

# K-12 Schooling Information For MCAS Yuma Families



## MCAS Yuma School Liaison Program

(928) 269-5373 | [yumaschoolliaison@usmc-mccs.org](mailto:yumaschoolliaison@usmc-mccs.org) | MCAS Yuma Bldg. 1071 | [www.mccsyuma.org](http://www.mccsyuma.org)

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## **MCAS Yuma School Liaison Program**

## School Liaison Program (SLP) Overview

The School Liaison is the critical link between families, commanders, communities, and schools to improve education outcomes, quality of life, and operational readiness for Marine Corps families. The mission of the SLP is to promote awareness of the unique educational needs of military connected children and facilitate successful school transitions. School Liaisons serve on every major Marine Corps installation and in every branch of service. School Liaison Officers (also called SLO's) are here to assist families with their child's preK-12 education needs.

- [USMC School Liaison Brochure](#)

## Preparing for Your Move to Yuma

Military connected children move 3 times more than their non-military connected peers and typically change schools 6-9 times over the course of their K-12 academic careers. Preparing to move to a new installation is critical to your child's academic success and future. Consider the following suggestions to prepare them for the move and help make their transition smooth.

- Talk about Yuma and research things to do and activities your child enjoys. Find activities that you can do together as a family. Research sports and extracurricular activities available at your child's new school and how to participate in them and get a head start on reaching out to coaches, teachers, and activity leaders.
- Take time (especially with older children, such as middle and high school aged children) to do activities that can help transition their current friendships to long-distance. Activities to consider are year book signing, scrapbooking, creating and maintaining an address book with friends' contact info, asking a favorite teacher to write your child a letter of encouragement, plan a farewell get together with friends, etc.
- Keep routines as consistent as possible leading up to, during, and after the move. Children thrive on routines and even small routines such as bedtime stories, family game nights, and schoolwork all give children a sense of

## MCAS Yuma School Liaison Program

normalcy, security, and peace of mind. Children who maintain consistent routines adapt better to their new location with fewer issues.

- Make sure not to pack sentimental items in your household goods that the movers will pick up. Be sure to pack comfort objects such as blankets and stuffed animals and important documents (especially school work, report cards, transcripts, immunization records, etc) in a bag that will travel with you or on your person during your move.
- Consider creating an education binder for your child to keep all of their academic records and achievements in one place.
- Get children excited about the move by talking about the positives, such as being able to pick out and decorate a new room, meet new friends, try new foods (tacos in Yuma are amazing!), and explore new places.

## Youth Sponsorship

Youth sponsorship is how a school or receiving installation helps incoming youth establish relationships with local youth or youth organizations who can support them during their transition to Yuma.


Many schools in Yuma have student ambassador programs that assign buddies to new students when they arrive at their new school. Ask your child's school about their student ambassador program and how you can get your child paired up with a student in their class to be their buddy from the first day of school.

Families are also encouraged to take a look at free resources that support military children during times of transition, offered by Sesame Street for Military Families (best for young children through primary grades) and Boys & Girls Club of America My Future (best for elementary through college!)

- Sesame Street for Military Families
  - <https://sesamestreetformilitaryfamilies.org/>
- Boys & Girls Club of America – My Future
  - <https://www.myfuture.net>

## MCAS Yuma School Liaison Program

## PCS Quick Checklist for School Moves

QUICK CHECKLIST FOR SCHOOL MOVES	
<b>From The Parent / Guardian</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Student's Birth Certificate</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Student's Social Security Number</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Student's Health Record (Immunizations, etc)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Legal Documents as Needed</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Proof of Residency / Military Orders <small>(Utility bills, lease/escrow deed, housing contract)</small></li> </ul>	<b>Arizona School Age Attendance Requirements</b> <p>Arizona requires school attendance for all children between the age of 6 and 16 years old. If a Kindergarten program is maintained at the school, a child is eligible for admission to kindergarten if the child is 5 years of age by September 1st.</p> <p>MCAS Yuma School Liaison (928) 269-5373 yumaschoolliaison@usmc-mccs.org www.mccsyuma.org</p> 
<b>School Information</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Address, Phone Numbers, Other Contact Information</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Course Description Book / Grading Scale <small>(If available for 6th grade and above)</small></li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Copy of the Cover of Each Textbook or the Title Page</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> School Profile / Handbook</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> School Web Page (URL)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Other:</li> </ul>	
<b>School Records</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Copy of Cumulative Folder <small>(Only the copy mailed between schools is considered official)</small></li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Current Schedule</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Report Cards</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Withdrawl Grades or Progress Reports</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Test Scores <small>Standardized or Special Program Testing, etc.)</small></li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Other:</li> </ul>	
<b>Special Programs Records As Appropriate</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Individual Education Plan (IEP) Individual Accommodation Plan (504) Gifted Program Description</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> English as a Second Language (ESL) or Bilingual Education</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> At-Risk or Other Action Plans for Classroom Modification</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Other:</li> </ul>	
<b>Other Documents &amp; Examples</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Writing Samples and Other Work Examples</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Activities Records (co-extracurricular)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Community Services or Service Learning</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Other Work or Performance Examples</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Academic Recognition and Competition Participation</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Other:</li> </ul>	

