



# Education

## Benefits for Veterans Education

There were seven active education programs in fiscal year 2016:

- 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),
- 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  
 1,000,089 million beneficiaries  
 \$12.9 billion in payments in  
 FY2016 for 7 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.

The National Defense Authorization Act of 2016 ended REAP on November 25, 2015.



**U.S. Department  
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### Release history

Version & changes	Date
Version 1.0	03/02/2017



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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. For additional information visit the following link: [www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/post911\\_transfer.asp](http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/post911_transfer.asp)

## 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.

## Survivors and Dependents Educational Assistance (DEA)

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

## 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.
- The National Defense Authorization Act of 2016 ended REAP on Nov. 25, 2015. Some individuals will remain eligible for REAP benefits until November 25, 2019, while others are no longer eligible. For additional information visit the following link: <http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/reap.asp>



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## National Call to Service (NCS)

The National Call to Service incentive program is available to certain individuals who, after October 1, 2003, incur an eight-year military service obligation (MSO). This incentive is a DoD program but is administered by VA.

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 five incentives available for individuals enlisting under this program:

- 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.
- Coordination with MGIB GI Bill benefits.



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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)
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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## Quick Reference

Statistics may include individuals who used more than one education benefit; therefore totals in education program tables should not be used to reflect the total number of beneficiaries during the fiscal year unless otherwise noted.

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

Education program	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	% change from FY 15 to FY 16
POST 9/11	646,302	754,229	790,408	790,507	790,090	0%
MGIB-AD <sup>2</sup>	118,549	99,755	77,389	61,403	47,307	-23%
MGIB-SR	60,393	62,656	63,745	63,030	61,388	-3%
REAP	19,774	17,297	13,784	9,965	4,538	-54%
DEA	87,707	89,160	90,789	91,755	96,762	5%
VEAP	76	29	8	4	4	0%
VRAP	12,251	67,918	52,288	-	-	N/A
<b>Total</b>	<b>945,052</b>	<b>1,091,044</b>	<b>1,088,411</b>	<b>1,016,664</b>	<b>1,000,089</b>	<b>-2%</b>

### Beneficiaries who began receiving education benefits by training type and program during fiscal year 2016<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>	36,865	13,268	60,271	20,591	130,995	79%
MGIB-AD	291	515	4,503	295	5,574	3%
MGIB-SR	383	414	12,306	600	13,703	8%
REAP	2	15	112	8	137	0%
DEA	515	751	14,107	634	16,007	10%
VEAP	0	2	2	0	4	0%
<b>Training type totals</b>	<b>38,056</b>	<b>14,965</b>	<b>91,301</b>	<b>22,128</b>	<b>166,420</b>	<b>100%</b>

Percent of program total	23%	9%	55%	13%
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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	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.





## Beneficiaries who received education benefits during fiscal year 2016<sup>7</sup>

Program	Total beneficiaries	Total payments (\$000)
POST 9/11	790,090	\$11,583,408
MGIB-AD	47,307	\$365,092
MGIB-SR <sup>8</sup>	61,388	\$136,765
REAP	4,538	\$20,697
DEA	96,762	\$520,482
VEAP <sup>9</sup>	4	\$222
<b>Total<sup>10</sup></b>	<b>1,000,089</b>	<b>\$12,626,666</b>

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

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

<sup>9</sup> VEAP total payment dollars include 17 VEAP disenrollments totaling \$126,407.12.

<sup>10</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 2016<sup>11</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>12</sup>	12,607	8,309	15,058	95,021	130,995	79%
MGIB-AD	196	658	886	3,834	5,574	3%
MGIB-SR	399	1,011	1,637	10,656	13,703	8%
REAP	4	15	25	93	137	0%
DEA	413	1,194	1,591	12,809	16,007	10%
VEAP	2	0	0	2	4	0%
<b>Training time totals</b>	<b>13,621</b>	<b>11,187</b>	<b>19,197</b>	<b>122,415</b>	<b>166,420</b>	<b>100%</b>

Percent of program total	8%	7%	12%	74%
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<sup>11</sup> Source: Hines Information Technology Center

<sup>12</sup> Post-9/11 GI Bill statistics source: Office of Performance Analysis and Integrity





## 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 a 49-percent increase in the number of unique trainees in fiscal year 2016 compared to fiscal year 2015.

## 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 56-percent increase in the number of unique trainees in fiscal year 2016 compared to fiscal year 2015.

## 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. There was a 85-percent decrease in the total dollars paid under this program in fiscal year 2016 compared to fiscal year 2015.

