DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE EDUCATION ACTIVITY
HEADQUARTERS
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DATE DEC 19 2016

MEMORANDUM FOR DODEA PRINCIPAL DEPUTY DIRECTOR AND ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR FOR ACADEMICS,
DODEA ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR FOR FINANCIAL AND BUSINESS OPERATIONS
DODEA CHIEF OF STAFF
DODEA-AMERICAS DIRECTOR FOR STUDENT EXCELLENCE
DODEA-EUROPE DIRECTOR FOR STUDENT EXCELLENCE
DODEA-PACIFIC DIRECTOR FOR STUDENT EXCELLENCE

SUBJECT: Directive-Type Memorandum 16-E-001, "Department of Defense Dependent Home-School Students"

References:
(a) DoD Instruction 1342.26, "Eligibility Requirements for Minor Dependents to Attend Department of Defense Domestic Dependent Elementary and Secondary Schools," March 4, 1997.
(b) DoDEA Administrative Instruction 2000.1, "High School Graduation Requirements and Policy," September 5, 2014
(c) DoDEA Policy Memorandum 02-OD-02, "Home Schooling," November 6, 2002 (hereby cancelled).
(d) DoDEA Regulation 1342.13, "Eligibility Requirements for Education of Elementary and Secondary School-age Dependents in Overseas Areas," September 20, 2006, as amended.
(e) United States Code, Title 20, Section 926, as amended.

Purpose. In accordance with the authority in Section 926 of Title 20, United States Code, this Directive-Type Memorandum (DTM):

- Implements Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) services and resources for use or receipt by eligible Department of Defense (DoD) dependent home-school students.

- Implements this statutory provision for DoD home-school dependent students who are eligible to enroll in DoDEA-Europe and DoDEA-Pacific schools on a space-required basis and administratively extends it to DoD home-school dependent students who are eligible to attend DoDEA-Americas schools on a tuition-free basis.

- Is effective immediately, supersedes all previous policies on home-schooling issued by DoDEA, and will expire one year from the date of publication.

- Will be converted to a new DoDEA regulation within one year from the date of publication under Education Operations and Integrated Support.

Applicability. This DTM applies to the Office of the Director, DoDEA; the Principal Deputy Director and Associate Director for Academics, DoDEA; the Associate Director for Financial and Business Operations, DoDEA; the Chief of Staff, DoDEA; the Director for Student Excellence, DoDEA-Americas (formerly the Director, Domestic Dependent Elementary and Secondary Schools, and Department of Defense Dependents Schools, Cuba (DDESS/DoDDS-Cuba)); the Director for Student Excellence, DoDEA-Europe (formerly the Director, Department of Defense Dependents Schools, Europe (DoDDS-E)); the Director for Student Excellence, DoDEA-Pacific (formerly the Director, Department of Defense Dependents Schools, Pacific, and Domestic Dependent Elementary and Secondary Schools, Guam (DoDDS-P/DDESS-Guam)) (referred to collectively in this issuance as "DoDEA Region Directors for Student Excellence"); and all DoDEA Region, District, and Community Superintendents, School Administrators, Teachers, and Support Staff. This DTM:

- Applies to home-school students eligible to enroll in a DoDEA school in a tuition-free status (DoDEA-Americas) or space-required status (DoDEA-Europe and DoDEA-Pacific).

- Is not applicable to space-required students who are enrolled in host nation schools.

Definitions.

- home-schooling. Home-schooling is the practice of teaching one's own children at home via parents, tutors, or virtual programs.

- auxiliary services. Auxiliary services include use of academic resources, access to the library of the school, after-hours use of school facilities, and participation in music, sports, and other extracurricular and interscholastic activities.

Policy. It is DoDEA policy that:

- DoDEA implements Section 926 of Title 20, United States Code, to ensure DoD dependent students who are educated in a home-school setting but are eligible to enroll in DoDEA-Europe and DoDEA-Pacific on a space-required basis are entitled to use or receive the specified auxiliary services without being required either to enroll in or register for a minimum number of courses offered by the school.

- DoDEA administratively extends the opportunity to use specified auxiliary services without being required either to enroll in or register for a minimum number of courses offered by the school to DoD dependent students who are

educated in a home-school setting but are eligible to attend a DoDEA-Americas school on a tuition-free basis.

- DoDEA fosters a positive educational experience for all military-connected students who choose to engage with DoDEA schools.

- DoDEA neither encourages nor discourages DoD sponsors from home-schooling their minor dependents.

- DoDEA recognizes that home-schooling is a sponsor's right and may be a legitimate alternative form of education for the sponsor's dependents.

- Eligible DoD dependent home-school students using or receiving auxiliary services must meet the same eligibility and standards of conduct requirements applicable to students enrolled in the DoDEA school who use or receive the same auxiliary services.

Responsibilities.

DoDEA Region Directors for Student Excellence shall:

- Ensure compliance with provisions of this DTM.

- Brief major commands through Area Advisory Councils on the DoDEA services and resources available to eligible DoD dependent home-school students.

- Hold District Superintendents accountable for adherence to this DTM.

- Coordinate with District Superintendents to ensure that garrison and installation commanders and DoDEA community stakeholders are informed and understand the educational benefits of this DTM.

