

EDUCATIONAL PARTNERSHIP DIRECTORATE

The purpose of the Department of Defense Education Activity's (DoDEA) Educational Partnership Directorate (EPD) is to provide high quality education opportunities for military children and to help military-connected school systems throughout the nation. Established as a result of the John Warner National Defense Authorization Act (2007), EPD is charged with advancing the quality of educational programs for the school-age children of military families, who live inside and outside the gate and easing the transition of military dependents from military to civilian schools.

EPD is a part of DoDEA, which has 60 years of experience in educating military children and meeting their transition/deployment challenges. DoDEA is nationally recognized for its high student achievement rate, rigorous curriculum, and high standards.

EPD works to ensure that all military families in all military communities receive equal access to quality education for their children. This effort (1) includes providing military children continuity and seamless transitions of academic study and (2) recognizes that the connectedness to schools contributes significantly to success for military students, especially during major transitions like rebasing and deployment.

The Directorate has three offices that address the following focus areas: Partnership Development, Legislation and Policy, and Extended Learning.

The Partnership Development Office works primarily at the school and district level to (1) gather and share research-based best practices, programs, and tools, (2) assist military parents to become informed advocates of quality education choices for their children, (3) provide research-based teacher and administer professional development programs in areas of need identified by EPD's partners, and (4) support foreign language, including strategic language, education.

The Legislation and Policy Office joins with and builds on the efforts a variety of non-governmental organizations to create legislation and policy enhancements and understandings at both the state and national levels that positively impact military children's education and well-being. It also works at the district level to coordinate DoD Impact Aid—Supplemental, BRAC, and Children with Severe Disabilities (CWSD)—for military-connected LEAs.

The Extended Learning Office works primarily with schools and districts to (1) extend opportunities for student learning via online and other research-based models and (2) assist military parents in becoming advocates for education by providing timely information about quality education and education options. Beginning in Fiscal Year 2009, EPD, through grants and cooperative agreements, expects to provide assistance to military-connected school districts to launch or expand instructional programs.

Communication to parents, commands, and other partners will be an important function of the Directorate. DoD's www.militarystudent.org site will be transferred to the DoDEA EPD.

Through all of these efforts, EPD will meet its overarching goal of helping all military students receive the quality education they need and deserve.

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