### Section A. Notification of Potential Entitlement and School Attendance Policies

#### Overview

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| In This Section | This section contains the following topics: |

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| Topic | Topic Name |
| 1 | System-Generated Notices of Potential Entitlement to Benefits Based on School Attendance  |
| 2 | Policies Regarding School Attendance |
| 3 | Home School Programs |
| 4 | Periods of Enrollment and Entitlement |

#### 1. System-Generated Notices of Potential Entitlement to Benefits Based on School Attendance

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| Introduction | This topic contains information on system-generated notices of potential entitlement to benefits based on school attendance, including* criteria for paying benefits based on school attendance
* ages of children when the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) sends notification
* notification prior to age 13
* notification at age 16
* notification prior to age 18
* how stations of origination (SOO) are alerted that system-generation of a notice failed
* SOO responsibility when system-generation of a notice fails
* language to include in a locally-generated letter for a child turning age 13
* language to include in a locally-generated letter for a child who has turned age 16
* language to include in a locally-generated letter for a child turning age 18, and
* language to include in a locally-generated letter for possible Restored Entitlement Program for Survivors (REPS) benefits.
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| Change Date | June 25, 2015 |

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| a. Criteria for Paying Benefits Based on School Attendance | The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) pays compensation, pension, or Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) to or for a Veteran’s child that is* between the ages of 18 and 23, and
* in attendance at a VA-accredited school.

***Reference***: For information on courses of instruction and school accreditation, see M21-1, Part III, Subpart iii, 6.A.2.  |

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| b. Ages of Children When VA Sends Notification | As children to or for who VA is currently paying benefits reach certain ages, system-generated notices of potential entitlement to benefits based on school attendance are automatically mailed to the child’s payee/parent.If VA is paying* DIC to or for the child, notice is sent to the payee/parent
* 60 days prior to the child’s 13th birthday
* at the end of the month the child turns 16, and/or
* 60 days prior to the child’s 18th birthday, or
* any other benefit to or for the child, notice is sent to the payee/parent 60 days prior to the child’s 18th birthday.

***Note***: No specific regional office (RO) action is required upon release of the system-generated notices.***Reference***: For information on adding dependents, see * [*Share User’s Guide*](http://vbaw.vba.va.gov/bl/21/Systems/share.htm), or
* the [*Veteran Benefits Management System (VBMS) User Guide*](http://vbaw.vba.va.gov/VBMS/Resources_Technical_Information.asp).
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| c. Notification Prior to Age 13  | The system-generated notice automatically sent to the payee/parent of a child, to or for whom VA is paying DIC, prior to the child’s 13th birthday, includes* *VA Pamphlet 22-73-3*, *Dependents’ Educational Assistance Program (DEA)*, and
* *VA Form 22-8335, Notification of Possible Entitlement to Dependents' Educational Assistance*.

***Note***: The notice* advises the payee/parent of the educational assistance available, and
* stresses the importance of planning a high school curriculum to prepare the child for a suitable program of higher education or other post-high school training.
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| d. Notification at Age 16 | The system-generated notice automatically sent to the payee/parent of a child, to or for whom VA is paying DIC, at the end of the month the child turns 16, includes * *VA Pamphlet 22-73-3*
* *VA Form 22-5490*, *Application for Survivors’ and Dependents’ Educational Assistance*, and
* *VA Form 22-8335a, Transmittal Form for Information on Chapter 35 Benefits*.

*VA Form 21-8924, Application of Surviving Spouse or Child for REPS Benefits (Restored Entitlement Program for Survivors)* is also sent to the payee/parent at this time if the individual on whose death the DIC award is based died* on active duty prior to August 13, 1981, or
* as a result of a service-connected (SC) disability that was incurred or aggravated prior to August 13, 1981.

***Reference***: For more information about the Restored Entitlement Program for Survivors (REPS), see M21-1, Part IX, Subpart i, 6. |

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| e. Notification Prior to Age 18 | The system-generated notice automatically sent to the payee/parent of a child, to or for whom VA is paying any benefit, prior to the child’s 18th birthday, includes two copies of *VA Form 21-674, Request for Approval of School Attendance*. If VA is paying DIC to or for the child (based on either a SC death or a non-service-connected death under [38 U.S.C. 1318](http://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/html/uscode38/usc_sec_38_00001318----000-.html)), notice includes* *VA Form 22-5490,* and
* *VA Pamphlet 22-73-3*.

