

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE EDUCATION ACTIVITY (DoDEA) 75TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION (1946-2021) DESCRIPTION

Background

DoDEA has a long and proud history of serving military families at locations around the globe. While a few schools on military bases within the continental United States and its territories, were operating prior to World War II, the school system we know today as the Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA), formally began with the establishment of dependents schools in October 1946 in the occupied countries of Germany, Austria and Japan.



At the end of the war, there was no precedent to follow for establishing and operating dependents schools in foreign occupied countries. The 1946-47 school year also

From our early beginnings, we have maintained an ongoing focus on continuous improvement, the future, and our promise and commitment to ensure "Excellence in Education for Every Student, Every Day, Everywhere."

marked the first time that the federal government and the military realized that a more consistent approach was needed to the establishment, operation, and resources for schools serving military families, overseas and on installations in the USA.

Since that foundational year, the DoDEA footprint has expanded across the country and around the globe to meet the educational needs of military-connected youth. Over time, we have grown, merged, consolidated, reorganized, and changed many times. In 1994, Congress unified the domestic and overseas operations under the Department of Defense Education Activity. As a DoD Field Activity today, we enjoy national recognition for our accomplishments.

Anniversary Commemoration

In the coming school year, we will celebrate 75 years as a school system. We'll look back with gratitude on the remarkable men and women who made it their life's work to care for, educate, and empower more than 15 million military-connected children who have passed through our doors. We will launch an anniversary web page on October 12th at: <http://www.dodea.edu/75>. Throughout the year, we will roll out print and digital products on the web and on social media to provide ongoing visibility for this milestone.

Not every school has been in operation for the 75-year span of our organizational history; however, every school and office has played a pivotal role during their tenure in telling the DoDEA story. Every school and every employee have contributed in some measure to the shaping of that history.

Timeline

As we go back to school, we'll promote our anniversary and begin a major campaign on October 14th to commemorate the opening of our first schools in post-World War II in Germany, Japan, and Austria. The commemoration will be a year-long effort. We will conclude the commemoration at the end of the school year in June 2022. In between, we will acknowledge important milestones of all the entities that comprise DoDEA today and highlight our history, significant achievements, and people. Seventy-five (75) years is a wide span of time to cover. We have created three periods of focus in our systemic campaign. The schedule will allow us to focus on the major aspects of our history, evolution, and accomplishments in each era/time period for production purposes.

Eras/Periods of Focus	Commemoration Timeline
Early years (1946-1975)	October – December 2021
Consolidation and Unification (1975-1994)	January -- March 2022
Modernizations and 21 st Century (1994-2021)	April – June 2022

Branding

We have developed a design with a consistent look and feel to use for any digital or print product created throughout the school year including official correspondence. Schools and partners are encouraged to use the logo and other branded templates. We have created a resource page to support the effort and resources can be found on the DoDEA website at: <http://www.dodea.edu/75/resources.cfm>

We all have a role in telling the continuing story...

While there has been much change over the history of DoDEA, one thing remains constant -- students are at the core of everything we do. The DoDEA experience is characterized by an enduring commitment to excellence in every facet of teaching and learning – to provide military-connected children with the education they need and deserve.

This is a legacy that we can all promote, highlight, and sustain in our schools and communities by “telling the stories” of our students and teachers (past and present) in commemoration of our 75th Anniversary!

“Through its attendees and graduates over a long and proud history, DoDEA has written a success story: military-connected children schooled by dedicated teachers, administrators and support staff have gone on to contribute and thrive in every aspect of American life and culture – countless students who have become richer in many ways because of their unique DoDEA experiences.”

