



# Acronyms and Definitions

## Glossary

### Part I. Acronyms

Acronym	Meaning
AP <sup>©</sup>	Advanced Placement
ACR	Academic Counseling Review
CSC	Case Study Committee; Special Education
ELA	English Language Arts
ELL	English Language Learner
ESL	English as a Second Language (Program)
GPA	Grade Point Average
IB	International Baccalaureate
IEP	Individual Educational Program
JROTC	Junior Reserve Officer Training Corp
LEAs	Local Education Agencies
PCS	Permanent Change of Station
WL	World Language

### Part II. Definitions

#### *academic counseling review*

An academic counseling review (ACR) includes, but is not limited to, review of the student's transcript, grades, graduation status, scheduled coursework, and 4-6 Year Academic/Post-Secondary plan. The ACR is conducted by the school counselor with the student to ascertain the student's progress toward meeting DoDEA's minimum graduation requirements, the actions the student may take to achieve graduation requirements, and postsecondary/career goals.

#### *accredited institution (system)*

An institution (system) that is accredited by one of the six U. S. regional accrediting associations, one of the U.S. state education agencies, or by a public- or state-supported system of accreditation for public or private education programs in a foreign nation.



### ***advanced level courses***

High school courses based upon high level achievement in a sequence of study verified by examining boards. Advanced level courses are designated as such and include AP® and IB courses. There are no corresponding honors courses which are considered to be verified advanced level courses for the purpose of weighted grades and calculation of GPA.

### ***annual senior graduation report***

A report identifying the number of students who graduated with the DoDEA standard or honors diploma, number of students approved with exceptions to minimum graduation requirements (e.g., course, credit, GPA deficiencies), number of students graduating under the senior transfer provision options from a sending school or reciprocity with adjusted DoDEA requirements, and the number of students not graduating and their graduation plan.

### ***career technical education endorsement***

An official acknowledgement of a student's successful completion of the required coursework in a specific Career Technical Education Pathway. It is an indicator of career readiness and requires a student's demonstrated mastery of specific rigorous coursework.

### ***cumulative grade point average***

Cumulative grade point average (GPA) for earned course credits is based on a 4-point scale and represents the average of all earned course credits.

### ***dual enrollment***

Dual enrollment is defined as any opportunity for secondary students to attain college credit by an accredited college or university through instructional deliveries used in colleges and universities across U.S. systems.

### ***elective course***

An elective course is a credited course, chosen by the student, to meet academic and/or postsecondary goals.

### ***English language learner***

Students who are designated as an English as a second language learner and receive services to support their understanding of the English language while maintaining respect for and pride in their cultural and linguistic heritage.

### ***four- to six-year academic/postsecondary plan***

A blueprint for a high school academic and postsecondary planning for students attending grades 7-12. The plan guides the decision-making for selecting appropriate classes to fulfill high school graduation requirements to earn a diploma and pursue identified postsecondary and career goals. The plan is developed during middle school (grade 7) or when a student enters a DoDEA high school and updated regularly. It is developed collaboratively by the school counselor, student, and parent/sponsor and updated annually to organize and reflect the student's educational coursework, program of studies, and postsecondary aspirations.



### ***grade point average***

Grade point average (GPA) is determined by totaling all the quality points earned and dividing the sum by the total number of credits attempted.

### ***graduation rate***

The graduation rate is the number of 12th grade students enrolled in April who graduate the same school year.

### ***high school course***

A course bearing the standardized course description in accordance with the DoDEA Master Course List that identifies high school level content and awards high school credit.

### ***honors courses***

Include the same content as corresponding non-honors high school level courses. Honors courses require greater use of abstract and higher level thinking skills and require research and the completion of projects of a more rigorous and challenging nature. Honors courses do not receive a weighted course grade.

### ***individual education program***

Special education Individual Education Program (IEP) is specially designed instruction, support, and services provided to students with an identified disability requiring an individually designed instructional program to meet their unique learning needs. The purpose of an IEP is to enable students to successfully develop to their fullest potential by providing a free appropriate public education in compliance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act as implemented by Department of Defense (DoD) Instruction 1342.12, "Provision of Early Intervention and Special Education Services to Eligible DoD Dependents." (Reference (f); Reference (m), DoDEA Manual 2500.13-G, Special Education Procedural Guide.)

### ***IEP graduation plan course of study***

A unique IEP graduation plan for students with moderate/severe or severe/profound disabilities who receive the majority of their educational experience focusing on functional/community/life skills development rather than completion of the requisite coursework to earn the standard diploma.

### ***International Baccalaureate Diploma***

The International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma is offered in select DoDEA schools and is awarded upon successful completion of all requirements that are prescribed by the IB program.

### ***Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children***

Uniform agreement adopted by member states and DoDEA, as an ex-officio member, to implement educational policies which address key transition issues encountered by military families including enrollment, placement, attendance, eligibility, and graduation. Provisions in the Compact provide for a consistent policy for transitioning military students in member states.

### ***laboratory course***

A science course that includes a minimum of 40 of the 120 course hours and focuses on educational activities of an inquisitive nature that requires students to design and conduct scientific inquiry.



### ***local education agency***

A U.S. public authority legally constituted by a U.S. state as an administrative agency to provide control of and direction for kindergarten through twelfth (12<sup>th</sup>) grade public educational institutions.

### ***official transcript***

DoDEA considers an official transcript (received at the local DoDEA school from the releasing school system) as one that is presented in a sealed envelope, with a stamp from the releasing school, certifying that this is an official student transcript.

### ***quality point system***

The system used by DoDEA to award course credit based upon the quality point system commonly accepted in U.S. education systems. The standard un-weighted quality point values are based on a 4-point scale, and the weighted quality point values are based on a 5-point scale for computing GPAs.

### ***required course***

A high school level course in a designated subject area that must be taken to fulfill the minimum requirements to earn a DoDEA diploma.

### ***secondary student***

A student enrolled in grades 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12.

### ***Section 504 Accommodation Plan***

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 is a civil rights statute that prohibits discrimination against individuals with disabilities. The law requires school districts with students with disabilities to provide accommodations to allow access to educational programs and associated activities to the same extent as students without disabilities. A student is considered disabled and may be eligible to be considered for an accommodation if he/she has a physical or mental impairment and the impairment substantially limits one or more major life activities.

### ***substantially heavier-than-normal course load***

A full schedule with normal course load that ranges between seven (7.0) to eight (8.0) units of credit per year; a student may enroll in an additional 2.0 credits to meet graduation requirements. Credits beyond the additional 2.0 would be considered a substantially heavier-than-normal course load.

### ***unit of credit***

Units of high school course credit are awarded based upon completion of 120 instructional hours (1.0 unit or credit) or 60 instructional hours (0.5 unit or credit). DoDEA does not issue one-fourth course credit (0.25 credit).

### ***virtual courses***

Refers to courses offered by the DoDEA Virtual School.

### ***weighted grade point average***

Weighted grade point average is calculated using a quality point value based on a 5-point scale.