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## Living On Base

While there are no schools located on the installation, families who live in on base housing are zoned for our local public school districts, *Yuma Elementary School District #1 (YESD1)* and *Yuma Union High School District #70 (YUHSD)*. Bus transportation is provided for children living in on base housing who attend the schools that they are zoned for.

MCAS Yuma is zoned for the following schools:

- **James B. Rolle Elementary School** (grades K-5)
  - <https://rolle.yuma.org>
- **R. Pete Woodard Junior High School** (grades 6-8)
  - <https://woodard.yuma.org>
- **Kofa High School** (grades 9-12)
  - <https://www.yumaunion.org/Domain/118>

[MCAS Yuma - School Bus Stop Map & Schedules](#)

Families who live off base BUT in 16<sup>th</sup> Street Housing (which is military housing that is located 6 miles off base) are zoned for local public school districts *Crane School District #13 (Crane Schools)* and *Yuma Union High School District #70 (YUHSD)*. Bus transportation is NOT provided since 16<sup>th</sup> street housing is located within a 2 mile radius of these schools.

16<sup>th</sup> Street Housing is zoned for the following schools:

- **Ronald Reagan Elementary School** (grades K-6)
  - <https://www.ronaldreagan.craneschools.org/>
- **Centennial Middle School** (grades 7-8)
  - <https://www.centennial.craneschools.org/>
- **Cibola High School** (grades 9-12)
  - <https://www.yumaunion.org/Domain/57>

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## On-Base School Bus Transportation

The schools that MCAS Yuma is zoned for provide transportation for all students who live on base. Additionally, several schools and districts also offer transportation to families living on base whose children attend schools outside of the attendance boundary for MCAS Yuma. These schools provide bus transportation to and from the MCAS Yuma Youth Center, building 1050, only. They do not pick up and drop off in base housing. Children do not need to be enrolled in the Youth Center School Age Care program to utilize transportation offered by these schools. Parents must register for bus transportation directly with the school.

- Crane School District: Centennial M.S. (7-8), Crane M.S. (7-8), Gowan Science Academy (K-8), H.L. Suverkrup E.S. (K-6), and Ronald Regan E.S. (K-6)
  - Crane School District – [Transportation Information](#)
- Charter Schools: Desert View Academy (K-5), Desert View M.S. (6-8), Harvest Preparatory Academy Yuma (K-12)
  - Desert View Schools – [Transportation Information](#)
  - Harvest Preparatory Academy – [Transportation Information](#)

[MCAS Yuma - School Bus Stop Map & Schedules](#)

## Living Off Base

Families living off base have several options for K-12 schools. *Please note that these options are available to families who live on base as well.*

### 1. Attend your zoned school

- This option means that your child attends the school that you are zoned for, based on your home address. This will be a public school. Students who attend their “home” school (the school they are zoned for) will be provided bus transportation, with few exceptions. *If you need assistance identifying which*

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*school you are zoned for, contact the School Liaison. Students are guaranteed admission to their “home” school.*

2. Apply for “Open Enrollment” to attend a different school

- This option is for families who would like their child to attend a different **public school** than the one they are zoned for. Families will be asked to fill out an open enrollment form when they go to register their child for school. Children applying to attend a school on open enrollment are accepted on a space available basis and WILL NOT be provided bus transportation by the school. Open enrollment admission is NOT a guarantee. Parents are encouraged to contact schools to view currently grade level availability.

3. Apply at a charter or private school

- If interested in having your child attend a charter or private school, contact that school directly to ask about requirements for enrollment. All private schools charge tuition as well as some charter schools (particularly for children enrolled in kindergarten). Parents are encouraged to ask about transportation offerings as private schools generally do not offer transportation.

