit must be used within 10 years of the last discharge from active duty service.



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## Reserve Educational Assistance Program (REAP)

REAP is a Department of Defense program that provides educational assistance to members of the National Guard and Reserve components.

Requirements and features of REAP are as follows:

- DoD determines eligibility to REAP,
- Served on active duty after September 10, 2001, in support of a contingency operation under federal authority for a minimum of 90 consecutive days,
- Maximum full-time entitlement is 36 months,
- Benefit rate is a portion of the MGIB-AD three-year enlistment rate.

## National Call to Service (NCS)

The National Call to Service program is available to certain individuals who, after October 1, 2003, incur an eight-year military service obligation (MSO).

This MSO will consist of:

- Initial entry training (to include skill training) followed by fifteen months of active duty,
- Continuation of duty without a break in service of either an additional period of active duty as determined by the Secretary of Defense, or a period of 24 months in an active status in the Selected Reserve.

After completion of this period of service, and also without a break in service, the remaining period of obligated service will be served as follows:

- On active duty in the Armed Forces,
- In the Selected Reserve,
- In the Individual Ready Reserve,
- In AmeriCorps, or another domestic national service program jointly designated by the Secretary of Defense and the head of such a program,
- In any combination of the above.

There are four incentives available for individuals enlisting under this program as follows:

- Cash bonus of \$5,000,
- Repayment of a qualifying student loan not to exceed \$18,000,
- Educational allowance equal to the MGIB-AD three-year enlistment rate for 12 months, or
- Educational allowance equal to 50% of the MGIB-AD less-than-three-year enlistment rate for 36 months.



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## Acronyms Used in This Document

POST 9/11	Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Program (Post-9/11 GI Bill)
MGIB-AD	All-Volunteer Force Educational Assistance Program (Montgomery GI Bill - Active Duty)
MGIB-SR	Educational Assistance for Members of the Selected Reserve (Montgomery GI Bill - Selected Reserve)
VRAP	Veterans Retraining Assistance Program
REAP	Reserve Educational Assistance Program
DEA	Survivors and Dependents Educational Assistance
VEAP	Post-Vietnam Era Veterans Educational Assistance Program
NCS	National Call to Service (This program provides VA education benefits under MGIB-AD – all participants and payments for this benefit are counted under the MGIB-AD program)



# POST★9/11 GI BILL

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**Beneficiaries who received education benefits by fiscal year<sup>1</sup>**

Education program	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	% change from FY 12 to FY 13
POST 9/11	34,393	365,640	555,329	646,302	754,229	17%
MGIB-AD <sup>2</sup>	341,969	247,105	185,220	118,549	99,755	-16%
MGIB-SR	63,469	67,373	65,216	60,393	62,656	4%
VRAP	-	-	-	12,251	67,918	454%
REAP	42,881	30,269	27,302	19,774	17,297	-13%
DEA	81,327	89,696	90,657	87,707	89,160	2%
VEAP	448	286	112	76	29	-62%
<b>Total</b>	<b>564,487</b>	<b>800,369</b>	<b>923,836</b>	<b>945,052</b>	<b>1,091,044</b>	<b>15%</b>

**Beneficiaries who began receiving education benefits by training type and program during fiscal year 2013<sup>3</sup>**

Education program	College, non-degree	Graduate	Under-graduate	Vocational/technical	Program totals	Percent of all programs
POST 9/11 <sup>4</sup>	90,989	23,020	102,335	4,045	220,389	83.09%
MGIB-AD	384	669	7,402	416	8,871	3.34%
MGIB-SR	448	452	15,867	547	17,314	6.53%
REAP	108	231	3,137	101	3,577	1.35%
DEA	552	523	13,335	660	15,070	5.68%
VEAP	2	2	11	-	15	0.01%
<b>Training type totals</b>	<b>92,483</b>	<b>24,897</b>	<b>142,087</b>	<b>5,769</b>	<b>265,236</b>	<b>100%</b>

Percent of program total	34.87%	9.39%	53.57%	2.17%	100%
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<sup>1</sup> Source: Benefits Delivery System Reports.

<sup>2</sup> All MGIB AD figures in this document include national call to service, peacetime Veterans and Servicemembers.

<sup>3</sup> Source: Hines Information Technology Center

<sup>4</sup> Post 9/11 GI Bill statistics source: Office of Performance Analysis and Integrity Enterprise Data Warehouse.





