

COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN

A PARENT'S GUIDE

dodeca

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
EDUCATION ACTIVITY

FOREWORD

As parents, you play a vital role in the Department of Defense Education Activity's (DoDEA's) mission – Providing an Exemplary Education that Inspires and Prepares All Students for Success in a Dynamic, Global Environment.

DoDEA's efforts are focused on highest student achievement. Your children are what we are all about and they are the core of everything we do.

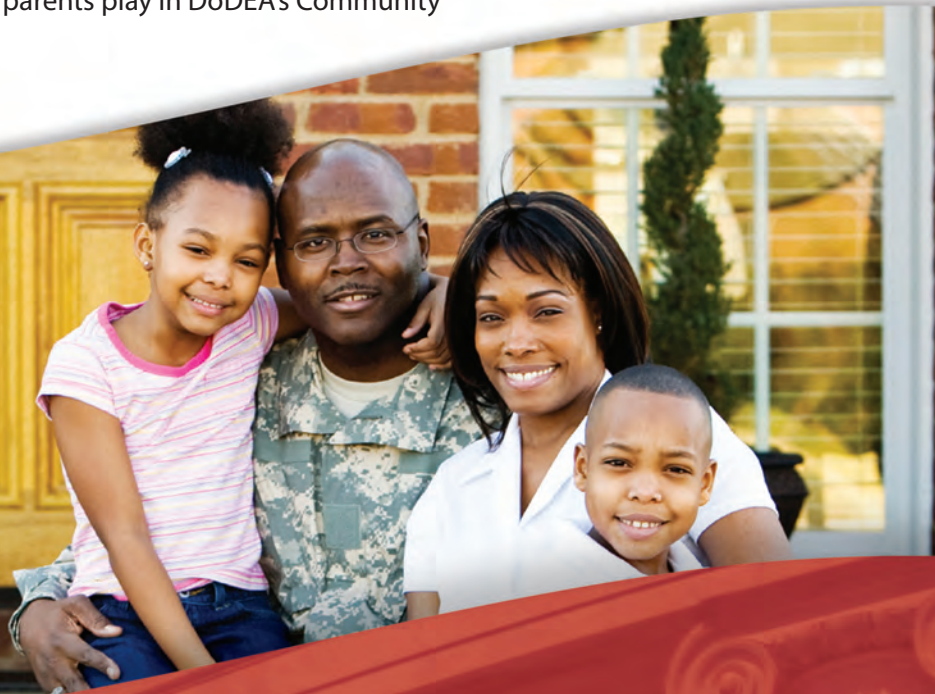
We believe the key to mission success and highest student achievement is continuous improvement. It's a concept that is central to what we do and forces us to look at what we are doing; examine how we are doing it; evaluate the results; and refine what we do so the needs of all our students are met.

Another key to our mission's success is the community – the community of our teachers and staff; parents; and other stakeholders working together to ensure students receive the best possible education and opportunities we can provide.

Parents are that all-important connection between home and school. By supporting and reinforcing your child's learning at home and in school, you contribute to our mission of promoting highest student achievement for all students.

Improving student performance and achievement doesn't happen by chance. It requires planning, action, and ongoing evaluation. DoDEA's Community Strategic Plan (CSP) contains the direction for our school system. It is the road map for keeping us at the forefront in advancing the Department of Defense's (DoD's) agenda for education and leading the Nation for the improvement of student performance and achievement.

This brochure outlines the role parents play in DoDEA's Community Strategic Plan.



ELEMENTS OF DoDEA'S CSP

DoDEA's Vision: *Communities Committed to Success for All Students*

DoDEA's Mission: *Providing an Exemplary Education that Inspires and Prepares All Students for Success in a Dynamic, Global Environment.*

DoDEA's Guiding Principles: *Productive citizenship is embedded in the following Guiding Principles and is an inherent core value of all CSP goals for all DoDEA stakeholders.*

Success for All Students

Trust and Respect for Others

Uncompromising Advocacy for Students

Development of Lifelong Learners

Equal Access to Quality, Rigorous Education

New and Motivating Challenges to Inspire Excellence

Teaching with High Expectations

Safe and Stable Learning Environment



DoDEA'S COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN

What is a Community Strategic Plan?

- A strategic direction for DoDEA for the years 2006-2011 to foster continuous improvement.
- A roadmap for keeping DoDEA in the forefront of advancing the DoD's agenda for education and leading the Nation for the improvement of student performance and achievement.

