

**Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance (DEA) Process: Ensuring the next of kin (NOK) is aware of and, if eligible, receives DEA benefit**

No.	Activity/Decision Point Name	Description	Regulations and Supporting Resources	Documents and Forms	Systems	Notes
1	Eligible for DEA?	<p>NOK is eligible to receive DEA if they are a spouse, child, stepchild or adopted child of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A veteran who died or is permanently and totally disabled as the result of a service-connected disability</li> <li>- A veteran who died from any cause while such service-connected disability was in existence</li> <li>- A Soldier missing in action or captured in the line of duty</li> <li>- A Soldier forcibly detained or interned in the line of duty by a foreign government or power</li> </ul> <p>To receive this benefits, the son or daughter must be between the ages of 18-26, however, in some instance it is possible to start before the age of 18 and to continue after the age of 26.</p>	<p>Military Benefits - DEA Website</p> <p>U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs - DEA Website</p>			
2	Training program in progress?	<p>If the NOK has already started a training program, they need to complete a different form.</p>	<p>U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs - DEA Website</p>			
3	Obtain VA Form 22-5490	<p>NOK obtains VA Form 22-5490 (Application for Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance) from Veteran Affairs (VA) website or Casualty Assistance Officer (CAO), if applicable.</p>	<p>U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs - DEA Website</p>	<p>VA Form 22-5490</p>		

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4	Complete VA Form 22-5490	NOK completes VA Form 22-5490 (Application for Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance) with assistance from CAO, if applicable.	U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs - DEA Website	VA Form 22-5490		
5	Send VA Form 22-5490	NOK sends VA Form 22-5490 (Application for Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance) to local VA office via mail.	U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs - DEA Website	VA Form 22-5490		
6	Obtain VA Form 22-1990	If the NOK has already started a training program, they obtain VA Form 22-1990 (Application for VA Education Benefits) from VA website.	U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs - DEA Website	VA Form 22-1990		
7	Coordinate with school or employer	NOK coordinates with school or employer to complete VA Form 22-1990 (Application for VA Education Benefits) and Enrollment Certification. When complete, NOK asks the school or employer to send documentation to local VA office.	U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs - DEA Website	VA Form 22-1990		
8	Receive DEA	If approved, NOK receives DEA benefit. DEA provides education benefits for up to 45 months. These benefits include degree and certificate programs, apprenticeships, and on-the-job-training.	U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs - DEA Website			