4. Homeschool

- See homeschool section of this packet for specific guidance.

**BLUF: Children are only guaranteed admission to the public school for which they are zoned.**

Parents may choose to enroll their children in different schools, but remember spaces at charter/private schools fill quickly, open enrollment is not a guarantee, and transportation and tuition are additional considerations. Always make the public school you are zoned for your primary schooling option.

## Yuma Area Schools

Yuma Elementary School District #1 [District Website](#)

*Grades Served: Kindergarten – 8<sup>th</sup> grade*

YESD1 operates 13 elementary schools, 5 middle/junior high schools, 1 fully online school (Digital Learning Academy), and 1 preschool program (O.C. Johnson ES).

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YESD1 hosts AZ First Things First and Special Education preschool programs at several of their elementary schools.

Crane Elementary School District #13   [District Website](#)

*Grades Served: Kindergarten – 8<sup>th</sup> grade*

CSD operates 8 elementary schools, 2 middle schools, 1 magnet school, and 1 fully online school (Crane iLearning Academy). CSD also offers preschool at select campuses.

Somerton School District #11   [District Website](#)

*Grades Served: Kindergarten – 8<sup>th</sup> grade*

SSD11 operates 3 elementary schools and 1 middle school.

Yuma Union High School District #70   [District Website](#)

*Grades Served: 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>*

YUHSD operates 5 high schools (and is building a 6<sup>th</sup>), 1 alternative high school, and 1 fully online school (Yuma Online Distance Academy).

Charter Schools and Private Schools

Yuma is home to a wide variety of public charter schools and private schools. Please refer to the list of Yuma Schools on the School Liaison website for a complete list of schools in our area:


- [Yuma County Superintendent of Schools - School Listing](#)
- [MCAS Yuma School Liaison Website](#)

**MCAS Yuma School Liaison Program**


## Yuma K-12 Schools List

Schools listed are within the immediate AOR for MCAS Yuma. Refer to the previous section for a comprehensive list of Yuma County area schools.

# USMC SCHOOL LIAISON PROGRAM



## MCAS YUMA PCS SUPPORT



School Liaison Mission

The mission of the School Liaison aboard MCAS Yuma is to coordinate education support services to maximize opportunities for academic success for transitioning military children / youth. The School Liaison (SL) fosters and promotes quality education for military children by working directly with the command, families, school districts, and local communities, and by providing referral services to family support agencies aboard MCAS Yuma and in the local community.

Yuma School District One	Crane School District
District Office - (928) 502-4300	District Office - (928) 373-3400
Palmcroft Elementary - (928) 502-8000	Ronald Reagan Elementary - (928) 373-3700
Rolle Elementary - (928) 502-8200	Gary Knox Elementary - (928) 373-5500
Desert Mesa Elementary - (928) 502-8600	Mesquite Elementary - (928) 373-4100
Otondo Elementary - (928) 502-8500	Valley Horizon Elementary - (928) 373-4000
Sunrise Elementary - (928) 502-8800	H.L. Suverkrup Elementary - (928) 373-3500
McGraw Elementary - (928) 502-7700	Pueblo Elementary - (928) 373-3600
Alice Byrne Elementary - (928) 502-7500	Salida Del Sol Elementary - (928) 373-5600
G. Washington Carver Elem.- (928) 502-7600	Rancho Viejo Elementary - (928) 373-3800
Pecan Grove Elementary - (928) 502-8050	Crane Middle School - (928) 373-3200
O.C. Johnson Elementary - (928) 502-7900	Centennial Middle School - (928) 373-3300
Roosevelt Elementary - (928) 502-8150	Gowan Science Academy - (928) 539-1200
James D. Price Elementary - (928) 502-7730	
Woodard Junior High School - (928) 502-7200	Yuma Union High School District
Gila Vista Junior High School - (928) 502-7100	District Office - (928) 502-4600
Fourth Ave Junior High School - (928) 502-7000	Yuma High School - (928) 502-5000
Castle Dome Middle School - (928) 502-7300	Kofa High School - (928) 502-5400
Ron Watson Middle School - (928) 502-7400	Cibola High School - (928) 502-5700
Dorothy Hall Elementary - (928) 502-8300	Gila Ridge High School - (928) 502-6400
	San Luis High School - (928) 502-6100
Private Schools	Charter Schools
Yuma Catholic High School - (928) 317-7900	Desert View Academy - (928) 314-1102
St. Francis of Assisi- (928) 782-1539	Desert View Middle/High School - (928) 317-3113
Immaculate Conception - (928) 783-5225	AmeriSchools South - (928) 329-1100
Yuma Lutheran - (928) 726-8410	AmeriSchools North - (928) 919-7203
Southwestern Christian School - (928) 726-3086	Harvest Prep Academy - (928) 782-2052
Yuma Christian Academy - (928) 726-2113	MCAS Yuma School Liaison (928) 269-5373
Yuma Adventist Christian - (928) 783-0457	yumaschoolliaison@usmc-mccs.org
Freedom Christian Academy - (928) 366-3585	

