

FREELY ASSOCIATED STATES EDUCATION SYSTEM

(This information was gleaned from discussions with the Secretary and Assistant Secretary of HESA of the Federated States of Micronesia and the Director of Education of the Republic of Palau and)

TEACHERS

1. Provisional Level – all teachers in the service must work to get to a higher degree level: AA, AS, ABS Masters. *To move to the next level – must “pass” the classroom observation level. – taking national standardized test for teachers – need teacher profiles – to be able to fill the gaps within this – teaching competency (pedagogy) test . Test are content based.*

2. Basic Certificate Level – must have achieved provisional level.

3. Intermediate Level – teacher need to move from AA AS to BA BS to be in this level.

4. Advanced Level – This requires the attainment of Masters degrees.

5. Master Certificate Level - Don't need further academic qualification to move up this level. Need more teacher competencies and fulfillment of certain criteria to move to this level.

STUDENTS

All schools need to be chartered to operate in FAS.

1. Preschool Certificate –

Kindergarten/Headstart (Not necessary to move to first grade)

2. Elementary

Grades: 1-8; 1- 9 – Certificate of Completion of Elementary School - based on performance and passes in all courses from 1 – 9 grade to qualify for it.

3. High School

Grades: 9-12; 10 – 12. There are two completion qualifications:

1. Certificate of Completion (Vocational) for all students who successfully complete **12 years**

2. High School Diploma with endorsements in particular areas (Academic) and acquired a GPA of more than 2.0. It is based on standardized tests across all FAS (Freely Associated States).

General Education Diploma [GED]– (an academic programme) – based on US assessment is offered to high school dropouts only. This is a second chance or adult education program. Various criteria need to be met before one may be admitted to this programme.

Western association of Schools and Colleges (WASC).

Currently, the Community Colleges in FASs are affiliated to WASC. Schools in Palau have recently been accredited to WASC and schools in FSM are in the process of getting their schools ready for this affiliation. The accreditation is of the QA systems in place and also of the certification levels of the programmes on offer.

This is an accreditation for schools/colleges which

- 1. provides easier access to US schools and Colleges.*
- 2. assures funding sources from both local DOE and US.*

Colleges (credited with WASC)

One year certificate – 30 credits (3 hours per week for one semester (90 days)

Associate Degree (AA/AS)– minimum 60 credit hours + 450 TOFEL score

Third year Certificate – Focus on teacher development (Only FSM). Articulation with University of Guam on the successful completion of one additional year students are awarded their BA and/or BS

Degree BA

MA/MS – need to pass an GRE to do this level program.

PhD