

Fact Sheet: Overview of DoDEA

Dependents of military personnel face unique challenges to their educational attainment. They move more frequently than typical students and are also subject to the stress that accompanies the potential deployment of parents to combat. To help military-connected children mitigate these challenges and to ensure their educational achievement, the Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA), a field activity of the Office of the Secretary of Defense, **plans, directs, coordinates and manages schools and education-support programs** for eligible dependents of U.S. military personnel and civilian personnel of the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD).

DoDEA operates schools that provide students with a uniform curriculum and standards that mitigate the stress of frequent moves. Headed by a director who oversees all agency functions from DoDEA headquarters in Arlington, Virginia, DoDEA also provides programs and resources to non-DoDEA schools to help lessen the challenges faced by military dependents. The following is an overview of key information about DoDEA schools, programs and partnerships:

DoDEA Schools

DoDEA serves eligible students through two school systems operated overseas and in the U.S., respectively. DoDEA's schools are divided into three areas; Department of Defense Schools - Europe (DoDDS-E), Department of Defense Schools - Pacific (DoDDS-P) / Domestic Dependent Elementary and Secondary Schools - Guam (DDESS-G), and the Domestic Dependent Elementary and Secondary Schools (DDESS). **To enroll in a DoDEA school, the enrolling sponsor must be on extended active duty or a full-time federal citizen employee, the sponsor must be residing on the installation and the student must be the sponsor's dependent.**

DoDEA Schools are not funded by the U.S. Department of Education and therefore are not required to follow the rules and regulations of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). However, DoDEA has developed rigorous and demanding curriculum standards in all core subjects that align with national standards and are based on current research and best practices. Similar to what ESEA requirements call for, DoDEA schools conduct internal monitoring and utilize a web-based reporting system to report data annually called School Report Cards (SRCs).

The DoDEA instructional program provides a comprehensive prekindergarten through 12th grade curriculum that is dedicated to attaining highest student achievement for all students. DoDEA assesses students using the TerraNova, a standardized norm-referenced test, and the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)

exam, a test that is administered in every state. DoDEA students must earn 26 credits or eight semesters of coursework and maintain a minimum 2.0 grade point average in order to earn a high school diploma.

In addition, DoDEA offers specialized programs to provide DoDEA Schools students with remedial options, flexibility and challenging educational experiences including a Summer School Program, a DoDEA Virtual School option, and an Advanced Placement (AP) Program.

DoDEA Programs

DoDEA operates nearly 200 schools in twelve foreign countries and the United States serving about 84,000 children. In addition to operating DoDEA Schools, DoDEA:

- Oversees the **Non-DoD Schools Program (NDSP)**, which reimburses military families stationed abroad for the cost of most education-related expenses.
- Supports the education of students who are not enrolled in DoDEA schools or NDSP through the **DoDEA Educational Partnership Program**, which provides grants, training and resources to local education agencies, military installations and School Liaison Officers.

DoDEA Partnerships

DoDEA and the U.S. Department of Education have codified a formal Memorandum of Understanding that ensures the educational opportunities of military-connected children and supports their success. Specific areas of collaboration include data collection about military-connected children in schools and the provision of additional grant opportunities for military-connected local education agencies (LEAs), among others. Through this partnership, both federal departments can better collaborate to improve the educational opportunities of military-connected students.

Working through the Council of State Governments, DoDEA also developed the **Interstate Compact on the Educational Opportunities for Military Children** to address issues associated with class placement, graduation requirements, records transfer, immunization requirements, course placement, exit testing and extracurricular activities. As of April 2011, 36 states have adopted the Interstate Compact and are implementing its requirements.

More Information About DoDEA

For over 60 years, DoDEA has put students at the center of all of its work. For more information about DoDEA and its programs and services, visit DoDEA at <http://www.dodea.edu/home/>.