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## Preschool

Preschool options off base in Yuma are varied and have varying age and income eligibility requirements to attend. Preschool programs offered by a local public school district will only enroll children that live within the district's attendance boundary. Active duty military families are eligible to enroll children in preschool at the Child Development Center on base. For more information about Pre-K options that meet your child's needs, contact the School Liaison.

- MCAS Yuma Child Development Center
  - <https://yuma.usmc-mccs.org/marine-family-support/child-and-youth/child-development-centers>
- AZ First Things First
  - <https://www.firstthingsfirst.org/resources/find-programs/>
- WACOG
  - <https://www.wacog.com/early-childhood-programs/>
- Yuma School District One
  - <https://www.yuma.org/Preschool>
- Crane School District
  - [https://www.craneschools.org/apps/pages/index.jsp?uREC\\_ID=1926042&type=d&pREC\\_ID=2062171](https://www.craneschools.org/apps/pages/index.jsp?uREC_ID=1926042&type=d&pREC_ID=2062171)
- AZ Department of Education – Early Childhood Education, Preschool Resources
  - <https://www.azed.gov/ece/preschool>

## Researching Schools

Researching to find the “perfect” new school for your child can be exciting, but also challenging. Finding reliable information on the internet is increasingly difficult, so it's recommended that you choose your sources wisely as you conduct your research. Here are a few suggestions in order of reliability, listing the most reliable source first and the least reliable source last:

### 1. Visit the School or Call to Speak to the Principal/Asst. Principal

You can learn much by a school visit and a conversation with their leadership. If in person visits aren't possible, ask for a virtual tour. Many schools are happy to

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accommodate prospective families. Refer to the list of [recommended questions](#) on the School Liaison website to guide you when speaking to the school leadership.

## 2. Contact your School Liaison Officer

The School Liaison Officer (SLO) is the installation subject matter expert on all matters involving K-12 education within their area of responsibility. They work closely with the schools and districts that serve military students and can answer many questions that parents have about schools in Yuma.

## 3. School Report Card Data

The Arizona Dept. of Education assigns letter grades to public and charter schools in Arizona based on a variety of factors, including academic performance. School letter grades are generally a good indicator of how well a school does in ensuring students succeed, but won't answer all of your questions such as specific school initiatives, academic programs, extracurricular activities, sports, special education, etc. Those questions are best directed at school leaders or your SLO. **School report card data can be found at <https://azreportcards.azed.gov/>**

## 4. School Ranking Websites

Parents can find very general information about schools on school ranking websites such as school digger, great schools, niche, public school review, etc. Rankings published on these sites are not very reliable and may be very outdated.

## 5. Anecdotes & Social Media

Personal anecdotes or comments in community pages on social media regarding schools are typically fraught with misinformation and only provide very biased points of view without giving families a complete picture, be those stories positive or negative. This information is probably the least reliable source and should be considered carefully along with other reliable sources of information such as talking to school leadership directly and/or the SLO.

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## Private Schools & Students with Special Needs

Families who choose to send their children to private school should be aware that private schools are not legally required to provide special education evaluations or equitable services to children who have or need an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or 504 accommodation plan. It is the sole legal responsibility of public schools (including charter schools) to evaluate students to determine eligibility for special education services and to provide equitable services to students who qualify. If your child has a current IEP or 504 plan and you intend to enroll them in a Yuma private school, contact the school directly to ask if and how the school will be able to provide the support your student needs. **Only a public school district can create, modify, or renew an IEP or 504 plan for a student. Families who have a child with exceptional needs are encouraged to speak with the School Liaison before enrolling in private school to discuss options for services and supports. Families are also encouraged to contact MCAS Yuma EFMP at (928) 269-2425.**

