

FACILITIES FOR 21ST CENTURY LEARNING

Ideas for 21st Century Facilities

Community Use

It is assumed that the schools are used for a variety of community uses. Community involvement in education can take a variety of forms before, during, and after the school day. Additionally, the school will not have to pay for space elsewhere for banquets, PTA events, retirement events, and student recognition events, if community spaces are available.

Generally in planning schools designers think of "Community in the School" but in considering all the community resources designers should also consider opportunities for "School in the Community" especially since these schools are located on military installations. The following is a partial list of potential community uses:

- Adult training
- Computer access
- College/graduate courses
- Dance recitals
- Public meetings
- Banquets
- Dances/proms
- Alumni reunions
- Professional development
- Clubs and organizational meetings
- Intramural sports
- Summer programs
 - Music
 - Athletics
 - Academics
 - Outside agencies
- Space for churches, arts groups, and sport events

The areas that have the greatest possibility for community usage include:

- Gymnasiums
- Cafeterias
- Media Centers
- Conference rooms
- Foyer/entrance
- Playing fields
- Parking lots

Special considerations include:

- Disaster and emergency use
- Design of the facility and site to enhance parking and circulation, security, and energy conservation
- Adequate signage to assist community members
- Layout of community use areas in a "user friendly" design
- Storage for community functions –gym; auditorium; community use



- After-hours lighting for parking areas
- Extended hours – (6 am – 3pm typical day vs. 7 am – 11pm for community use)
- Separate "Public" entrance for after school activities – access to gym, auditorium, cafeteria, media center/college and career center

Community Support

Many schools rely on volunteers to participate in tutoring and mentoring programs that take place in the school facility. It is important to configure adequate space for these programs. For instance, where does a volunteer tutor sit with a student, or small group of students to conduct tutoring? Is there a specific place for this to occur, or is the volunteer in the hallway or stairwell? Where does the volunteer put his or her belongings? Tutoring space can be provided through small group rooms adjacent to classrooms or through conference rooms located in each pod. Adequate parking spaces should be provided for volunteers in the visitor parking lot.

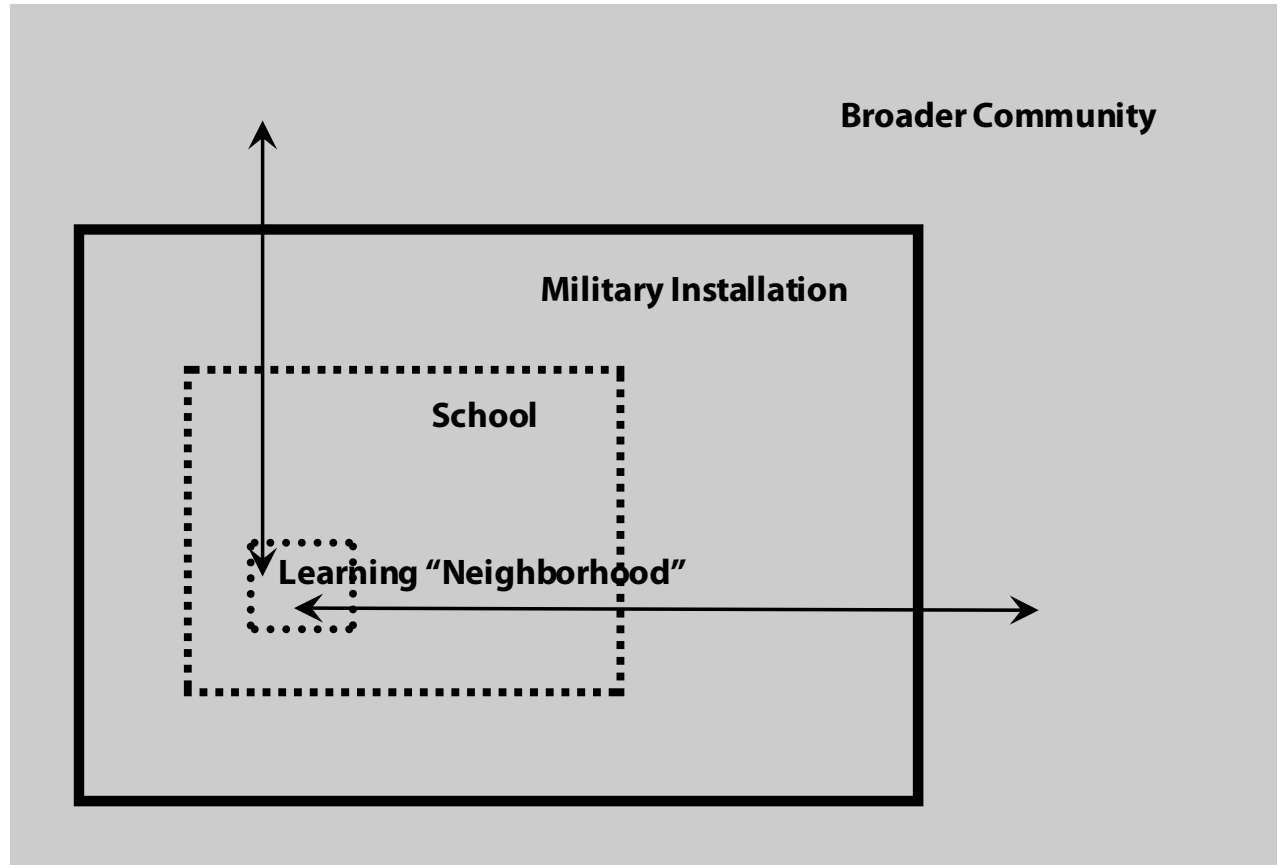
School in the Community

The DoDEA schools are unique in that they are located on military installations. The military base has the potential of providing auxiliary facilities that are seldom available to schools located elsewhere. For example, a military base includes extensive physical training facilities. Military installations also include various laboratories, research facilities, and sophisticated technical equipment. This provides the opportunity for rich internship/mentorship programs and for individual student projects and class visitations.

At the high school level there is a desire for Junior ROTC programs. Military installations provide an opportunity for real life ROTC experiences.

Many of the DoDEA schools are located in foreign countries. Through partnerships with host nation schools, museums, government, business and cultural organizations, rich educational experiences can be provided.

Community involvement should be taken into consideration in the initial planning of the building and not treated as an afterthought. Creating this synergy requires a great deal of initial planning and can significantly affect the layout and organization of the building and site.



► Broader Community Diagram