

# Maxwell-Gunter AFB School Liaison FAQ

Questions frequently asked by inbound parents include:

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

- Elementary/Middle School:

Maxwell Elementary & Middle School (DoDEA)

<https://www.dodea.edu/MaxwellAFBEMS/>

<https://www.facebook.com/DodeaMaxwellEMS/>

Note: FamCamp on Maxwell AFB is also designated as permanent living quarters. This designation allows permanent residents within the camping area to attend Maxwell Elementary & Middle School.

- High School:

Students residing in housing on Maxwell AFB and Gunter-Annex in grades 9-12 are zoned in the Montgomery Public School System. Maxwell AFB is zoned for Carver Senior High School and Gunter-Annex is zoned for Lee High School. Bus service is provided for schools.

## 2. What other options are there for schools?

Please read the [K-12 School website](#) for current information or contact the School Liaison to find out about all your options.

- Out-of-district enrollment
- Charter Schools
- Boarding Schools
- Magnet Schools
- Virtual Schools
- Private Schools

## 3. Do we have to be in Alabama to apply for magnet schools?

No, you do not have to live in Montgomery Public School District (MPS) to apply, although if your child is selected and chooses to attend, you will have to live in the MPS district – including Maxwell/Gunter – by the first day of school. This means that anyone can apply, regardless of where they currently live.

## 4. When is the magnet school application window?

The application window is typically January/February. Please check the [Montgomery Public Schools](#) website for current information.

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

There are four school districts surrounding Maxwell-Gunter AFB. All public school districts are accredited by [Cognia](#).

- [Autauga County Schools](#)

- [Elmore County Schools](#)
- [Montgomery County Schools](#)
- [Pike Road Schools](#)

*Congress recently authorized a pilot program through the 2021 National Defense Authorization Act that allows for the children of full-time, active duty military who do not live on an installation to attend a DoDEA school, provided space is available. Maxwell Air Force Base, home to Maxwell Elementary and Middle School, is the first locale to introduce this four-year pilot program. For more information - <https://www.dodea.edu/MaxwellAFBEMS/pilot.cfm>*

**6. When does school start?**

In Alabama, the school year typically starts around the second week of August and ends late May.

**7. How old must a child be to start school?**

The compulsory school age in Alabama is 6 to 17, but a child who turns five years old by September 1 can start Kindergarten in a public school. Private schools can and do enroll younger students.

**8. Pre-K Enrollment?**

Alabama's nationally recognized First Class Pre-K programs accept registration applications at the beginning of each calendar year (Jan/Feb). **To participate, a child must be 4 years old (and not yet 5) on or before September 1, 2022 and an Alabama resident.** Go to [Alabama First Class](#) to learn more about First Class Pre-K programs.

Maxwell Elementary & Middle School (DoDEA) also offers a Pre-K program on base. **To participate, a child must be 4 years old (and not yet 5) on or before September 1, of the current school year.** MEMS Pre-K is a half-day program. Parents can request to attend the morning or afternoon session. Additional information regarding DoDEA Pre-School Curriculum - <https://www.dodea.edu/Curriculum/Preschool/index.cfm>

Families residing on installation are assured enrollment at MEMS Pre-K. However, as of SY 2021-22 active duty, military families residing off-installation can also enroll at MEMS via the [Pilot program](#).

**9. Where can I find school's accountability data (ranking, test scores, financial, demographics, etc.)?**

The Alabama State Department Education (ALSDE) gives each school a grade each year. The grade is based on the school's test scores, attendance, and other factors. The school's report also includes financial (free and reduced lunch numbers) and other demographic information. You can find current and past year's district and school grades at the ALSDE website: <https://reportcard.alsde.edu/alsde/selectschool>.

**10. Which schools do most of the installation children attend?**

For student's living in base housing, the majority of elementary and middle school

students attend Maxwell Elementary & Middle School. High school students generally attend a variety of schools in the local area, some public and some private.

**11. How far is the walk or bus ride to and from school on base?**

Maxwell Elementary & Middle School is located near base housing on Maxwell AFB.

All students living on Maxwell AFB walk to school. Students living on Gunter Annex are bussed to Maxwell Elementary & Middle School. Bus service is also provided to students who live on base and attend *their zoned* Montgomery Public Schools.

**12. What are the boundaries for off-base schools?**

School zones are determined by your address. Montgomery Public schools uses the link below to determine your zoned school:

[https://www.excensus-guidek12.net/montgomery/school\\_search/current/](https://www.excensus-guidek12.net/montgomery/school_search/current/)

For all others, please use the following link:

<https://alabama.hometownlocator.com/schools/>

**13. What is the school registration procedure?**

You will need the following documents to register your child (some districts now offer online registration where you upload your documents):

- a. Child's birth certificate
- b. Child's Alabama Certificate of Immunization, *aka, Blue card* (can be obtained from Maxwell Immunization Clinic or the County Health Department)
- c. Proof of address (such as a current utility bill, mortgage, or lease agreement with your name and current address on it)
- d. Parent/Guardian photo ID
- e. Copy of your orders (required for MEMS or Out of District Enrollment)
- f. Unofficial Copy of School Records, Transcripts, IEP, 504, etc. (recommended)

\*\*This is what is typically required by public school districts in the area. However, if your child will be attending a charter or private school, you will need to contact the school directly for registration requirements.

**14. What types of before and after-school and holiday care programs are available?**

Many organizations in Montgomery and surrounding area offer before/after school programs. These programs provide a variety of activities, including:

- a. Arts and crafts
- b. Field trips
- c. Recreation
- d. Study time

Maxwell-Gunter AFB's offer Before and After School program at the School Age Centers. For more information about this program, call Maxwell (334) 953-6292 or Gunter (334) 416-1427. Eligibility requirements and priority of authorized use follow Department of Defense and Air Force policies; contact the Youth Center for details.

**15. What are the state procedures for home schooling?**

Parents have a number of choices if they are interested in homeschooling. For information on Home Schooling in Alabama, click [here](#) or contact the State Department

of Education, School Safety, Discipline, and Attendance Division, P.O. Box 302101, Montgomery, AL 36130-2101, Phone 334-242-8165, Fax 334-353-5962.

**16. Still have questions?**

Additional information can be found on the [Maxwell AFB School Liaison website](#).

Please contact the School Liaison for assistance or any other questions.

School Liaison Office

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