

School Liaison Office FAQs

Questions frequently asked by inbound parents include:

1. What schools do children/youth living on the installation attend?

Sandia Base Elementary School

21001 Wyoming SE
Kirtland AFB, NM 87116
Website: <http://sandibase.aps.edu/>
Grades: K-5
Mascots: Mustangs
Uniforms: not required

Phone: (505) 268-4356
Fax: (505) 260-2028
Colors: Blue & Yellow

Van Buren Middle School

700 Louisiana SE
Albuquerque, NM 87108
Website: <http://vanburen.aps.edu/>
Grades: 6-8
Mascots: Falcons
Uniforms: Mandatory

Phone: (505) 268-3833
Fax: (505) 260-6654
Colors: Black & Gold

Highland High School

4700 Coal Avenue SE
Albuquerque, NM 87108
Website: <http://highland.aps.edu/>
Grades: 9-12
Mascots: Hornets
Uniforms: Not required

Phone: (505) 265-3711
Fax: (505) 348-8503
Colors: Navy & Yellow

2. What school do children/youth living off base attend?

Kirtland AFB has unique educational opportunities within commuting distance to the base- Albuquerque Public Schools (APS) is the 33rd largest school district in the country with about 84,000 students and 143 schools. There are three additional nearby school districts with a combined 43 schools, there are 59 charter schools and 65 private schools for a total of 310 schools in commuting distance. Additionally, we have 99 accredited preschool and prekindergarten programs in the surrounding area, with another 70 prekindergarten programs in the local schools. There are also virtual schools options and many home schooling families and communities. As a result, we have students in many different schools all over the area.

There is a large population of military connected families that live in the northwest corner of the city and attend schools in the Volcano Vista High School cluster. This includes Tierra Antigua ES, Ventana Ranch ES, Sunset View ES, Tony Hillerman MS and Volcano Vista HS.

3. When does school start?

The school year typically starts in our area around the second week of August and gets out for the year before Memorial Day. The school year started for students in the Albuquerque Public Schools district on August 12, 2019 and most other schools in the area start around the same time.

The school day starts early for high school students at around 7:20 for most public schools. Many schools have zero hour for electives like band, chorus, ROTC which starts around 6:30 am. Public middle schools typically starts around 8:15 am and elementary school vary with either an early start (7:30- 8:00ish am) or late around 9:00 am.

4. How old must a child be to start school?

In New Mexico, a child must turn five years old by August 31 to start in a public school kindergarten. Private schools can and do take younger students. If your child completes kindergarten in an **accredited** private kindergarten and are academically ready, they can start in first grade in the public schools the following year. They will have to demonstrate academic readiness and may be placed in kindergarten if the school determines they need additional time in kindergarten.

If your child did not turn five years old by the cutoff date, but you move **after** your child has started kindergarten in your previous location and you are an active duty family, the Interstate Compact for the Educational Opportunity for Military Students allows your child to enroll in kindergarten.

5. What are the school's accountability data (ranking, test scores, financial, demographics, etc.)?

New Mexico has recently changed the law regarding public schools accountability data and reporting. Starting in the 2019-20 school years, each school will create a dashboard to provide information as required in the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), the current federal Elementary and Secondary School Act. The dashboard will include data on the student's proficiency and student academic growth (based on standardized test scores), English Language Learners proficiency data, high school graduation data, attendance and other factors. The school's dashboard will also include financial (free and reduced lunch numbers) and demographic information. The dashboard will add information specific to the school, such as their mission, vision and goals, and can incorporate information such as the school's strengths, opportunities for improvement and programmatic offerings. The New Mexico Public Education Department (NMPED) previously gave each school a letter grade each year. You can find past year's grade at - <http://aae.ped.state.nm.us/>

6. Which schools do most of the installation children attend?

The majority of students living in base housing attend the boundary schools, students attend Sandia Base Elementary School, Van Buren MS and Highland HS. This is based on data from the 2017-18 school year. However, with over 300 schools in the area, we have military connected students attending many different schools.

7. How far is the walk or bus ride to and from school?

Sandia Base Elementary School is located in base housing, so all students walk to school as it is located within one mile of all residences. Students in middle school are bused to Van Buren Middle School which is 2 miles from base housing. High school students are bused to Highland High School which is 3 miles from base housing.

8. What are the boundaries for the various off-base schools?

The boundary maps for Albuquerque Public Schools can be found at <http://www.aps.edu/find-my-school/>.

9. What is the school registration procedure?





You will need the following documents to register your child in Albuquerque Public Schools:

- Child's birth certificate
- Child's vaccination records
- Proof of address (such as a current utility bill, mortgage, or lease agreement with your name and current address on it)

This is typically what you will need for any public school district schools. If your child will be attending a charter or private school, you will need to contact the school directly for registration requirements.

10. What kind of before and after-school and holiday care programs are available?

Many organizations in Albuquerque offer before/after school programs. These programs provide a variety of activities, including:

-  Arts and crafts
-  Field trips
-  Recreation
-  Study time

Kirtland AFB's Before and After School program at the Youth Center services Sandia Base Elementary and Kirtland Elementary School. For more information

about this program, call the Youth Center at 853-KIDS (5437). Eligibility requirements and priority of authorized use follow Department of Defense and Air Force policies; contact the Youth Center for details.

For other programs and schools served, visit the school's website or APS's Before & After School program's information page at www.aps.edu/schools/before-and-after-school-programs. Fees vary according to the agency providing the service.

11. What are the state procedures for home schooling?

Parents have a number of choices if they are interested in homeschooling. All parents must follow certain state guidelines and must notify the state of the establishment of a home school via the home school website (electronically), or send written notification to the Secretary of Education at 300 Don Gaspar Santa Fe, NM 87501-2786 (Attention: Home School Bureau) within thirty (30) days of establishment of a Home School and re-notify on or before August 1st of each year thereafter. The Public Education Department of New Mexico's Home Schools bureau disseminates information and provides technical assistance to parents, community members, schools, and district personnel on home schools. Home schools are operated by a parent or legal guardian of a school-age person who instructs a home study program, including but not limited to reading, language arts, mathematics, social studies, and science. These students are not considered public school students and do not receive credits for the courses, unless the home study program is through an accredited correspondence school. For further information, visit the NMPED Home School webpage at <http://www.ped.state.nm.us/HomeSchools/> or call the NMPED Home Schools Office at (505) 827-6909. Resources provided by the New Mexico Public Education Department can be found on the webpage. I also provide resources on my webpage.

12. What about ??????????

There is much, much more information located on the Kirtland AFB SLO website and in the Handbook for Parents of School-Age Children (available for download on the webpage). And of course, please contact me for any other questions or for more information!!!!

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