Preparing Military Dependents
DEA/Chapter 35 & the High School Senior

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What is Survivors' and Dependents' Educational assistance program?

*AKA DEA
*AKA Chapter 35

*For Academic School Year that begins on 10/1/2023 through 9/30/2024

**Less for parttime or less rate of pursuit

THE VETERAN OR SERVICE MEMBER:

- Has a rating at 100% permanent and total disability
- Has died in the line of duty
- There are other qualifying criteria; refer to the VA's DEA webpage for the complete list.

THE CHILD BENEFICIARY

- Must be 18 or older
- The dependent may be married or unmarried
- May apply for their benefit at Apply For Education Benefits | Veterans Affairs (va.gov)

DEA-CHP35 PAYS UP TO $1,488.00* IN BENEFIT AT AN IHL OR NCD

- Fulltime rate of pursuit**
- This amount updates every October 1st
- Click here for updated payment rates
- Benefit is paid directly to student

DEA Dependent Criteria

*AKA DEA
*AKA Chapter 35

DEPENDENTS MAY QUALIFY TO USE DEA BENEFITS *AT ANY TIME* WHEN ONE OF THE FOLLOWING IS TRUE FOR THE DEPENDENT:

- The event that qualified the dependent for DEA benefits happened to the Veteran or service member **on or after** August 1st, 2023 OR
- The dependent turned 18 years old **on or after** August 1, 2023 OR
- The dependent completed high school or secondary education **on or after** August 1st, 2023

DEPENDENTS WHO HAVE AGE & TIME *LIMITS* FOR USING THEIR DEA BENEFITS PRESENT WHEN ALL THE BELOW CRITERIA IS TRUE:

- The event that qualified the dependent for DEA benefits happened to the Veteran or service member **before** August 1st, 2023 AND
- The dependent turned 18 years old **before** August 1, 2023 AND
- The dependent completed high school or secondary education **before** August 1st, 2023
- For a Child of a Veteran who meets this criteria, benefits start at 18 and the child beneficiary has 8 years to utilize benefits
  - *there may be exceptions so see* [*VA's DEA webpage*](#)

TITLE 38 USC §3675

The approval process for high schools is streamlined because public High Schools are deemed approved under Title 38 USC §3675

- Approved as a NCD or NonCollege-Degree program
- The reason being is that Title 38 USC §3675 references "*secondary school*" and high schools are categorized as a secondary school.

IS MY HIGH SCHOOL ALREADY APPROVED BY THE IDAHO SAA?

TO DETERMINE IF A HIGH SCHOOL IS APPROVED FOR DEA/CHP 35, USE THIS LINK:

[GI Bill® Comparison Tool (Search By Name) | Veterans Affairs (va.gov)](#)

HIGH SCHOOL SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

A HIGH SCHOOL APPROVAL PACKET TO THE IDAHO SAA INCLUDES:

1. The High School's Student Handbook
2. 22-8794 (list of designated school certifying officials or SCO)
3. Copies of all SCO certificate of completion of SCO Training (completed on VA's website)
4. Completed 22-10288 (the actual application)
5. Supplemental Supporting Documents:
   - VA Form 20-8206 (statement of assurance w EOL)
   - Proof of Accreditation
   - Completion of exhibits as outlined in the application email received from the Idaho SAA

High Schools may request an approval packet from the Idaho SAA by emailing education@veterans.Idaho.gov*.*

SUNSET FOR HIGH SCHOOLS IS COMING

Cleland and Robert Joseph Dole Memorial Veterans Benefits and Health Care Improvement Act of 2022, Section 215, details veterans' education benefits at a "secondary school" (high school), provided under Section 3501(a)(6) of Title 38, **will be struck from the law and will be replaced with "postsecondary school."**

- The cessation of use of this VA Chapter 35 Dependents' Educational Assistance benefit at secondary schools, i.e., *High Schools*, will become effective August 1, 2026.

- The legislation that puts change into law is found on H.R. 2617 and is buried in that appropriation bill. See page 2477 using this link: https://docs.house.gov/billsthisweek/20221219/BILLS-117hr2617eas2.pdf

WHAT DOES THIS LEGISLATION MEAN?

HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAMS CONTINUE TO BE APPROVED UNDER TITLE 38 USC §3675 UNTIL SUNSET

- It is timeline restrictive but qualifying High School beneficiaries may continue to utilize benefits in the interim at an approved secondary school
- It gives High Schools time to come up to speed on how to help their seniors who qualify for DEA benefits use their benefit to its fully potential.

CALLING HIGH SCHOOL LEADERS

The DEA/CHP35 benefit is important for beneficiary students; we ask you to create and drive awareness of this important benefit for those affected students at the high school where you lead.

- Drive awareness of this benefit by reaching out to students and parents.

- For those qualifying beneficiaries (who may or may not know this benefit is available to them), this benefit will help the family plan for their dependent's next step into adulthood.

- High school principals can foster awareness by making this directive a strategic priority for their beneficiary student's completion of High School as well as a steppingstone for a protected demographic that allows beneficiaries realize their future education and career goals.

- The Idaho SAA needs informed counselors to help qualifying students and their parents to understand their benefit and create awareness.

  - The Idaho SAA is happy to present on this topic to any leader who requests it.

Helpful Links and Resources for Beneficiaries & Certifying Officials

Thank you for your interest!

Check out the Idaho SAA's webpage at [Education | Division of Veterans Services (idaho.gov)](#)

- *Learn about the roles and responsibilities of the Idaho State Approving Agency (SAA)*

- *Find Idaho-specific Events and Information such as job and education fairs*

- *Discover Resources for Veterans, their Spouses & Dependents*

- *Quick links to Resources for Certifying Officials*

- *And so much more…*

QUESTIONS?

Email Questions to the Idaho State Approving Agency: education@veterans.Idaho.gov