DoDEA District Superintendents shall:

- Ensure compliance with provisions of this DTM.

- In coordination with and under the guidance of the DoDEA Region Directors for Student Excellence, exercise general supervisory control over the administration of this DTM within their district.

- Ensure the appropriate district and school staff members (e.g., principals, school counselors, registrars, etc.) are informed and aware of this DTM.

- Inform commanders and the DoDEA community stakeholders of the educational benefits and procedures under this DTM.

DoDEA Principals shall:

- Ensure that supervisory controls are exercised to assure school-level compliance with the policies and procedures identified in this DTM.

Other Matters. See Attachment.

Releasability. Cleared for public release. This DTM is available on the Internet from the DoDEA Issuances Web-site at http://www.dodea.edu/Offices/Regulations/index.cfm. This DTM supersedes all previous policies on home-schooling issued by DoDEA.

Thomas M. Brady
Director

Attachments:
As stated

ATTACHMENT

OTHER MATTERS

1. PROOF OF ELIGIBILITY.

a. Proof of eligibility must be provided and will be maintained at the school where the dependent student is using or receiving auxiliary services, taking one or more DoDEA courses, or accessing special education services.

b. Documentation establishing eligibility may be destroyed or returned to the sponsor 1 year after the DoD dependent student is no longer accessing auxiliary services, taking one or more DoDEA courses or accessing special education services.

2. USE OF AUXILLIARY SERVICES.

a. For the purpose of use or receipt of auxiliary services without enrolling in or registering for a minimum number of courses in a DoDEA-Europe and DoDEA-Pacific school, a DoD dependent student must be eligible for space-required enrollment as specified in DoDEA Regulation 1342.13. For the purpose of use or receipt of auxiliary services without enrolling in or registering in a minimum number of courses in a DoDEA-Americas school, a DoD dependent must be eligible for tuition-free enrollment, as specified in DoD Instruction 1342.26.

b. Eligible DoD home-school dependents using or receiving auxiliary services will not be charged tuition.

3. COURSES AND SPECIAL EDUCATION.

a. DoDEA schools will provide and offer eligible DoD dependent home-school students courses and/or special education services, consistent with existing DoDEA regulations and policies.

b. Eligible DoD dependent home-school students electing to take a single course or more and/or access special education services at a DoDEA school must complete the same registration forms, procedures and requirements, and comply with all DoDEA policies applicable to enrolled DoDEA students who take courses and/or access special education services.

c. Eligible DoD dependent home-school students electing to take DoDEA courses, but who are not enrolled in a full course schedule at a DoDEA school, will not be charged tuition.

4. QUALIFICATIONS FOR GRADUATION. The high-school graduation ceremony is an important milestone for every student and for the military family who has supported them throughout their academic career.

a. Eligible DoD dependent home-school students may earn the DoDEA diploma and participate in the DoDEA commencement ceremony by complying with all DoDEA graduation policies and procedures (i.e., DoDEA Administrative Instruction 2000.1) applicable to enrolled DoDEA students who earn the DoDEA diploma and participate in the DoDEA commencement ceremony.

b. In accordance with DoDEA Administrative Instruction 2000.1, the standard to walk or participate in the DoDEA graduation commencement ceremony is to meet the graduation requirements for either the DoDEA standard, honors, or International Baccalaureate (IB) diploma or meet the goals of the Individual Education Plan (IEP). Students who have received approval for an exception to graduation requirements are considered in good standing and may participate.

c. Any student, including eligible DoD dependent home-school students, who has not met the graduation requirements to earn the DoDEA diploma, may not receive DoDEA commencement regalia, the DoDEA diploma, nor walk or participate in the DoDEA commencement ceremony. Students who have or will receive a high-school diploma from a non-DoDEA school may not also receive a DoDEA diploma.

5. HOME-SCHOOL GRADUATION ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND SUPPORT SERVICES. Home-school seniors who are registered at a DoDEA school to use or receive auxiliary services, or enrolled to take one or more DoDEA courses, and/or receive special education services in the school, and have completed their home school program, but do not meet DoDEA graduation requirements to earn the DoDEA diploma, may be supported and acknowledged in the following ways:

a. In coordination with the District Superintendent, DoDEA high-school principals may authorize the use of DoDEA facilities for the sponsor or command to host a home-school graduation ceremony. Such ceremonies should be held after-hours (i.e., not during the school day). Requests to use DoDEA facilities should be made in writing at least 90 days prior to the event date.

b. Within DoDEA's discretion, graduating home-school seniors may be acknowledged for the completion of their home-school program in remarks at culminating senior events in which they participate (e.g., senior awards ceremony, senior breakfast, sport awards ceremony, etc.) or from the audience during the DoDEA commencement ceremony.

6. HOST NATION, STATE, COMMONWEALTH, POSSESSIONS, AND TERRITORY LAWS.

a. A host nation, state, commonwealth, possessions, or territory where a DoD sponsor is stationed may impose legal requirements on home-schooling practices.

b. DoDEA encourages DoD sponsors who wish to home-school their dependents to communicate their desire to their commanders to determine if there are any command policies or other rules ensuring that home-schooling practices meet host nation, state, commonwealth, possessions, or territory requirements.

c. Sponsors are responsible for complying with applicable local requirements.