

High School Programs

(Age 14-17 Yrs)

There is a growing interest in aerospace education at the high school level as the implications of aviation and space activities become more clearly defined.

High school aerospace education today encompasses a variety of approaches which require some definition of terminology. The broad concepts of both aviation and space are generally included in *aerospace* education, while *aviation* education is applied to those programs oriented to atmospheric flight. Frequently these programs relate closely to the aeronautical knowledge covered in a pilot's preflight or ground school course. *Space* education and the *astroscience* courses concentrate on spaceflight and the realm beyond the Earth's atmosphere.

The integration of aviation and space concepts into existing courses or units or the development of separate elective courses must reflect local objectives and consider the existing curriculum program. Community interest and available resources often determine the emphasis given in a particular situation.

Several approaches to the organization of a separate course have been identified

General aerospace education

Social studies emphasis

Earth and space sciences

Astrosciences (including astronomy)

Aviation science (frequently termed "aviation education")

Career orientation or exploration

Vocational and technical training

Many schools that are unable to fit aerospace education into their curriculum program take advantage of extracurricular activities to provide interested students some opportunities in aerospace education. Some of the activities are highly structured and tie in with national organizations. Others reflect local community resources and, in some cases, the extracurricular activity is an extension of the avocational interest in aerospace by a faculty member.