



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
EDUCATION ACTIVITY  
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Policy and Legislation

09-PL-001

Date **MAY 14 2009**

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE EDUCATION ACTIVITY  
POLICY MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Enrollment of Dependents of Fallen Military Members in DDESS

References: (a) Section 2164 of title 10, United States Code  
(b) DoD Instruction 1342.26, "Eligibility Requirements for Minor Dependents to Attend Department of Defense Domestic Dependent Elementary and Secondary Schools (DDESS), March 4, 1997

It is the policy of the Department of Defense Education Activity that dependents of Fallen Military Members who are currently enrolled in DDESS may continue in school without limitations, neither on their physical residence, nor on school transition points. This policy amplifies the discretion already provided in References (a) and (b).

Students must meet all other requirements (e.g., agree to student conduct standards, Internet agreements). In addition, the family shall assume the responsibility for transporting the student to and from school.

Continued enrollment requires a one-time parental request to the respective school. Yearly registration is required.

This policy is effective immediately.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Shirley A. Miles".

Dr. Shirley A. Miles  
Director

# **Fallen Military Policy Change**

## **DODEA**

### **Questions and Answers**

**1. How does this policy differ from the previous policy?**

*The new policy states that currently-enrolled DDESS students who are dependents of a Fallen Military Member may continue in DDESS schools without limitation on their physical residence or on school transition points.*

*The prior policy allowed currently-enrolled DDESS students who were dependents of a Fallen Military Member to continue in DDESS schools until the end of the school year without any special permission. It allowed for students to stay in the DDESS school until they would normally transition to another school level – i.e. elementary school to middle school or middle school to high school.*

**2. Does this affect families that live on military installations?**

*Dependents of Fallen Military living on military installations are eligible to attend DDESS schools without requesting exceptions. This policy is focused on those families who have children currently enrolled in a DDESS school, but who moved off the installation or otherwise lose eligibility in the territories due to the death of the sponsor.*

**3. Why did you change the policy?**

*After reflecting on the previous policy and with input from families and commanders, we decided to reevaluate the policy to ensure we were doing everything we can to assist families who have lost their loved on in service to the nation.*

**4. Does it matter where the death of the service member occurs?**

*No. As long as the service member is on active duty during the time of death, the currently-enrolled DDESS student will be able to continue attending the DDESS school until they choose to leave.*

**5. Do the circumstances of the service member's death affect the student's ability to stay in DDESS schools?**

*No. As long as a service member is on active duty during the time of death, the currently-enrolled DDESS student will be able to continue attending the DDESS school until they choose to leave.*

**6. Can a family move to a different DDESS location and still continue to attend a DDESS school?**

*No. This policy was put into place to try to help families of Fallen Military members with the transitions that take place as a result of the death of their loved one. If the family elects to move to another area, they are voluntarily transitioning.*

**7. How long can a student stay in the DDESS system after the military parent has died?**

*That depends on the location of the family because different military installations have different levels of DDESS schools. For example, only four military installations in the continental U.S. have DDESS high schools. Some installations have only elementary schools, some have elementary and middle schools and some have K-12.*

**8. What about Guam and Puerto Rico?**

*They follow the same policies as all stateside DDESS schools.*

**9. What's the policy for the Department of Defense Dependents Schools overseas?**

*There is a separate policy for DoDDS. This policy allows the dependents of deceased active duty military members and DoD civilians to be able to enroll in DoDDS schools on a space available, tuition-free basis.*

**10. Will this policy be retroactive?**

*We are not aware of any circumstance where it would be needed.*

**11. What if an issue of a student asking for the change to be retroactive came to light?**

*We'd address each case individually.*