*VA Form 21-8924* is also sent to the payee/parent at this time if the individual on whose death the DIC award is based died* on active duty prior to August 13, 1981, or
* as a result of a SC disability that was incurred or aggravated prior to August 13, 1981.

***Reference***: For more information about REPS, see M21-1, Part IX, Subpart i, 6. |

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| f. How SOOs Are Alerted That System-Generation of a Notice Failed | Under certain circumstances, system-generation of the notice of potentialentitlement to benefits based on school attendance fails. When this occurs, the station of origination (SOO) is alerted by the generation of an 800 series work item. The message code for this work item is 820 *882G, Age 18 School Letter Not Sent*.***Note***: 820 *882G, Age 18 School Letter Not Sent*, is the 800 series work item label assigned to the system failure ***regardless*** of which age-specific notice failed to generate. ROs must review the beneficiary’s record to determine which specific notice should have been generated.***Reference***: For more information about 800 series work items, see * M21-1 Part III, Subpart v, 10
* [*Share User’s Guide*](http://vbaw.vba.va.gov/bl/21/Systems/share.htm)
* [*VETSNET Awards User Guide*](http://vbaw.vba.va.gov/VBMS/Resources_Technical_Information.asp), and
* [*VETSNET 800 Series Work Items Desk Reference*](http://vbaw.vba.va.gov/bl/21/Systems/othg.htm).
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| g. SOO Responsibility When System-Generation of a Notice Fails  | As soon as the SOO learns that the system-generated notice failed, it must prepare a locally-generated letter and send it to the appropriate payee/parent. The table below explains what the SOO must include in the notice: |

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| If the notice is for a child age ... | Then the SOO must include in the notice ... |
| 13 | * the verbiage in M21-1, Part III, Subpart iii, 6.A.1.h, and
* the attachments referenced in M21-1, Part III, Subpart iii, 6.A.1.c.
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| 16 | * the verbiage in M21-1, Part III, Subpart iii, 6.A.1.i and (if potential entitlement to REPS exists) k, and
* the applicable attachments referenced in M21-1, Part III, Subpart iii, 6.A.1.d.
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| 18 | * the verbiage in M21-1, Part III, Subpart iii, 6.A.1.j and (if potential entitlement to REPS exists) k, and
* the applicable attachments referenced in M21-1, Part III, Subpart iii, 6.A.1.e.
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| ***Note***: If the payee is a corporate fiduciary, the fiduciary hub is responsible for handling notification. The appropriate fiduciary hub must be notified via e-mail when an 820 *882G, Age 18 School Letter Not Sent* work item is received for a corporate fiduciary case. |

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| **h. Language to Include in a Locally-Generated Letter for a Child Turning Age 13** | The following paragraphs must be included in a locally-generated letter when the system-generated notice is ***not*** sent for a child *about* to reach the age of 13:*We are writing to you as the parent or guardian of a child who may be eligible for educational assistance under laws administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). The enclosed pamphlet describes this benefit.**To profit most from the educational assistance provided by the Federal Government, the young person should plan his or her program of education carefully, beginning when he or she enters high school. In many schools, there are counselors to help students in this planning and in considering their future educational and vocational goals. If such counseling services are available in the school your child or ward attends, it is in his or her best interest to take full advantage of them during his or her high school years.**When the young person is ready to discuss using his or her VA benefits for education after high school, you should request an appointment for him or her with a VA counselor. The counselor will give him or her any help he or she may need in developing an educational or vocational plan. Such a plan may involve education at the college level, training in a technical or vocational school, a special training program (in the case of a handicapped young person), or employment. The choice will depend on the individual's own interests, aptitudes and abilities.**Generally, VA counseling may be provided any time after the eligible person reaches his or her 16th birthday or enters the junior year of high school. For handicapped persons counseling services may be initiated at age 14, and for youths who drop out of high school, counseling about further educational, vocational or employment planning may be provided after compulsory school attendance age is reached.* |

