

DoDEA FACTS

DOMESTIC DEPENDENT ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS (DDESS)

The Domestic Dependent Elementary and Secondary Schools (DDESS) is one of three operational areas within the DoD Education Activity (DoDEA). DoDEA is a Department of Defense field activity operating under the direction, authority, and control of the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness.

DDESS TODAY

DDESS operates 65 schools on 15 installations, in 7 states, Puerto Rico, and Guam, serving approximately 27,000 students and employing over 2,300 education professionals. The DDESS Director and Area Service Center are located in Peachtree City, Georgia. (Note: DoDDS Cuba is managed by DDESS due to its geographic location; however, it is governed by the Department of Defense Dependents Schools (DoDDS). DDESS Guam schools are managed by DoDDS Pacific due to their geographic location.

HISTORICAL MILESTONES FOR DDESS

- In 1821 Congress first enacted a law that allowed the operation of schools on military posts in the United States.
- In 1950, federal legislation consolidated the funding and operation of these installation-run schools under the authority of Section 6, Public Law No. 81-874, which gave the then Commissioner of Education the authority to make arrangements for the free public education of children who resided on federal property if a State did not allow tax revenues to be expended for that purpose, or if no local educational agency (LEA) was able to provide suitable free public education to such children.
- Arrangements include:
 - Establishing new schools on federal properties; and
 - Providing funding to local school districts to educate eligible dependents.
- “Section 6 arrangements” were established by the Department of Education for the following reasons (1950-1980):
 - State law prohibited integrated education or segregated education was deemed unsuitable.
 - LEA was unable to provide suitable free public education.
 - Property was held under exclusive federal jurisdiction by the U.S.
 - State law prohibited tax revenues to be expended for free public education of federal children (Delaware).
- In 1981, the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (OBRA), P.L. 97-35, changed the responsibility for funding Section 6 arrangements from the Department of Education to the Department of Defense.

- ASD (Manpower, Reserve Affairs and Logistics) delegated authority to operate the Section 6 schools and special arrangements (contracts) with LEAs to the ASD's of the Military Departments.
- In 1982, DoD and the Department of Education executed a Memorandum of Understanding to implement OBRA, provide that SECDEF was authorized to fund Section 6 arrangements, and that the Secretary of Education was responsible for the conduct of programs to include:
 - Oversight of the programs at the schools
 - Verifying data provided by the schools
 - Providing recommendations to SECDEF on the conduct of programs and funding levels
- In 1985, a dispute arose between DoD and Department of Education over the Secretary of Defense's (SECDEF) authority to unilaterally enter into a Section 6 arrangement with Highland Falls-Fort Montgomery Central School District and the State of New York to educate high school children of military personnel serving at the U.S. Military Academy. A Department of Justice opinion in 1986 stated that the OBRA gave the SECDEF authority to establish new Section 6 arrangements for military dependents.
- Also in 1985, P.L. 99-176 required SECDEF to submit to Congress a plan to provide for the orderly transfer of all Section 6 schools to the appropriate LEAs. Plan was submitted in March 1986.
- In 1987, DoD issues DoD Directive 1342.16, "Provision of Free Public Education for Eligible Dependent Children Pursuant to Section 6, Public Law 81-874, as Amended."
- In October 1990, Defense Management Report Decision Number 964 passed operational authority for the Section 6 arrangements from the Military Departments to OSD (ASD (FMP)).
- In 1992, DoD issues charters for the Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) (DoDD 1342.20), and the DoD Section 6 Schools (DoDD 1342.21).
- In 1994, P.L. 103-382 repealed Section 6 of P.L. 81-874.
- Also, in 1994, section 351(a) of the National Defense Authorization Act for FY 1995, P.L. 103-337, provided new authority for SECDEF to operate the domestic schools:
 - Codified at 10 U.S.C. § 2164
 - New title for the schools: Domestic Dependent Elementary and Secondary Schools (DDESS)
- In 1994, H. Conf. Rep. 103-701 accompanying the NDAA for FY 1995, requested SECDEF to:
 - Conduct a survey of DDESS to collect information concerning the possibility of transferring the schools to LEAs; and
 - Conduct a survey of school districts operated by LEAs with federally connected student populations over 30% to determine the level of funding for such schools and the sources of that funding.
 - Study was coordinated with appropriate LEAs, state education officials, military leadership, parents, and parent organizations.
- In October 30, 1996, DoD issues DoD Instruction 1342.25, "School Boards for Department of Defense Domestic Dependent Elementary and Secondary Schools."
- In 1997, DoD issues DoD Instruction 1342.26, "Eligibility Requirements for Minor Dependents to attend DoD DDESS."

