Facilities for 21st Century Learning

Implications for 21st Century Learning

Student-Centered Education

Current Thinking
Students have a wide variety of needs that evolve over time. Each child maintains his or her own unique set of emotional, physical, and social needs that directly influence how he or she responds to life and to education. Therefore, to prepare students appropriately, contemporary trends in education must recognize and respond to these evolving individualized needs so that each child develops necessary competencies while also receiving the personal support they need.

Beyond this, students in military families are often working through additional intense life situations as the result of circumstances. These circumstances may include long-term parental deployment, single-parent anxiety and depression, personal separation anxiety and depression, frequent short-term (potentially international) relocations, and additional circumstances unique to military life. Children, unlike their parents, are not positioned to legally act on their own behalf or make personal decisions that immediately address these issues and need additional resources to navigate. DoDEA helps provide additional resources to nurture these students through each stage of development.

DoDEA Direction
Broad learning opportunities must be reintroduced both inside and outside the walls of DoDEA schools. In addition, K-12 learning should facilitate the intellectual curiosity and creativity that spurs the emotional, physical, social, and cultural growth of students as they learn. Both teachers and parents must understand and commit to 21st Century pedagogy to more fully utilize 21st Century buildings.