

■ More than half a century ago, the United States military established schools for the children of occupying forces in Europe and the Pacific. Schools for military dependents on military bases in the United States were already well established. First administered by the Military Services, administration for the growing number of schools was soon transferred to civilian managers, then organized into two separate but parallel systems: the Department of Defense Dependents Schools (DoDDS) overseas, and the Department of Defense Domestic Dependent Elementary and Secondary Schools (DDESS) in the United States. In 1994, the two systems united under the Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA).

■ In 1999-2000, DoDEA operated 224 public schools to serve the 106,430 children of military and civilian Department of Defense personnel in seven states, Puerto Rico, Guam, and 13 foreign countries. The students in DoDDS and DDESS represent every state and territory in the United States, and are as ethnically diverse as the country itself.

■ Throughout its history, Department of Defense schools have made excellence in education their priority. Graduation requirements have been raised, academic programs have become more rigorous, and school success is now measured via an array of quality indicators identified by thousands of school systems as critical to student progress. These include teacher preparation, use of technology, school readiness, and parental participation. This report provides an overview of DoDEA schools for the school year 1999-2000.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE EDUCATION ACTIVITY