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| **i. Language to Include in a Locally-Generated Letter for a Child Who Has Turned Age 16** | The following paragraphs must be included in a locally-generated letter when the system-generated notice is ***not*** sent for a child who has *turned* 16:*The information found below and in the enclosed pamphlet on Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) benefits for education or training are for your child/ward who is now 16 years old.**Please see to it that your 16-year-old gets this important message. Now is the time to make plans that will lead toward sound educational and vocational decisions. To get the help of a VA counselor in this planning, the enclosed application should be completed and submitted as soon as possible.**PLANNING FOR YOUR FUTURE EDUCATION**We are writing to you because you may be eligible for educational benefits under the Dependents Educational Assistance (DEA) program. The enclosed pamphlet gives information about this benefit.**DEA benefits are available for the following types of training: high school training (including deficiency and remedial or refresher training); college training; vocational or technical training; and on-the-job training.**Payments may begin after your 18th birthday. However, you may be eligible for payments from an earlier date, if you have reached: the compulsory school attendance age under State law; or age 14 and require special restorative or vocational training due to physical or mental handicap. To make a sound choice for your future education and career, you should start planning now.**Some things for you to consider.**What are your goals in continuing your education?**What are your interests, what do you like to do?**What are your special abilities?**What kinds of work would you find most interesting and rewarding?**What kinds of work could you do best?**What training is needed for such work?**Where can such training be obtained?**You may already have in mind some definite ideas for your future training that you have worked out with your school counselor and your family or guardian. If not, or if you want additional assistance with your school and career planning and in the use of your VA educational benefits, you may get this help from professionally qualified VA counselors. Counseling is provided without charge at our counseling location nearest your home. However, travel to and from the place of counseling will be at your own expense unless you are not able to pay the cost of your travel.**If you wish to receive counseling now, you and your parent or guardian should fill out the enclosed application and send it to the appropriate address listed on the form. You will then be informed about a counseling appointment.* |

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| **j. Language to Include in a Locally-Generated Letter for a Child Turning Age 18** | The following paragraphs must be included in a locally-generated letter when the system-generated notice is ***not*** sent for a child *about* to reach the age of 18:*Your monthly payments are based on the continued entitlement of a child who will become 18 years of age on* **[enter date of child’s 18th birthday]***.**The current award will, therefore, be reduced/discontinued as of that date unless continued entitlement for or on account of this child is established as provided below.**You should also be advised that if continued entitlement is based on school attendance, the additional compensation payable will be in a higher amount than that paid for this child prior to age 18.**Payments may be made to or for a child after age 18 if he or she is enrolled in a course of education approved by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), and until age 23 while such education continues or until marriage or death. To claim this benefit, if you have not already done so, complete the enclosed VA form Approval of School Attendance (VA Form 21-674) in duplicate. Return the original to the appropriate address as listed on the Where to Send Your Written Correspondence enclosure as soon as possible. Keep the second copy for your records and future use.**Payments for or on account of this child may also be made if the child became permanently incapable of self-support because of mental or physical defect prior to age 18, during the continuance of such condition until marriage or death. To claim this benefit, write to this office and forward a statement by a physician fully describing the condition of the child.**If you are in receipt of income based benefits, such as Veteran’s pension or Survivors Pension, continued entitlement on account of the child is not established as provided above, and should your current or future annual income be less than the amount previously reported due to the removal of the dependent child, you should so notify this office so that your claim may be reconsidered and payment continued or adjusted as appropriate.* *The child may also be entitled to Dependents' Educational Assistance, a benefit payable in a higher amount, while attending an approved course of instruction as explained in the attached Dependents Educational Assistance Program VA Pamphlet 22-73-2. To claim this benefit, complete the enclosed application, Dependents’ Application for VA Educational Benefits (Under Provisions of chapters 33 and 35 of title 38, U.S.C.) VA Form 22-5490, and return it to the appropriate address listed on the form.****Note***: If the award is being paid to a custodian of the minor child, replace the opening sentence above, with the following sentence: *You have been receiving payment on behalf of a child who will become 18 years of age on* **[enter date of child’s 18th birthday]**. |

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| **k. Language to Include in a Locally-Generated Letter for Possible REPS Benefits** | The following paragraphs must be included in a locally-generated letter for possible REPS benefits when the system-generated notice is ***not*** sent for a child who * *recently* reached the age of 16, ***or***
* is *about* to reach the age of 18:

*You are receiving dependency and indemnity compensation or educational assistance. You may also be eligible for reinstatement of certain Social Security benefits that were eliminated by the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981 if you are the surviving spouse or child of a Veteran who:**(1) died on active duty before August 13, 1981; or**(2) died from a disability incurred or aggravated in service before August 13, 1981.**Before enactment of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981, parent's Social Security child-in-care benefits were paid to a parent until the parent's youngest child became age 18. Now parent child-in-care benefits are discontinued when the parent’s youngest child becomes age 16. The Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981 also eliminated Social Security student benefits. Student benefits were formerly payable to a child who was between the ages of I 8 and 22 and who was attending a postsecondary school full time.**Public Law 97-377 directs VA to reinstate the eliminated Social Security benefits to the surviving spouse or child of a Veteran who died under either of the conditions mentioned above. If you believe that you qualify for reinstatement, you must apply by completing the enclosed VA Form 21-8924, Application of Surviving Spouse or Child for REPS Benefits (Restored Entitlement for Survivors). If you are not sure that you qualify, please apply anyway. We will be glad to determine whether you are eligible for reinstatement.**If you apply and you are a school child (age 18 through 21 and attending college level. or other postsecondary school full time) please enter all periods of school attendance from your 18th birthday in Part II.**If you apply and you are a spouse with a child in your care (youngest child age 16 through 17), you need only complete Parts I and III.**Your regular VA benefits will not be affected if you become entitled to reinstatement of either parent child-in-care or student benefits. You may receive both at the same time.**Please return your completed application to the address listed on the form.* |

#### 2. Policies Regarding School Attendance

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| Introduction | This topic contains information about VA’s policies regarding school attendance, for the purpose of paying compensation, pension, or DIC, including* VA standards for courses of instruction
* criteria for paying benefits based on school attendance
* advisory opinions on the validity of a student’s school attendance
* accreditation requirement for domestic schools
* determining the accreditation of a local school
* determining the accreditation of a school in another SOO
* accreditation requirement for foreign schools
* foreign countries with no accrediting authority
* definition: wholly supported at the expense of the Federal government
* service academies, and
* service academy preparatory schools.
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| a. VA Standards for Courses of Instruction | To meet VA standards, a course of instruction must * require attendance of not less than the equivalent of three regular class sessions, daytime or evening, per week, and
* lead to the achievement of a training or educational objective (such as a degree, diploma, or certificate) in a period of time commonly accepted by standard institutions as adequate for that purpose.

***Important***: According to [38 CFR 21.4200(g)](http://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?SID=fbd4c6d2c56132cf042daca4e96ea538&mc=true&node=se38.2.21_14200&rgn=div8), one “regular class session” must consist of at least* one 50-minute period of academic instruction
* two 50-minute periods of laboratory instruction, or
* three 50-minute periods of workshop training.

***Example***: A course of instruction meets the attendance requirement whether it consists of* one hour of academic instruction three times a week, or
* three hours of academic instruction once a week.

***Notes***:* Authority to approve an award based on school attendance includes authority for approving the corresponding course of instruction.
* Courses of instruction taught under home school programs for grades kindergarten through 12 meet VA standards as long as the home school is an approved educational institution.

***Reference***: For more information on home schools as approved educational institutions, see M21-1, Part III, Subpart iii, 6.A.3. |

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| b. Criteria for Paying Benefits Based on School Attendance | VA may pay benefits to or for a student who is attending school, provided the student’s* course of instruction meets the standards in M21-1, Part III, Subpart iii, 6.A.2.a, and
* school meets the accreditation requirements in
* M21-1, Part III, Subpart iii, 6.A.2.e (domestic schools)
* M21-1, Part III, Subpart iii, 6.A.2.g (foreign schools), or
* M21-1, Part III, Subpart iii, 6.A.3 (home school programs).

***Note***: Any course of instruction offered by a VA-accredited school meets VA’s standards for courses of instruction. |

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| c. Advisory Opinions on the Validity of a Student’s School Attendance | Submit a request to Compensation Service (211B) for an advisory opinion on the validity of a student’s “school attendance” if* the criteria under M21-1, Part III, Subpart iii, 6.A.2.b are not met, but
* the course of instruction is otherwise meritorious and appears to be directed toward the achievement of a definite educational objective.

***Exception***: Do ***not*** request an opinion when the course of instruction clearly does not meet the attendance requirements in M21-1, Part III, Subpart iii, 6.A.2.a. |

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| d. Accreditation Requirement for Domestic Schools | A domestic school is accredited for VA purposes if the school is recognized as standard and accredited by* the authority established within the State for determining educational standards, or
* an institution or State authority recognized by VA to be equally as competent to determine such standards as the State authority.
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| e. Determining the Accreditation of a Local School | Use the following resources, in the order listed, to determine the accreditation of a local school for VA purposes:* lists that each RO maintains of the accredited schools located within its jurisdiction
* Web-Enabled Approval Management System (WEAMS), and
* other sources, such as
* a recent issue of the U.S. Department of Education’s *Education Directory, Part 3, Higher Education*
* the *Official Directory* published by the Accrediting Commission for Business Schools, and
* State authorities or other institutions that VA recognizes as competent to determine whether a school meets educational standards for accreditation.