## Training available under education benefit programs

Available programs	Post-9/11	MGIB-AD	MGIB-SR	VRAP	REAP	DEA	VEAP
College or university degree	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
Business, technical or vocational programs	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
Independent study or distance learning	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
Correspondence courses	◆	◆	◆		◆	◆ <sup>5</sup>	◆
Flight training	◆	◆	◆		◆	◆ <sup>6</sup>	◆
Reimbursement of licensing & certification exams	◆	◆	◆		◆	◆	◆
Accelerated payments for high tech classes		◆	◆		◆		
Reimbursement for national admissions & credit exams	◆	◆	◆		◆	◆	◆
On the job training & apprenticeship programs	◆	◆	◆		◆	◆	◆
Tuition assistance top up program (TATU)	◆	◆					
Entrepreneurship courses	◆	◆	◆		◆		◆
Remedial, deficiency, & refresher training (in some cases)	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
H.S. diploma or GED						◆	◆

<sup>5</sup> Spouses only.

<sup>6</sup> Only at institutions of higher learning for credit towards a college degree.





## Education Program Data

### Beneficiaries who received education benefits during fiscal year 2013<sup>7</sup>

Program	Total beneficiaries	Total payments
Post-9/11	754,229	\$10,159,780,620
MGIB-AD	99,755	\$775,381,577
MGIB-SR <sup>8</sup>	62,656	\$155,562,899
VRAP	67,918	\$428,430,980
REAP	17,297	\$69,669,825
DEA	89,160	\$483,280,993
VEAP <sup>9</sup>	29	\$496,281
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,091,044</b>	<b>\$12,072,603,175</b>

<sup>7</sup> Source: VBA Office of Resource Management

<sup>8</sup> Based on service in the Selected Reserve.

<sup>9</sup> Total payment dollars include Section 901 program participants, although beneficiaries are not included.





### Beneficiaries who began receiving education benefits by training time and program during fiscal year 2013<sup>10</sup>

Education program	Less than one-half time	Half time	Three quarter time	Full time	Program totals	Percent of all programs
POST-9/11 <sup>11</sup>	21,569	13,771	23,018	162,031	220,389	83.09%
MGIB-AD	349	1,093	1,566	5,863	8,871	3.34%
MGIB-SR	419	1,296	1,858	13,741	17,314	6.53%
VEAP	3	6	2	4	15	0.01%
REAP	122	440	453	2,562	3,577	1.35%
DEA	637	1,432	1,894	11,107	15,070	5.68%
<b>Training time totals</b>	<b>23,099</b>	<b>18,038</b>	<b>28,791</b>	<b>195,308</b>	<b>265,236</b>	<b>100%</b>

Percent of program total	8.71%	6.80%	10.85%	73.64%	100%
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<sup>10</sup> Source: Hines Information Technology Center

<sup>11</sup> Post 9/11 GI Bill statistics source Office of Performance Analysis and Integrity Enterprise Data Warehouse





## Tuition Assistance Top-Up Program

The Tuition Assistance Top-Up (TATU) program is available under the Post 9/11 and MGIB-AD programs. TATU permits VA to issue a payment to an individual for the difference between the military service's tuition assistance payment amount and the total cost of tuition and related expenses, up to the amount that a Veteran would receive. An individual must receive military tuition assistance for the course to be eligible for TATU payments. There was an 8 percent decrease in the number of unique trainees in fiscal year 2013 compared to fiscal year 2012.

## Accelerated Payments Program

Accelerated payments are available under the MGIB-AD, MGIB-SR, and REAP programs and may be made for certain high cost, high-tech programs for enrollment on or after October 1, 2002. To qualify, a beneficiary must be enrolled in a high-tech program and must certify that he/she intends to seek employment in a high tech industry as defined by VA. The beneficiary may receive a lump-sum payment of 60 percent of the total charges if the cost of tuition and fees exceeds 200 percent of what they would otherwise receive in education assistance. Total payments under this program increased by 5 percent in fiscal year 2013 compared to fiscal year 2012.

## License and Certification Test Reimbursement

Under all active education programs beneficiaries may receive reimbursement of the cost of taking an approved test for an occupational license or certification. VA pays for the cost of the test, up to a maximum of \$2,000 per test. There was a 13 percent decrease in the number of unique trainees in fiscal year 2013 compared to fiscal year 2012.

