



IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Patricia Lambe

Voice: (703) 696-4236

Email: plambe@hq.odedodea.edu

DoDEA Distributes Powerful Tool to Assist Parents of Secondary School Students

ARLINGTON, VA — Joseph D. Tafoya, Director, Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA), announced today that DoDEA will distribute *Chart Your Course: Planning a Successful Journey through High School and Beyond* materials to every student in grades 7 through 11 in all Department of Defense schools. Distribution will take place during the next few weeks.

The *Chart Your Course* packet includes a two-sided poster for students that provides tips and ideas for moving smoothly from middle school through graduation, and an “academic passport” for parents that provides recommendations and guidelines. Used in conjunction with the school six-year plan for student study, *Chart Your Course* will help students, parents, and counselors determine a consistent academic path from middle school through high school graduation, and will help appropriately prepare students for post secondary school experiences.

Chart Your Course was developed via a joint venture between DoDEA and the Military Child Education Coalition (MCEC) as a result of the Army’s Secondary Education Transition Study (SETS). The study, conducted to determine the effects that moving from one school system to another during the high school years has on children of active duty military parents, resulted in a set of guiding principles which reflect the key issues and challenges facing 175,000 secondary school-age transitioning students and their parents, and a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) to implement those principles.

To date, 56 school districts have signed the SETS MOA. DoDEA is an active partner in the implementation of SETS, and has been since the beginning. DoDEA school counselors are being trained to facilitate the transition of students and their families. DoDEA superintendents and principals have participated in SETS implementation training sessions, and superintendents at each institution are in the process of partnering with installation commanders and post liaison personnel to implement the program. In addition, one DoDEA superintendent has been released part-time to assist in the implementation of SETS in all DoDEA districts and schools.

More...
February 11, 2002

“DoDEA has always been aware of the challenges that face the children of our military when they transition between schools, especially when it comes to various state high school graduation requirements, and we’ve always done everything possible to help our families anticipate those challenges and ease the transitions,” said Dr. Tafoya. “*Chart Your Course* is a culmination of DoDEA’s ongoing work and our active participation in SETS. We hope these materials will prove an invaluable aid to our families as they ‘chart the course’ for their children’s academic journey through high school and beyond.”

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