***Note***: Because access to WEAMS is limited, it may be necessary to ask an Education Service employee to search this system for accreditation information.***Reference***: For information on using WEAMS, see the* [*WEAMS Application User Guide*](http://vbaw.vba.va.gov/bl/22/ref/guides/index.html), and
* [*WEAMS Institution Search*](http://inquiry.vba.va.gov/weamspub/buildSearchInstitutionCriteria.do) web page.
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| f. Determining the Accreditation of a School in Another SOO  | Use WEAMS to determine accreditation of a school in another SOO. As an alternative, contact the SOO by e-mail or telephone to request information required to determine whether the school is accredited.***Important***: When contacting the other SOO, indicate the information is being requested to determine entitlement to compensation, pension, or DIC (whichever is applicable) based on school attendance.***Rationale***: The standards for courses of instruction under the compensation, pension, and DIC programs are less stringent than those for education assistance under * [38 U.S.C. Chapter 30](http://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/html/uscode38/usc_sup_01_38_10_III_20_30.html)
* [38 U.S.C. Chapter 31](http://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/html/uscode38/usc_sup_01_38_10_III_20_31.html)
* [38 U.S.C. Chapter 33](http://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/html/uscode38/usc_sup_01_38_10_III_20_33.html), and
* [38 U.S.C. Chapter 35](http://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/html/uscode38/usc_sup_01_38_10_III_20_35.html).

***Note***: Because access to WEAMS is limited, it may be necessary to ask an Education Service employee to search this system for accreditation information.***Reference***: For information on using WEAMS, see the * [*WEAMS Application User Guide*](http://vbaw.vba.va.gov/bl/22/ref/guides/index.html), and
* [*WEAMS Institution Search*](http://inquiry.vba.va.gov/weamspub/buildSearchInstitutionCriteria.do) web page.
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| g. Accreditation Requirement for Foreign Schools | A foreign school is accredited for VA purposes if the school is recognized as standard and accredited for the student’s specific course of instruction by the authority established within the country for determining educational standards, such as* the Minister of Education
* the Minister of Cultural Affairs, or
* an institution VA recognizes as an authority in determining whether a foreign school is accredited for the purpose of determining entitlement to educational assistance under
* [38 U.S.C. Chapter 30](http://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/html/uscode38/usc_sup_01_38_10_III_20_30.html)
* [38 U.S.C. Chapter 31](http://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/html/uscode38/usc_sup_01_38_10_III_20_31.html)
* [38 U.S.C. Chapter 33](http://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/html/uscode38/usc_sup_01_38_10_III_20_33.html), and
* [38 U.S.C. Chapter 35](http://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/html/uscode38/usc_sup_01_38_10_III_20_35.html).
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| h. Foreign Countries With No Accrediting Authority  | If no recognized accrediting authority exists for a specific foreign school, the American Consular Officer is authorized to consult with any recognized institution of higher learning for professional advice concerning the acceptability of the school.Under these circumstances, the determination as to accreditation for VA purposes is made as follows:* In the Philippines, the Manila RO Education Liaison Representative makes the determination.
* When a beneficiary submits *VA Form 21-674* through the local U.S. embassy or consulate in a foreign country other than the Philippines, the American Consular Officer makes the determination as the approving official.
* In all other cases, the Veterans Service Center Manager of the Pittsburgh RO (station code 311), who maintains information concerning the accreditation status of foreign schools, makes the determination.
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| i. Definition: Wholly Supported at the Expense of the Federal Government | The phrase ***Wholly supported at the expense of the Federal government*** means the government pays for the student’s* tuition
* housing
* meals
* suitable clothing
* medical attention
* books
* supplies, and
* other necessities.

***Note***: VA may ***not*** pay compensation, pension, or DIC to or for a child who is pursuing a course at a federally supported school when the child is wholly supported at the expense of the Federal government.***Examples***:* Service Academies
* Service Academy Preparatory Schools, and
* Native American schools wholly supported by the Federal government, where there is no charge to the student for tuition or maintenance.
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| j. Service Academies | There are five U.S. Service Academies:* The United States Military Academy (USMA) in West Point, New York
* The United States Naval Academy (USNA) in Annapolis, Maryland
* The United States Coast Guard Academy (USCGA) in New London Connecticut
* The United States Merchant Marine Academy (USMMA) in Kings Point New York, and
* The United States Air Force Academy (USAFA) in Colorado Springs, Colorado.
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| **k. Service Academy Preparatory Schools** | There are four U.S. Service Academy Preparatory Schools:* The United States Military Academy Preparatory School (USMAPS) in West Point, New York
* The Naval Academy Preparatory School (NAPS) in Newport, Rhode Island
* The Coast Guard Academy Scholar (CGAS) Program in New London, Connecticut, and
* The United States Air Force Academy Preparatory School (USAFAPS) in Colorado Springs, Colorado.
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#### 3. Home School Programs