### Unique beneficiaries and payments by fiscal year<sup>13</sup>

(Dollar amounts are in the thousands \$000)

Usage Type	2013		2014		2015		2016	
Tuition assistance top-up <sup>14</sup>	4,573	\$8,850	3,279	\$6,477	2,526	\$5,125	4,985	\$5,525
License and certification tests	1,266	\$622	968	\$460	721	\$364	1,654	\$1,951
Accelerated payment <sup>15</sup>	NA	\$205	NA	\$85	20	\$58	7	24
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,839</b>	<b>\$9,677</b>	<b>4,247</b>	<b>\$7,022</b>	<b>3,267</b>	<b>\$5,547</b>	<b>6,646</b>	<b>\$7,500</b>

<sup>13</sup> Source: Education Service FOCAS and Accelerated Payment reports.

<sup>14</sup> Post-9/11 Top-Up statistics currently are not available.

<sup>15</sup> Unable to determine number of beneficiaries receiving accelerated payments prior to 2015.



## **Transfer of Post-9/11 GI Bill Benefits and 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 2016, there were 132,666 beneficiaries who received transferred benefits from a Servicemember or Veteran. Of those 98,099 were children while 34,567 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 2016, 2,014 children received Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits under the Fry Scholarship.

Spouses of an active duty member of the Armed Forces who dies in the line of duty on or after September 11, 2001, are also eligible for the Fry Scholarship. During fiscal year 2016, 1,018 spouses received Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits under this benefit.

## **GI Bill Facebook Page Statistics**

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Education Service created the Post-9/11 GI Bill Facebook page [facebook.com/gibillEducation](https://www.facebook.com/gibillEducation) in fiscal year 2009. 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 who is eligible in addition to the general Facebook community. Of the approximately 96,599 Facebook members who follow and interact with our Facebook Page:

- 58 percent are male and 42 percent are female;
- 37 percent of our users are between the ages of 18 and 34;
- 28 percent are between the ages of 35 and 44;
- An overwhelming majority of users are from the United States, while the Philippines and Germany are second and third respectively.

Note: The data is current as of October 1, 2016, and should not be seen as characteristic of those who use the Post-9/11 GI Bill. There is no secure way for VA to determine if a Facebook user is also eligible and/or using the Post-9/11 GI Bill. Therefore, the characteristics listed above should only be viewed as a limited sample of the Facebook user community who maintain an interest in the Post-9/11 GI Bill.



## 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 2016 by state

Location	POST 9/11	MGIB-AD	MGIB-SR	REAP	DEA	VEAP <sup>16</sup>	TOTAL
Alabama	15,546	1,325	1,588	96	4,157	0	22,712
Alaska	3,315	64	82	4	185	0	3,650
Arizona	43,772	2,623	1,157	154	3,137	0	50,843
Arkansas	4,476	350	1,062	105	1,751	0	7,744
California	75,222	2,943	2,462	138	7,670	1	88,436
Colorado	23,739	1,122	629	42	1,712	0	27,244
Connecticut	3,808	197	663	23	391	0	5,082
Delaware	1,701	33	193	6	210	0	2,143
Dist. of Columbia	3,836	102	78	4	257	0	4,277
Florida	58,265	2,929	2,225	173	7,123	1	70,716
Georgia	23,856	1,503	2,464	104	4,544	0	32,471
Hawaii	6,408	102	222	5	362	0	7,099
Idaho	2,610	254	391	46	439	0	3,740
Illinois	18,602	2,739	2,795	206	1,962	0	26,304
Indiana	8,367	510	1,550	105	1,081	0	11,613
Iowa	11,796	1,403	1,352	136	920	0	15,607
Kansas	8,521	1,336	775	129	766	0	11,527
Kentucky	6,750	481	1,014	110	1,685	0	10,040
Louisiana	7,071	360	1,352	1,355	2,004	0	12,142
Maine	1,989	73	247	10	606	0	2,925
Maryland	21,589	861	723	32	1,186	0	24,391
Massachusetts	9,884	176	1,081	58	1,029	0	12,228
Michigan	10,455	443	1,169	29	1,740	0	13,836
Minnesota	10,661	633	1,846	121	1,368	0	14,629
Mississippi	4,940	271	1,539	84	1,227	0	8,061
Missouri	12,022	1,051	1,516	141	1,737	0	16,467
Montana	2,030	104	248	11	304	0	2,697
Nebraska	5,445	590	590	54	712	0	7,391

Continued on the next page



<sup>16</sup> VEAP totals by state are an estimate based on total trained during the fiscal year and not actual beneficiaries by state for this program.



