



Greetings,

Congratulations on your assignment to Offutt AFB, gem of the Midwest and one of the best assignments in the Air Force! I have included some important information about the school options available for your children; public, private, and homeschooling. Our base provides some of the finest services in the Air Force – if you are looking for childcare, family friendly events, support services, please visit the 55th FSS website at <https://www.offutt55fss.com/> for lots of great information!

There are over 20 public school districts located in the Omaha metro area as well as in Council Bluffs and Glenwood Iowa. The two largest districts educating our military youth are Bellevue Public Schools and Papillion LaVista Community Schools. These districts fall under the guidance of the Nebraska Department of Education – there are no DoD Schools in the state of Nebraska. We are not a school choice state, your district is determined by your address although you have a chance to Option Enroll in different districts when there is space availability. School district boundaries do not align with city boundaries, please contact me if you have a question about which district you will attend.

Immunization Information

Regardless of where you enroll, Nebraska law requires that all students entering pre-kindergarten, kindergarten or seventh grade have a physical exam prior to the start of the school year. Exams must have been completed within the last six months of the first day of school (or day of enrollment for new families). Physical exams are also required for students transferring into any grade level from schools outside of the state. The physical may be completed by any physician either in the state or outside of the state as long as the form is filled out.

Advance Enrollment Policies

In 2019, Nebraska has passed legislation for advance enrollment of military families if they meet the criteria. The school board shall permit children of military families to enroll preliminarily in a school district if a parent presents evidence of military orders that the military family will be stationed in this state during the current or following school year. A student of a military family shall be admitted to the school district without charge upon arrival in Nebraska if the requirements are met.

With advance enrollment, you will not get to pick the specific school and will be assigned a school based upon your address once you arrive. If the district you completed advance enrollment with is not zoned for your address, you will have to complete option enrollment if you wish to attempt to stay in that district.

Option Enrollment Policies

Parents may choose to opt to enroll into a district of their choosing. If the district grants option enrollment, the district will then choose the school for the student. Some districts may ask for a preference list or additional support for selecting the district such as childcare needs.

The window for option enrollment applications is September 1 through March 15 for the following and subsequent school years. Please let me know if you have any questions regarding option enrollment or visit the option enrollment website

<https://www.education.ne.gov/fos/enrollment-option-application-instructions-faqs/>

Public School Districts

Bellevue Public Schools : Bellevue Public Schools is proud to serve the educational needs of the Bellevue/Offutt Community. The BPS District has just over 10,000 students; there are 2 high schools, 3 middle schools, and 15 elementary schools in the BPS District serving PK-12th grade. The district is accredited by the state of Nebraska and AdvancED, a global accreditation agency. Bellevue provides a comprehensive education program designed to meet the needs of all students. The district-guided, teacher-written curriculum is aligned with Nebraska state standards. Extensive extra-curricular activities provide students with multiple opportunities to participate. Each year Bellevue students earn state and national recognition in such diverse fields as engineering, science, communication arts, vocal music, band, JROTC, industrial arts, and athletics. www.bellevuepublicschools.org 2600 Arboretum Drive, Bellevue Nebraska 68005. Phone 402-293-4000. (*Important note:* Bellevue Public Schools is the district servicing our base housing area, Rising View, www.risingview.com)

Papillion LaVista Community Schools: At Papillion La Vista Community Schools (PLCS), our purpose remains steadfast in preparing students for a successful transition into the next phase of her or his life. A strong team of staff, parents and community members are committed in that purpose and to being known for greatness. Located just south of Omaha, residents with the PLCS benefit from a small town atmosphere while still having all of the conveniences of a metropolitan area. In 2010, the District received accreditation from the AdvancED Accreditation Commission. This is a prestigious honor held by only select districts throughout the country. Papillion La Vista Community Schools prides itself on meeting the individual needs of all students through a wide range of opportunities provided through an extensive co-curricular and extracurricular program. Serving over 12,000 students, PLCS is the fourth largest district in Nebraska. www.plcschools.org 420 S. Washington St., Papillion, NE 68046 402-537-6200

Omaha Public Schools (OPS)	https://district.ops.org/Default.aspx
Millard Public Schools (MPS)	http://www.mpsomaha.org/
Westside Community Schools	https://westside66.org/
Gretna Public Schools	https://www.gpsne.org/
Springfield Platteview Community Schools	https://www.springfieldplatteview.org/
Plattsmouth Community Schools	https://www.pcsd.org/
Elkhorn Public Schools	https://www.elkhornweb.org/

Bennington Public Schools	http://benningtonschools.org/
Council Bluffs (Iowa) Community Schools	https://www.cb-schools.org/
Glenwood (Iowa) Community Schools	http://glenwoodschoos.org/
Lewis Central (Iowa) Community Schools	http://www.lewiscentral.org/

Please visit the State Department of Education’s websites to learn more about the schools and the districts.

Nebraska	https://nep.education.ne.gov/
Iowa	https://www.iaschoolperformance.gov/ECP/Home/Index

Private Schools

There are many private school options available in the Omaha Metro area as well as Council Bluffs, Iowa, both religious affiliated and non-denominational. These are just a few that service our military families:

Bellevue:

Cornerstone Christian Academy; PreK – grade 12	http://cornerstonechristianschool.org/
St. Mary’s Elementary School ; PreK – grade 8	http://www.stmarysschoolbellevue.com/
St. Matthew Catholic School; PreK – grade 8	https://www.stmatthewbellevuene.net/
St. Bernadette Catholic School; Prek – grade 8	www.stbernadetteschool.net
Daniel J Gross Catholic High School; Grades 9-12	https://grosscatholic.org/

Papillion

St. Columbkille Catholic School; K-8	https://saintcolumbkilleschool.org/
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Omaha

Brownell Talbot Schools; preK – grade 12	https://www.brownell.edu/
Creighton Preparatory School; grades 9-12	https://creightonprep.creighton.edu/
Mercy High School; grades 9-12	https://www.mercyhigh.org/

Council Bluffs, Iowa

St. Albert Catholic School; grades K-12	https://saintalbertschools.org/
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Home Schooling

In Nebraska, “home schools” are referred to as exempt schools – parents (or legal guardians) may educate their child at home by electing not to meet State approval or accreditation requirements. Offutt AFB has a vibrant homeschool environment, with many active military families. Resources listed below will answer many questions about how to get started, and what sort of options are available in the Omaha metro area.

As a home school student, you must register with the state of Nebraska as home school student. To register, visit the Nebraska Department of Education website for exempt schools (home school) to get started <https://www.education.ne.gov/fos/exempt-schools/>

Omaha Virtual School, accredited, K-12	https://www.ops.org/ovs
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Omaha Homeschool Learning Center
University of Nebraska High School

<https://omahahomeschool.com/>
<https://highschool.nebraska.edu/>

Social media and support groups

Offutt Homeschoolers <https://www.facebook.com/groups/offutthomeschoolers/>
HOME (Homeschooling in the Omaha metro)
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/HOMEHomeschoolGroup/>
HSLDA (Home School Legal Defense Association) <https://hslda.org/>
Home School Association for Military Families <https://hslda.org/military>

Once again, Welcome to Offutt! Please let me know if you have any further questions or would like more information!

Respectfully,

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Student focused.... Partnership Driven