### Unique beneficiaries and payments by fiscal year<sup>12</sup>

(Dollar amounts are in the thousands \$000)

Usage Type	2010		2011		2012		2013	
Tuition assistance top-up	8,114	\$14,683	6,251	\$11,699	4,991	\$9,418	4,573	\$8,850
License and certification tests	2,655	\$1,257	2,172	\$1,178	1,455	\$819	1,266	\$622
Accelerated payment <sup>13</sup>	NA	\$1,754	NA	\$1,873	NA	\$195	NA	\$205
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,769</b>	<b>\$17,694</b>	<b>8,423</b>	<b>\$14,750</b>	<b>6,446</b>	<b>\$10,432</b>	<b>5,839</b>	<b>\$9,677</b>

<sup>12</sup> Source: Education Service Out of System and Accelerated Payment reports.

<sup>13</sup> Unable to determine number of beneficiaries receiving accelerated payments.



## Fry Scholarship

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The Post-9/11 GI Bill allows those eligible for the program to transfer their educational benefits to one or more dependents if they meet Department of Defense eligibility criteria. During fiscal year 2013, there were 135,159 beneficiaries who received transferred benefits from a Servicemember or Veteran. Of those 94,559 were children while 40,600 were spouses. These beneficiaries are included under Post 9/11 totals on previous pages.

Congress passed Public Law 111-32 that amended the Post-9/11 GI Bill, which established The Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship (Fry Scholarship). Children of an active duty member of the Armed Forces who dies in the line of duty on or after September 11, 2001, are eligible for this benefit. A child may be married or over 23 and still be eligible. During fiscal year 2013, 1,279 children received Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits under the Fry Scholarship.

## Veterans Retraining Assistance Program

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On November 21, 2011, the President signed into law the “VOW to Hire Heroes Act” of 2011. This law established the Veterans Retraining Assistance Program (VRAP) for individuals who are at least 35 but no more than 60 years of age, have an other than dishonorable discharge, are unemployed, have no eligibility for any VA educational benefits, and are not in receipt of VA compensation due to un-employability. Applications for the VRAP benefits were accepted by the Department of Labor (DOL) and submitted to the VA after verifying that the claimant met the eligibility requirements of DOL. VRAP benefits began on July 1, 2012 and were payable only for training starting on or after that date. No benefits are payable under this program after March 31, 2014.

During fiscal year 2013, 67,918 individuals applied for VRAP benefits and pursued training in occupations that are considered in high demand by the Department of Labor. These occupations included medical technicians, heavy equipment operators, truck drivers, and occupations in computer technology.

## GI Bill Facebook Page Statistics

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Education service created the Post-9/11 GI Bill Facebook page in fiscal year 2009 [facebook.com/gibillEducation](https://www.facebook.com/gibillEducation). The Post-9/11 GI Bill Facebook page serves as a source of information where members of Facebook can “like” the page and receive updates on the Post-9/11 GI Bill. The Facebook page allows Education Service to directly interact with those who are using the Post-9/11 GI Bill and those who might know someone that is eligible in addition to the general Facebook community.

Of the approximately 67,130 Facebook members who follow and interact with our Facebook Page:

- 59 percent are male and 40 percent are female (the remaining 10 percent did not indicate gender);
- Almost half, 42.6 percent, of our users are between the ages of 25 and 34 years old;
- 24 percent are between the ages of 35 and 44 years old;



## Education Data by State

State statistics may include individuals who used their education benefits in more than one state, therefore the totals within this table should not be used to reflect the total number of beneficiaries during the fiscal year.