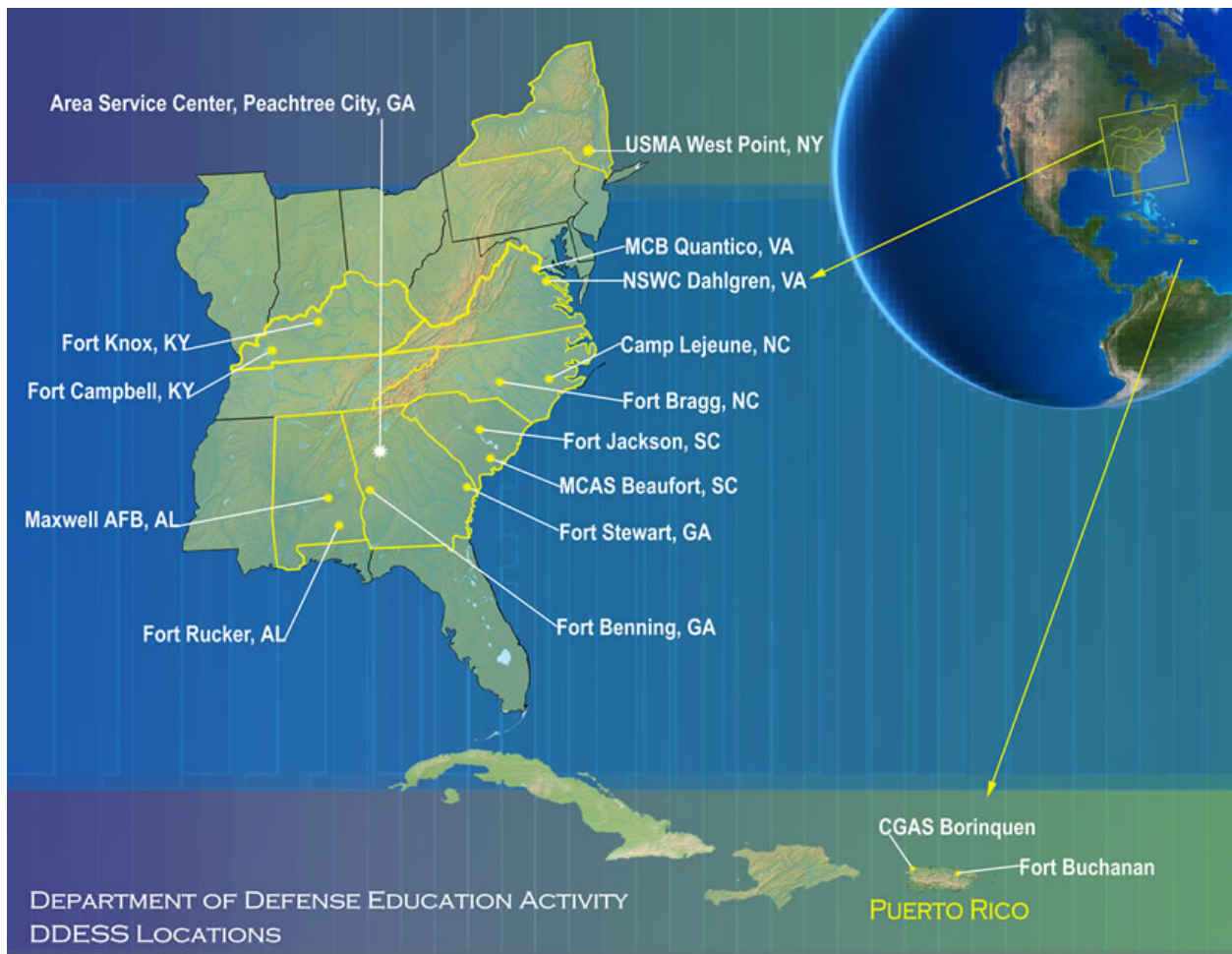
SCHOOL LOCATIONS AND GRADES SERVED:

Location		
West Point, NY	2 schools	Grades preK-8
Dahlgren, VA	1 school	Grades preK-8
Quantico, VA	4 schools	Grades preK-12

Fort Knox, KY	8 schools	Grades preK-12
Fort Campbell, KY	9 schools	Grades preK-12
Fort Bragg, NC	11 schools	Grades preK-8
Camp Lejeune, NC	7 schools	Grades preK-12
Maxwell AFB, AL	1 school	Grades preK-8
Fort Rucker, AL	2 schools	Grades preK-6
Fort Benning, GA	7 schools	Grades preK-8
Fort Stewart, GA	3 schools	Grades preK-6
Fort Jackson, SC	2 schools	Grades preK-6
MCAS Beaufort, SC	3 schools	Grades preK-8
Puerto Rico	4 schools	Grades preK-12
Guam	4 schools	Grades preK-12

For additional details, visit www.dodea.edu/americas.

For current enrollments, visit <http://www.dodea.edu/datacenter/enrollment.cfm>



Additionally, DoD has seven special contractual arrangements which provide educational and/or transportation services to eligible dependents residing on Dover AFB, Delaware, Hanscom AFB, Massachusetts, West Point, New York, Kansas, and Ceiba and Ponce, Puerto Rico.

Although the DDESS schools and arrangements serve only a small percentage of the total military dependent population in the United States, they are considered an essential quality of life issue on the installations served. In addition to offering outstanding educational programs, the DDESS schools and staff provide for the unique needs of military dependents and families, particularly in the current period of significant military deployments.

Office of the Director, DDESS/DoDDS-Cuba

Peachtree City, Georgia

On the web

www.dodea.edu/americas

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For more information

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