### Resources for Parents – Private Schools and Special Education

- [Special Education in Private School: 6 Things to Know | Understood - For learning and thinking differences](#)
- [Private Special Education Schools | Arizona Department of Education \(azed.gov\)](#)
- [Parents & Families | Arizona Department of Education \(azed.gov\)](#)
- [MCAS Yuma Exceptional Family Member Program \(EFMP\)](#)

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## Enrollment Laws in AZ

### Required Enrollment (ARS 15-802)

- Children between the ages of 6 and 16 must be enrolled in school and at a minimum, must study math, reading, grammar, science and social studies.

### Kindergarten Eligibility (ARS 15-821)

- Students must be 5 years old by September 1<sup>st</sup> of the current school year to be eligible to enroll in kindergarten. Students whose birthday falls after September 1<sup>st</sup> can be considered by a school district for early enrollment in kindergarten, but they must turn 5 by January 1<sup>st</sup> of the current school year.

### Open Enrollment (ARS 15-816.01)

- Arizona has a broad open enrollment policy which allows families to apply for open enrollment for their children to attend the **public school** of their choice in Arizona. Open enrollment is granted if a school can reasonably accommodate the student. Children who attend a school on open enrollment will not have access to school bus transportation. Families will need to provide their own transportation to school.

### Enrollment Documents

- Arizona requires the following documents for children to enroll in public school
  - Child's original birth certificate\*
  - Proof of Arizona Residency\*\*
  - Immunization Records (within 30 days)
  - Valid Parent/Guardian Contact Information
  - Proof of Withdrawal from Previous School
  - Most Recent Report Card

\*Parents can provide an unofficial copy until the genuine certificate can be furnished in person.

\*\*Military parents have 10 days after their official arrival date to provide proof of Arizona residency. Refer to ARS 15-823.01 for more information on accepted forms of proof such as temporary billeting. **This exception allows military families to remotely enroll their children in school prior to their arrival in Yuma.**

### "Title 15 - Education" - Arizona Revised Statutes

## MCAS Yuma School Liaison Program



## Registration

Registration for school can be completed in a variety of ways, depending on the school. For virtually all Yuma schools, registration documents and instructions can be found on a school's website. Families can typically provide all documentation electronically or, if they prefer, can wait until their arrival in Yuma and go to the school to drop off their registration packet and required documents. If you have questions on how to register your child for school, contact the school registrar directly.

### Registration Information by District

- Yuma Elementary School District #1
  - [YESD1 - School Registration Info & Online Application](#)
- Crane Elementary School District #13
  - [Crane - School Registration Info & Online Application](#)
- Somerton School District #11
  - [SSD11 – School Registration Info & Online Application](#)
- Yuma Union High School District #70
  - [YUHSD - School Registration Info & Online Application](#)
- Charter School & Private Schools
  - *Contact schools directly for information or visit school websites*

## MCAS Yuma School Liaison Program

## AZ K-12 Immunization Requirements

### ARIZONA GUIDE TO IMMUNIZATIONS REQUIRED FOR ENTRY - *Grades K-12 (School Year 2023-2024)*

- Requirements are shown below as stated in [Arizona Administrative Code, R9-6-702](#), Table 7.1 and Table 7.2
- Please review the [Arizona Immunization Handbook for Schools and Child Care Programs](#) along with the [Vaccine Catch-up Flowcharts & FAQs](#) for further information and details about immunization requirements and exemptions.
- Vaccines must follow ACIP minimum intervals and ages to be valid. See page 3-4 of this document for minimum interval and catch-up schedule information.
- The 4-day grace period only applies to vaccine-administration minimum age and intervals. Refer to the Handbook for questions.