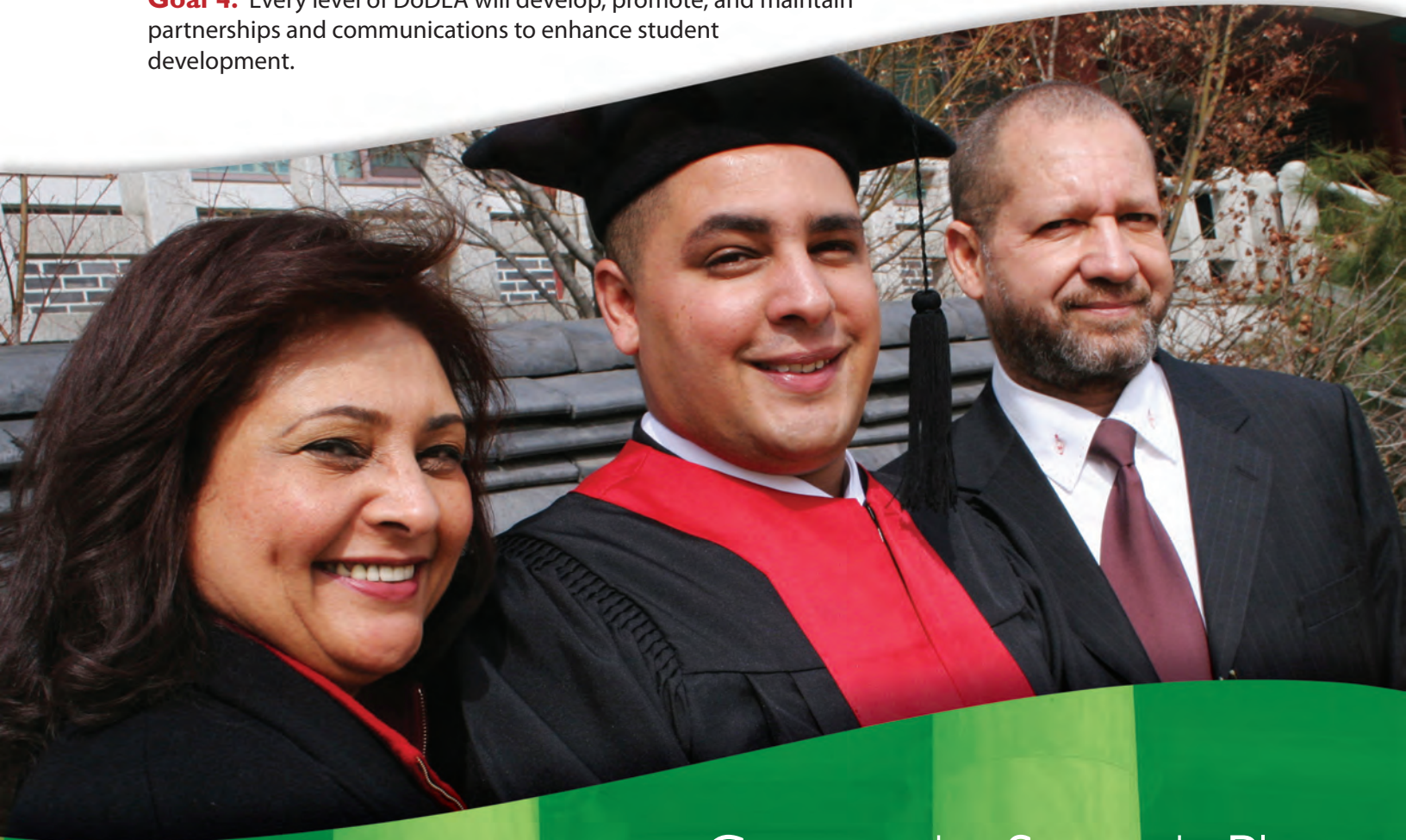
What are the Goals of DoDEA's CSP?

Goal 1: All students will meet or exceed challenging standards in academic content so they are prepared for continuous learning.

Goal 2: DoDEA will use performance-driven management systems that operate in a timely, efficient and equitable manner; place resource allocation and decision-making at the lowest operational level; and facilitate a safe environment conducive to optimum student achievement.

Goal 3: The DoDEA workforce will be motivated, diverse, and committed to continuous professional growth and development resulting in exemplary performance and optimum student achievement.

Goal 4: Every level of DoDEA will develop, promote, and maintain partnerships and communications to enhance student development.



WHAT IS THE 2008 CSP ALIGNMENT?

In April 2008, a committee composed of representatives from DoDEA Headquarters, Department of Defense Schools in the Pacific and Europe (DoDDS-Pacific and DoDDS-Europe); Defense Dependents Elementary and Secondary Schools (DDESS); and employee association officials met to review the 2006-2011 CSP.

This group was charged with ensuring congruency and alignment among goals, outcomes, measures, and milestones.

The result of the committee's work was an alignment to the plan, called the 2008 CSP Alignment. It clarifies the connection between the strategies, actions, and measures DoDEA will use to achieve its goals and objectives. It is also easier to read, and understand, provides clear and specific objectives, and defines measures to better match objectives.

“There’s a level of commitment, passion, and drive on the part of the teachers and administrators to make sure our children are equipped for the future.”