### Beneficiaries who received education benefits during fiscal year 2013 by state

Location	Post-9/11	MGIB-AD	MGIB-SR	VRAP	DEA	REAP	VEAP	TOTAL
Alabama	17,409	2,878	1,848	1,314	3,367	439	1	27,256
Alaska	3,585	124	117	93	182	4	0	4,105
Arizona	47,824	6,494	1,661	2,732	3,204	717	1	62,633
Arkansas	5,022	744	1,317	605	1,787	309	0	9,784
California	88,609	6,446	3,139	7,326	6,667	648	3	112,838
Colorado	24,414	2,192	799	1,008	1,697	212	1	30,323
Connecticut	4,889	507	569	491	444	67	0	6,967
Delaware	2,098	102	163	174	240	20	0	2,797
Dist. of Columbia	4,001	154	53	436	216	8	0	4,868
Florida	63,947	6,530	2,575	6,701	6,770	615	2	87,140
Georgia	26,763	3,309	2,626	4,676	3,808	339	1	41,522
Hawaii	7,549	253	316	129	378	17	0	8,642
Idaho	3,256	472	460	178	413	244	0	5,023
Illinois	22,520	4,937	2,535	2,321	1,981	801	1	35,096
Indiana	10,137	1,109	1,922	1,374	1,173	359	1	16,075
Iowa	13,729	3,394	1,540	393	934	819	0	20,809
Kansas	7,393	1,076	792	389	655	301	0	10,606
Kentucky	8,427	1,013	955	1,096	1,801	319	0	13,611
Louisiana	7,940	793	1,119	812	1,636	213	0	12,513
Maine	2,302	168	323	191	665	47	0	3,696
Maryland	24,111	1,839	716	1,173	1,088	119	1	29,047
Massachusetts	11,546	470	923	606	1,072	153	1	14,771
Michigan	12,503	1,097	1,322	2,043	1,848	198	1	19,012
Minnesota	13,087	1,336	1,774	519	1,528	669	1	18,914
Mississippi	5,738	539	1,395	499	1,027	387	0	9,585
Missouri	17,434	3,809	1,927	3,098	1,728	1,316	1	29,313
Montana	2,311	213	309	113	346	70	0	3,362
Nebraska	5,229	977	784	341	754	259	0	8,344

Continued on the next page





### Beneficiaries by state (continued)

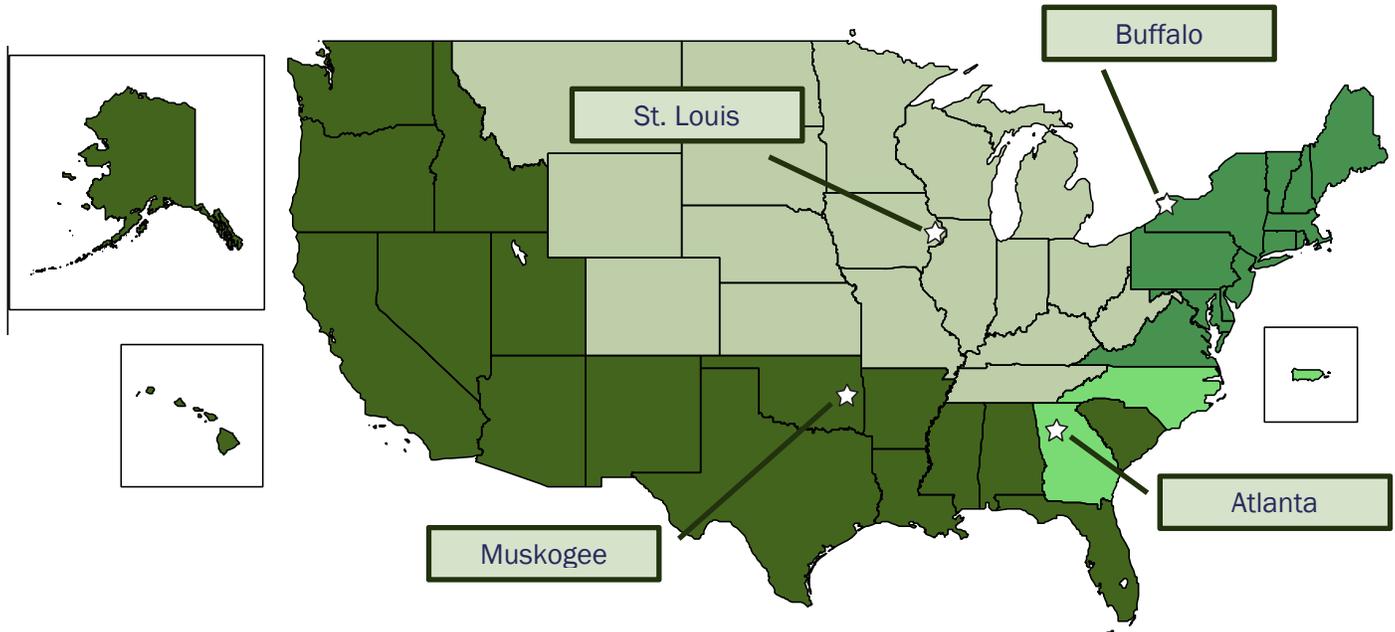
Location	Post-9/11	MGIB-AD	MGIB-SR	VRAP	DEA	REAP	VEAP	TOTAL
Nevada	5,495	552	412	681	579	142	0	7,861
New Hampshire	3,793	255	244	71	297	34	0	4,694
New Jersey	9,168	549	1,185	1,006	849	96	0	12,853
New Mexico	4,423	903	409	495	1,201	108	0	7,539
New York	26,244	1,837	1,834	2,354	2,636	296	1	35,202
North Carolina	22,841	3,894	1,511	3,356	4,163	411	1	36,177
North Dakota	1,705	194	537	18	212	148	0	2,814
Ohio	17,420	1,733	2,520	2,517	1,910	858	1	26,959
Oklahoma	8,883	1,765	1,076	598	2,218	587	0	15,127
Oregon	8,491	673	562	944	1,349	135	0	12,154
Pennsylvania	22,432	1,314	2,511	1,416	2,323	186	1	30,183
Rhode island	2,016	83	217	108	213	43	0	2,680
South Carolina	12,725	909	1,519	1,803	2,593	252	0	19,801
South Dakota	1,912	229	576	61	262	185	0	3,225
Tennessee	13,895	1,333	1,315	1,627	1,894	305	0	20,369
Texas	69,957	7,988	2,939	5,138	7,913	569	2	94,506
Utah	7,050	1,286	1,005	210	697	361	0	10,609
Vermont	1,609	105	201	30	117	15	0	2,077
Virginia	52,002	3,824	1,652	2,035	3,768	383	1	63,665
Washington	19,966	1,248	721	1,700	2,238	98	1	25,972
West Virginia	15,521	3,690	1,036	272	895	716	0	22,130
Wisconsin	8,565	652	1,520	728	1,305	354	1	13,125
Wyoming	1,218	312	208	62	141	68	0	2,009
Puerto Rico	2,586	242	1,717	133	1,572	630	0	6,880
Philippines	605	147	1	9	13	0	0	775
Foreign	1,998	0	142	16	393	16	0	2,565
Other <sup>14</sup>	41	727	0	162	0	0	1	931
<b>National totals<sup>15</sup></b>	<b>806,334</b>	<b>99,755</b>	<b>62,656</b>	<b>68,381</b>	<b>89,160</b>	<b>17,297</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>1,143,612</b>