Vaccine	4-6 Years Old and attendance in Kindergarten or 1 <sup>st</sup> grade	7-10 Years Old	11 Years and Older
<b>HepB</b> Hepatitis B	3 doses The final dose of HepB must be given at 24 weeks of age or older. Only 3 doses are required if the 3 <sup>rd</sup> dose was received at or after the child was 24 weeks of age; otherwise 4 doses are required.		
<b>Polio</b> Poliomyelitis (IPV) For OPV see page 2	4 doses The final dose of polio must be received at/after 4 years of age and at least six months after the previous dose. Only 3 doses are required if the 3 <sup>rd</sup> dose was received on/after the child's 4 <sup>th</sup> birthday and at least six months after the 2 <sup>nd</sup> dose. Additional doses may be needed to meet requirements. See pg. 2 for retrospective history guidance.		
<b>MMR</b> Measles, Mumps and Rubella	2 doses Minimum recommended age for dose 1 is 12 months. A 3 <sup>rd</sup> dose will be required if dose 1 was given more than 4 days before 1 <sup>st</sup> birthday.		
<b>VAR</b> Varicella (chickenpox)	1 dose Minimum recommended age for dose 1 is 12 months. 2 doses, at least 4 weeks apart, are required if dose 1 was given at 13 years of age or older.		
<b>DTaP, Tdap, Td</b> Diphtheria, Tetanus, and Pertussis	5 doses of DTaP The final dose of tetanus-diphtheria containing vaccine must be received at/after 4 years of age and at least six months after the previous dose. Only 4 doses are required if the 4 <sup>th</sup> dose was received on/after 4 years of age; in certain situations, an additional dose may be required, up to a maximum of 6 doses (before age 7).	4 doses of tetanus-diphtheria containing vaccine (or combination of DTaP, Td or Tdap doses). At least one dose at/after 4 years of age and at least 6 months from the previous dose.  3 doses (with one at/after 4 years) is acceptable if the first dose was given on/after 1 <sup>st</sup> birthday; otherwise refer for an additional dose.	1 dose of Tdap is required If the student does not have a Tdap but received a dose of tetanus-diphtheria- containing vaccine within the past 5 years, refer for the adolescent Tdap dose when 5 years has passed since that dose. If a student has received 1 valid dose of adolescent Tdap (age 10 years or older), no further doses are needed. Students must have a minimum series of 4 doses of tetanus-diphtheria-containing vaccine; 3 doses acceptable if the 1 <sup>st</sup> dose was given on/after 1 <sup>st</sup> birthday.
<b>MenACWY or MCV4</b> Quadrivalent Meningococcal	Retrospectively: Menomune (Meningococcal Polysaccharide) vaccine was a quadrivalent vaccine so it is acceptable; however, production of this vaccine was discontinued in February 2017. Menomune doses are considered acceptable for school requirements.		1 dose of MenACWY is required A dose administered at 10 years of age will meet the requirement.

## MCAS Yuma School Liaison Program

## Homeschooling Information

Families in Arizona have the option to homeschool. If you decide to homeschool your child, you are required to complete an Affidavit of Intent and send it to the Yuma County Superintendent's office within 30 days from the day the child begins homeschool. If you choose to homeschool, please also remember to notify the Yuma County Superintendent's office if you move out of Yuma County so they can remove your child from the roll of homeschooled children.

Arizona law requires all homeschooled students to, at a minimum, receive instruction in reading, grammar, math, science, and social studies. There are various support groups in Yuma to assist families who homeschool. For more information on homeschooling and supports, contact the Yuma County Superintendent's office (or visit their website) or contact the SLO.

**\*\*Important: please note that when you enroll your child in a virtual charter school or other online public school, your child is *by law* considered a public school student and not a homeschool student.\*\***

The SLO offers a training for parents called **Homeschool 101**, which gives a comprehensive overview of the legal requirements and practical steps to homeschool in AZ. If you are interested in this training, contact the SLO.

## AZ Empowerment Scholarship Accounts (ESA)

"An Empowerment Scholarship Account (ESA) is an account administered by the Arizona Department of Education (ADE) and funded by state tax dollars to provide options for the education of qualified students in this state. **An ESA consists of 90% of the state funding that would have otherwise been allocated to the school district or charter school for the qualified student (does not include federal or local funding).**

The ESA is granted to the Account Holder of the qualified student to provide an education that must include at least the following subjects: reading, grammar, mathematics, social studies and science. By opting out of the public-school system and accepting an ESA, applicants can seek a range of alternative educational services such as private schools, home-based education, tutoring, and educational therapies (for students with disabilities only) using state funds. Funded by the state,

## MCAS Yuma School Liaison Program

(928) 269-5373 | [yumaschoolliaison@usmc-mccs.org](mailto:yumaschoolliaison@usmc-mccs.org) | MCAS Yuma Bldg. 1071 | [www.mccsyuma.org](http://www.mccsyuma.org)

tailored by the applicant, and individualized for the student—the ESA program provides a unique opportunity to prepare Arizona students to succeed in school and life. ESA contracts are between the applicant and the Arizona Department of Education Empowerment Scholarship Account Program. What applicants choose to share with their enrolled school is at their discretion. \*ESA cannot provide any advice or guidance to families regarding schools, programs or service providers to use or where to send their child to school. The student must be withdrawn from public school upon signing an ESA contract and while remaining on ESA.” – AZ Department of Education

## More About ESA's

**Empowerment Scholarship Accounts** are intended to increase educational options for certain student populations in AZ.

Military connected children qualify for eligibility.