PARENT INVOLVEMENT IN DoDEA'S COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN

Parents play a key part in their child's education and they are valued members in their child's education community. As a partner in education, parents are critical components of DoDEA's CSP and we believe parents can specifically help us make great strides in achieving our goals.

“We have five children in DoDEA Schools. I've also been fortunate enough to serve on the school board and I've had an opportunity to visit several schools and see how the faculty and administration interact with the community. The level of commitment they have towards providing a quality education to our students is just phenomenal.”

- A DoDEA Parent



Community Strategic Plan

GOAL ONE

HIGHEST STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Parents are their child's first teachers. Preparing for highest student achievement and success begins long before the student enters the classroom for the first time. Parents can help in attaining Goal 1 by nurturing life-long learning and promoting continuous learning at home.

Before your child enters school:

- Introduce and teach your young child the basic skills such as number and letter recognition to get an early start on academic success.
- Read to your young child on a regular basis to foster literacy. Make sure you set a good example for your child by letting them see that you read on a regular basis as well.

Once your child enters school:

- Monitor your child's academic progress throughout the school year. Take advantage of the opportunities presented through programs such as GradeSpeed to keep current with curriculum, assessments, and homework assignments.
- Provide routines and a structure that fosters practice and learning at home.
- Reinforce concepts and instruction provided at school.
- Review your child's homework and help when you can to ensure they understand concepts and expectations.
- Encourage your child to read at home and follow a consistent daily routine with regard to homework, setting aside a scheduled time and place each day to complete homework, away from distractions.



GOAL TWO

CREATE A SAFE ENVIRONMENT CONDUCIVE TO OPTIMUM STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Parents can help create and maintain a safe environment at home that nurtures and sustains optimum student achievement that is the focus of our CSP Goal 2.

- Review school rules for safety and security with your child regularly.
- Make sure your child knows and understands the importance of education to their future success and your expectations regarding their academic performance.
- Set high expectations for student behavior in school and on the bus.
- Help your child arrive at school well-rested and prepared every day to learn.
- Help your child develop and practice organizational and study skills.
- Promote character building and citizenship skills at home.
- Limit television and video games at home and monitor Internet usage.
- When possible, encourage your child's participation in after-school, summer, and community-sponsored activities.



GOAL THREE

CONTINUOUS GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT THAT RESULTS IN EXEMPLARY PERFORMANCE AND OPTIMUM STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Goal 3 of DoDEA's CSP aims to build and maintain a diverse workforce that is motivated, trained and dedicated to highest student performance and achievement. As a parent, you can foster that same motivation and desire in your child to help them perform their very best.

- Parents know their children the best – and they know when their child is being challenged and when they might be bored or disengaged. Ensure your child receives the appropriate level of challenge in instruction.
- Help your child select courses that fill pre-requisites for advanced courses and enhance options for their future studies.
- Discuss post-secondary plans with your child. Explore academic and career options with them. Your child's school counselor is a valuable resource.
- Take advantage of resources and opportunities the school provides or recommends that will help develop your child's academic and life-skills potential.



GOAL FOUR

MAINTAIN COMMUNICATION TO ENHANCE STUDENT DEVELOPMENT

Parents are important members of their child's educational community. All community members – teachers, principals, school staff members, parents, and members of the local community have a significant impact on a child's education. Working together, all community members enhance student development every day. Parents can help strengthen partnerships and communication with their school community in a variety of ways.

- Attend parent-teacher conferences and work closely with teachers to reinforce instruction at home.
- Volunteer in the classroom and with special school programs when possible.
- Share your experiences and knowledge with students in the classroom and in after-school programs.
- Routinely review school newsletters and websites to stay connected with events, programs, and initiatives at your child's school.
- Participate in school surveys and DoDEA Customer Satisfaction Surveys. Provide feedback to teachers and school administrators.
- Communicate with your child's teacher and principal – share your concerns and respond to theirs.



PARENT
TEACHER
CONFERENCE

ONE COMMUNITY: FOCUSED ON CHILDREN, STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT & SUCCESS

As a parent, you have a profound impact on your child's personal and academic success. Being aware, informed, and involved can help you have a positive, lasting effect on your child's education and the DoDEA school system. Your concern, commitment, and experience are invaluable in creating a community of life-long learners who are prepared to enter the society of the 21st Century equipped with the academic, social, and life-skills they will need to succeed in today's global environment. We welcome your involvement.

To find out more about DoDEA's 2006-2011 Community Strategic Plan and the 2008 CSP Alignment, talk to your child's school principal or visit the DoDEA website

<http://www.dodea.edu/pubs/index.cfm>.

“We are sending our daughter to a school that we know has the highest standards of education and the teachers are so supportive. The school is a community. The teachers know that their students probably have a father or mother that may be deployed and they need that little bit of extra attention or nurturing.”

- A DoDEA Parent



Community Strategic Plan