### Beneficiaries by state (continued)

Location	POST 9/11	MGIB-AD	MGIB-SR	REAP	DEA	VEAP	TOTAL
Nevada	4,519	327	488	50	653	0	6,037
New Hampshire	6,795	324	377	25	498	0	8,019
New Jersey	7,691	213	1,291	22	785	0	10,002
New Mexico	3,529	528	355	28	1,159	0	5,599
New York	23,782	878	1,780	68	2,439	0	28,947
North Carolina	20,813	2,443	1,541	159	5,087	0	30,043
North Dakota	1,564	101	551	39	185	0	2,440
Ohio	13,845	701	2,978	280	1,796	0	19,600
Oklahoma	8,128	953	1,229	193	2,342	0	12,845
Oregon	8,266	318	391	24	1,282	0	10,281
Pennsylvania	18,869	614	2,973	73	2,082	0	24,611
Rhode Island	1,626	38	336	7	190	0	2,197
South Carolina	11,079	434	1,401	83	3,225	0	16,222
South Dakota	1,599	85	476	29	236	0	2,425
Tennessee	12,458	561	1,190	68	1,954	0	16,231
Texas	68,466	5,223	3,063	164	10,150	1	87,067
Utah	8,610	1,012	843	122	932	0	11,519
Vermont	1,435	105	172	3	102	0	1,817
Virginia	44,699	1,799	1,570	105	4,261	1	52,435
Washington	18,447	564	687	14	2,280	0	21,992
West Virginia	16,010	1,868	929	143	966	0	19,916
Wisconsin	7,579	298	1,959	123	1,167	0	11,126
Wyoming	950	191	140	36	108	0	1,425
Puerto Rico	2,437	105	1,731	165	1,859	0	6,297
Philippines	408	85	0	0	334	0	827
Foreign	410	0	96	3	167	0	676
Other <sup>17</sup>	0	0	0	0	401	0	401
<b>National totals<sup>18</sup></b>	<b>720,690</b>	<b>44,346</b>	<b>59,560</b>	<b>5,507</b>	<b>96,905</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>927,012</b>

<sup>17</sup> Other categories include those who received non-Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits for training in on-the-job, apprenticeship, flight, Top-Up, and correspondence programs.

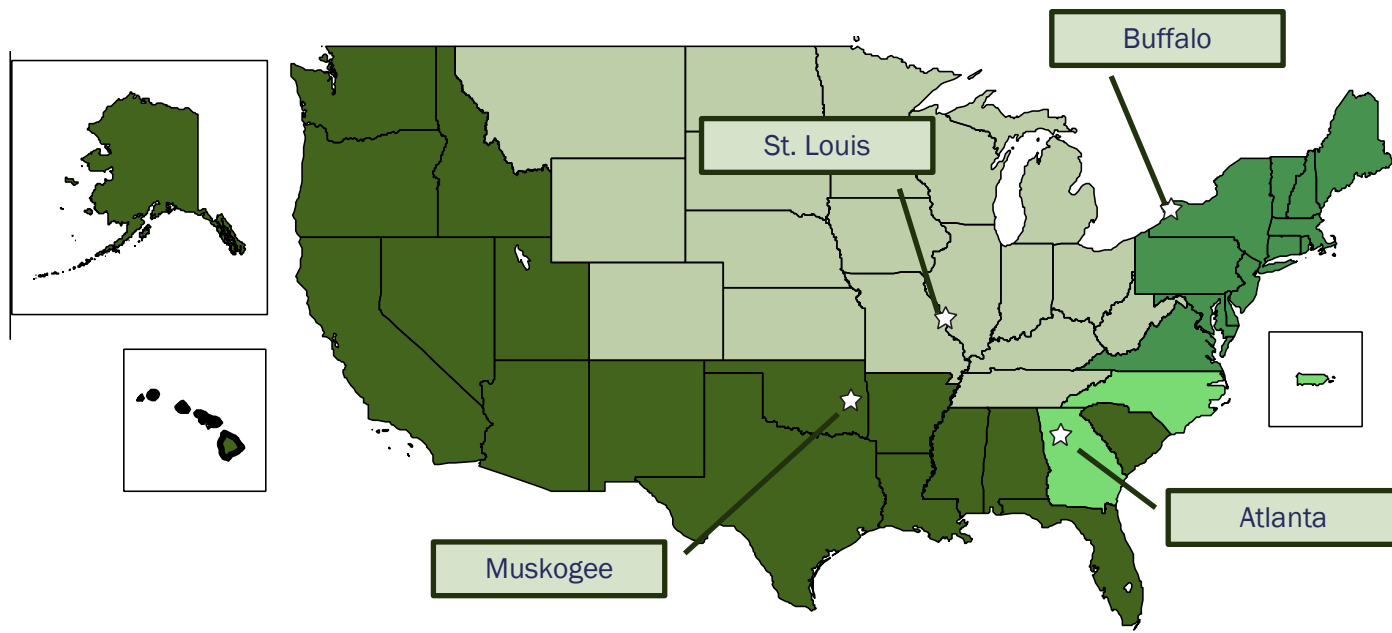
<sup>18</sup> The totals within this table should not be used to reflect the total number of beneficiaries during the fiscal year – see note at the top of the previous page.



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## 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  
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### 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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