*Children who use the ESA may not be enrolled in public school.*

ESA: Eligibility & Funding

### What ESA Does

Provides school choice to eligible children in AZ

Provides *partial* funding for children attending kindergarten

Funds curriculum and tutoring for homeschooled children

Funds special education related therapies and services

Establishes an account for parents which is administered by AZED

### What ESA Does Not Do

Is not available for all AZ students

Does not provide funds to cover full-day kindergarten

Does not transfer to other states or pay for education provided by an out of state entity

Does not pay for expenses such as school supplies, uniforms, computers, or athletic equipment

Does not provide unlimited funds

Learn more at  
[www.azed.gov](http://www.azed.gov)

## MCAS Yuma School Liaison Program

## Tax Credit Tuition Assistance

Arizona families can utilize tuition assistance from registered tax credit tuition organizations to pay for tuition to private schools *if they qualify*. Families who apply for tuition assistance scholarships from tax credit tuition organizations *may not* also use Empowerment Scholarship Account funds to pay for private school tuition. Families who wish to receive scholarships through these tuition organizations need to apply directly with the organization. Local organizations in Yuma are the Yuma's Education Scholarship Fund for Kids, Inc. (YES) and School Tuition Assistance of Yuma, Inc. (STAY) and others. These are registered not-for-profit 501(c)3 tax credit tuition organizations.

*Military families looking for financial assistance to send their child to private school in Arizona are highly encouraged to utilize the ESA first, as it is much easier to navigate and military families don't have to financially qualify for the ESA. The ESA is not transferrable and ESA funds cannot be spent out of state.*

## Useful Websites

MCAS Yuma School Liaison

<https://yuma.usmc-mccs.org/marine-family-support/child-and-youth/school-liaison-program-k-12>

MCAS Yuma School Age Care

<https://yuma.usmc-mccs.org/marine-family-support/child-and-youth/school-age-care>

MCAS Yuma Exceptional Family Member Program

<https://yuma.usmc-mccs.org/marine-family-support/military-family-life/exceptional-family-member-program/>

MCCS Facebook Page

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

Military One Source – MCAS Yuma Installation Guide

<https://installations.militaryonesource.mil/military-installation/mcas-yuma>

MCAS Yuma Official Website

<https://www.mcas-yuma.marines.mil/Unit-Home/>

Yuma County Superintendent of Schools

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<https://www.yumasupt.org/index.html>

Yuma Elementary School District #1

[www.yuma.org](http://www.yuma.org)

Crane Elementary School District #13

[www.craneschools.org](http://www.craneschools.org)

Somerton School District #11

[www.ssd11.org](http://www.ssd11.org)

Yuma Union High School District #70

[www.yumaunion.org](http://www.yumaunion.org)

Arizona Western College

<https://www.azwestern.edu/>

Tutor.com

<https://military.tutor.com/home>

Arizona Families for Home Education

<https://www.afhe.org>

Homeschool Legal Defense Association

[www.hslda.org](http://www.hslda.org)

Arizona Department of Health Services

<https://azdhs.gov>

AZ First Things First (support for birth-5 years of age)

<https://www.firstthingsfirst.org>

WACOG – Early Childhood Programs in AZ

<https://www.wacog.com/early-childhood-programs/>

AZ Department of Education – Resources for Military Families

<https://www.azed.gov/parents/military-families>

Military Child Education Coalition

[www.militarychild.org](http://www.militarychild.org)

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Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission

[www.mic3.net](http://www.mic3.net)

Raising Special Kids

<https://raisingspecialkids.org/>

Arizona Dept. of Education – Exceptional Student Services

<https://www.azed.gov/specialeducation>

Yuma County

<https://www.yumacountyaz.gov/home>

City of Yuma

<https://www.yumaaz.gov/>

City of Somerton

<https://www.somertonaz.gov/>

Arizona Governor's Office of Education

<https://education.azgovernor.gov/>

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