<sup>14</sup> Other categories include those who received benefits for training in on-the-job, apprenticeship, flight, and correspondence programs.

<sup>15</sup> The totals within this table should not be used to reflect the total number of beneficiaries during the fiscal year – see note at the top of the previous page.



## Appendix – Maps of Education Benefit Regional Processing Office Jurisdiction



### Buffalo – NY Regional Processing Office

P.O. Box 4616  
Buffalo, NY 14240-4616

Connecticut  
Delaware  
District of Columbia  
Maine  
Maryland  
Massachusetts  
New Hampshire  
New Jersey  
New York  
Pennsylvania  
Rhode Island  
Vermont  
Virginia  
Foreign Schools  
US Virgin Islands

### Atlanta – GA Regional Processing Office

P.O. Box 100022  
Decatur, GA 30031-7022

Georgia  
North Carolina  
Puerto Rico

### St. Louis – MO Regional Processing Office

P.O. Box 66830  
St. Louis, MO 63166-6830

Colorado  
Illinois  
Indiana  
Iowa  
Kansas  
Kentucky  
Michigan  
Minnesota  
Missouri  
Montana  
Nebraska  
North Dakota  
Ohio  
South Dakota  
Tennessee  
West Virginia  
Wisconsin  
Wyoming  
All trust territories  
The Philippines

### Muskogee – OK Regional Processing Office

P.O. Box 8888  
Muskogee, OK 74402-8888

Alabama  
Alaska  
Arizona  
Arkansas  
California  
Florida  
Hawaii  
Idaho  
Louisiana  
Mississippi  
Nevada  
New Mexico  
Oklahoma  
Oregon  
South Carolina  
Texas  
Utah  
Washington

### Contact Information

Education call center:  
**1-888-GI-Bill-1**  
**(1-888-442-4551)**

Annual Benefits Report  
(Office of Performance  
Analysis & Integrity)  
**202-461-9040**

eBenefits  
(Online forms and applications)  
**[www.ebenefits.va.gov](http://www.ebenefits.va.gov)**

Education home page  
**[benefits.va.gov/GIBill](http://benefits.va.gov/GIBill)**



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Administration