Education in the Micronesian island nation of Palau still follows the American system of Grades K to 12. There are three educational streams that lead to either a high school diploma, a vocational diploma, or an individualized one. There are approximately 20 elementary state schools dispersed through villages and islands, where pupils study for 6 years. Tertiary Education There are no opportunities for university education in Palau except for distance learning through the University of South Pacific and San Diego .State University. The system is based on credits achieved, as opposed to years spent at school