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| Introduction | This topic contains information about home school programs, including* home schools as educational institutions, and
* evidence that establishes a home school as an educational institution.
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| Change Date | February 13, 2012 |

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| a. Home Schools as Educational Institutions  | A home school is considered an educational institution if the school operates in compliance with the compulsory laws of the State in which the school is located.***Notes***: * VA does not award educational institution status to home schools beyond grade 12.
* If a home school is considered an educational institution, the courses of instruction it provides are also approved.

***Reference***: For more information on home schools as educational institutions, see* [*Theiss v. Principi*](http://vbaw.vba.va.gov/bl/21/advisory/CAVCDAD.htm#bmt), 18 Vet.App. 204 (2004), and
* [38 CFR 3.57(a)(iii)](http://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?SID=7d985e863e40670bb0f9932a8e9670ba&node=se38.1.3_157&rgn=div8).
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| b. Evidence That Establishes a Home School as an Educational Institution | In order for VA to recognize a home school as an educational institution, the claimant must provide documentation verifying the * home school is approved by the State authority that determines educational standards, or
* student is registered and in good standing as a home-schooled student with
* the local school district, or
* another institution, organization, or entity (such as a non-traditional private school) that is registered with or recognized by the State in which the home school is located.

***Note***: As an alternative to requesting documentation from the claimant, it is permissible to contact the local school district by telephone or e-mail to obtain oral or written verification from an appropriate local school official that the student is registered and in good standing as a home-schooled student.  |

#### 4. Periods of Enrollment and Entitlement

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| Introduction | This topic contains information on periods of entitlement to benefits based on school attendance, including* children who turn 18 while attending school
* continuity of school attendance during breaks
* children who turn 18 during a school break, and
* continued entitlement during a summer session.
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| Change Date | October 28, 2015 |

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| a. Children Who Turn 18 While Attending School | To continue paying benefits to or for a child who turns 18 during a school session, VA must receive a completed *VA Form 21-674* within one year of the child’s 18th birthday, showing the child was attending school on that date. |

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| b. Continuity of School Attendance During Breaks  | Continuity of school attendance is *not* broken by holidays, vacation periods, or periods between school sessions when attendance is not normally required. |

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| c. Children Who Turn 18 During a School Break | Do not develop for continuity of attendance if* a child turns age 18 during a normal school break, such as those described in M21-1, Part III, Subpart iii, 6.A.4.b, and
* the claimant submits a *VA Form 21-674* showing the child
* was attending school (any school, pursuing any course of instruction) immediately prior to the beginning of the school break, and
* resumed/commenced a course of instruction at the end of the break.

Continuous attendance is affirmed if *VA Form 21-674* shows * prior attendance
* at the same or another school, and/or
* in the same or a different course, and/or
* the course terminated immediately prior to the break.

If *VA Form 21-674* is received *prior* to resumption/commencement of a course of instruction at the end of a break, follow the instructions in M21-1, Part III, Subpart iii, 6.B.5.b.***Note***: Completion of a *VA Form 21-674b, School Attendance Report* for the prior period of school attendance is *not* required.***References***: For more information on* confirming entitlement to benefits following a change in schools, see M21-1, Part III, Subpart iii, 6.B.4.a, and
* determining entitlement to benefits during a break in school sessions, see [38 CFR 3.667(c)](http://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?SID=7d985e863e40670bb0f9932a8e9670ba&node=se38.1.3_1667&rgn=div8).
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| d. Continued Entitlement During a Summer Session | Entitlement to benefits as or for a school child continues during a summer session of school, regardless of whether or not the child attends classes during the summer session, as long as the session does not extend beyond a period of time commonly accepted as standard.***Note***: This policy applies even if* the school operates on a trimester basis, and
* enrollment is deferred for the summer trimester, with entrance in the next regular school session.

***Example***: A child is removed due to finishing school on June 1, 2013. The Veteran files a claim on August 17, 2014, for schoolchild status based on school commencing August 24, 2013. In this scenario, the child would be added back on the award effective June 1, 2013, because the student was enrolled in the next regular school session after the summer break.  |