DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE EDUCATION ACTIVITY (DoDEA)
PARENT ORGANIZATIONAL NAMES SINCE 1946

While DoDEA has had many names over the years and still has different names in our guiding legislation (DSS, USDESEA DoDDS, Section 6, DDESS), the school system today has, in fact, been a unified one since 1992 under one organization, DoDEA.

Overseas Schools

1992 Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA)
1978 Department of Defense Dependents Schools (DoDDS)
1976 Office of Overseas Dependents Education (OODE)
1967 United States Dependents Schools, European Area (USDESEA)
1964 Office of Dependents Schools (ODS)
1956 57135th School Group, Europe (5713thSG)
1954 Dependents Schools Group (DSG)
1952 Dependents Education Organization (DEO)
1948 Dependents Schools Division (DSD)
1946 Dependents School Service (DSS)
   American Dependents School, Far East
   Army Forces Far East (AAFE) Dependents Schools

Domestic Schools

19941 DoD Domestic Dependents Elementary and Secondary Schools (DDESS)
19922 Section 6 School (DoDEA) (Section 6 Schools)
19813 Section 6 Schools (DoD) (Section 6 Schools)
19504 Section 6 Schools (Office of Education) (Section 6 Schools)

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1 Public Law No. 103-337 replaced Section 6 legislation which was repealed and renamed the school system the Department of Defense Domestic Dependents Elementary and Secondary Schools (DDESS). In 1994 DDESS and Department of Defense Dependents Schools (DoDDS) were brought together under an umbrella agency, the Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA).
2 DoD Dir. 1342.21 establishes Section 6 schools as an organizational element of DoDEA
3 The Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (Public Law No. 97-35) transferred responsibility for the Section 6 schools to the Secretary of Defense. Centralized in the Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Personnel Support, Families and Education in 1990.
4 Federal consolidating the funding and operation of these installation-run schools under the authority of Section 6 of Public Law No. 81-874.