



DEPENDENTS EDUCATION COUNCIL

Feasibility Study on Expanding High-Quality Preschool Access for Department of Defense Overseas Family Members



PRESENTED BY

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dodea
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE EDUCATION ACTIVITY



Preschool Access Feasibility Study

- Conducted by Purdue University and the Military Family Research Institute
- Goal of the study:
 - Assess the availability of preschool programs at installations outside the continental United States (OCONUS) and;
 - Synthesize findings to inform future directions for planning preschool access among military families overseas.



Data Sources

- **Literature Review to Define Key Indicators of Quality Preschool**
- **Key Informant Survey**
 - 55 DoDEA Principals of Primary or Elementary Schools
 - 32 Child and Youth Program (CYP) Supervisors
- **Installation Site Visits**
 - 9 military installations that included DoDEA Sure Start Programs and a distribution across the Services for CDCs



Study Recommendations

- DoD consider implementing a preschool program for all resident children for a full school day, at least nine months per year, considering also children and families' needs for additional wraparound and summer programming.
- Full-Day Program with **Advanced** Qualities
 - Teachers with Early Childhood four-year degrees
 - Class size of 18 students
 - Full-time paraprofessional
 - Ongoing teacher professional learning



Study Recommendations

- If cost and staffing constraints limit the possibility to implement the recommended option immediately,
- Consider a phased implementation, possibly employing alternative options:
 - Part Day Program with **Advanced** Qualities
 - Part Day Program with **Improved** Qualities



Study Conclusions

- The most cost-efficient solutions for expanded quality preschool on OCONUS installations will involve the collaboration of DoDEA and CYP, using creative combinations of complementary resources.
- Key issues:
 - Availability of classroom space for preschool
 - Need for full-day and/or summer programming for children while their parents are at work
 - Highly-qualified lead teachers
 - Other Quality Preschool Indicators



DoD Next Steps

- Establish Working Group
 - Review Purdue Study
 - Examine the feasibility of implementation
 - Collaborate with Services and MC&FP (Office of Family Policy).



Questions



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