

FACILITIES FOR 21ST CENTURY LEARNING

Implications for 21st Century Learning

Institutional Implementation

Institutional policy is the engine that propels 21st Century learning. It provides the plan and course of action to influence and direct 21st Century education. Institutional policy is a critical resource for the implementation of curriculum, instruction and facilities.

Current Thinking

The purpose of DoDEA is to educate the children of Department of Defense military and civilian families worldwide. The mission of the U.S. Department of Education includes promoting student achievement and preparation for global competitiveness by fostering educational excellence and ensuring equal access to learning.

Current institutional policy is varied but includes actions necessary to support the curriculum and instruction described previously.

DoDEA Direction

The Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Military Community and Family Policy issued this challenge when he said, "Schools must be conducive to 21st Century learning, spark learning and provide instruction in the sciences and the arts." These key ideas and common themes will be most useful in further consideration of 21st Century institutional implementation:

- Enable change.
- Support the educator:
 - Define a process of inclusion for faculty development
- Focus on consistent guiding principles and objectives.
- Communicate expectations for all stakeholders – students, parents, faculty, administrators, and the local community.
- Identify possible contributors to success .
- Craft a shared vision of what a 21st Century school means.
- Capitalize on military techniques to improve learning and immersion:
 - "...Adapt, adjust, improvise and prevail, prevail, prevail."
- Insist on transportable student profile data that is critical for the students' transitions between grades and between schools.
- Produce students that are trainable, rather than specialized with vocational training.
- Challenge the traditional vocabulary to embrace new ideas and avoid only repeating the past (i.e., classroom, school).



- Entice people to use the new 21st Century learning spaces.
- Enable the school to be the activity center of the local community, especially for family support services:
 - Consider addressing all facilities on the military installation when designing school facilities.
- Align professional development to enhance future use of facilities.
- Create demonstration schools – pilot the next idea now, and provide lots of training.