

FACILITIES FOR 21ST CENTURY LEARNING

Implications for 21st Century Learning

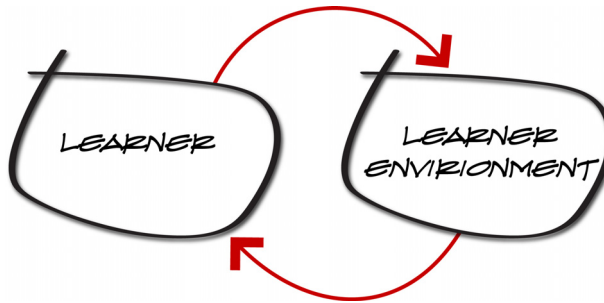
Student-Centered Education

Current Thinking

Students have a wide variety of needs that evolve over time. Each child maintains his or her own unique set of **emotional, physical, and social needs** that directly influence how he or she responds to life and to education. Therefore, to prepare students appropriately, contemporary trends in education must recognize and respond to these evolving individualized needs so that each child develops necessary competencies while also receiving the personal support they need.

Beyond this, students in military families are often working through additional intense life situations as the result of circumstances. These circumstances may include long-term parental deployment, single-parent anxiety and depression, personal separation anxiety and depression, frequent short-term (potentially international) relocations, and additional circumstances unique to military life. Children, unlike their parents, are not positioned to legally act on their own behalf or make personal decisions that immediately address these issues and need additional resources to navigate. DoDEA helps provide additional resources to nurture these students through each stage of development.

The Department of Defense, including the United States military, is a resourceful institution that has developed the world's most advanced technology, has trained the world's greatest soldiers and leaders, is located around the world, and has developed a cadre of services to support military employees, active service members, and their families. The military schools benefit from DoDEA's commitment to develop optimal learning environments for twenty-first century students.



DoDEA Direction

Broad learning opportunities must be reintroduced both inside and outside the walls of DoDEA schools. In addition, K-12 learning should facilitate the intellectual curiosity and creativity that spurs the emotional, physical, social, and cultural growth of students as they learn. Both teachers and parents must understand and commit to 21st Century pedagogy to more fully utilize 21st Century buildings.