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§ 921. Defense dependents' education system

(a) Establishment

The Secretary of Defense shall establish and operate a program (hereinafter in this chapter referred to as the "defense dependents' education system") to provide a free public education through secondary school for dependents in overseas areas.

(b) Program purposes and activities

(1) The Secretary shall ensure that individuals eligible to receive a free public education under subsection (a) receive an education of high quality.

(2) In establishing the defense dependents' education system under subsection (a), the Secretary shall provide programs designed to meet the special needs of—

- (A) the handicapped,
- (B) individuals in need of compensatory education,
- (C) individuals with an interest in vocational education,
- (D) gifted and talented individuals, and
- (E) individuals of limited English-speaking ability.

(3) The Secretary shall provide a developmental preschool program to individuals eligible to receive a free public education under subsection (a) who are of preschool age if a preschool program is not otherwise available for such individuals and if funds for such a program are available.

(c) Consultation requirements

The Secretary of Defense shall consult with the Secretary of Education on the educational programs and practices of the defense dependents' education system.

(d) Optional summer school programs

(1) The Secretary of Defense may provide optional summer school programs in the defense dependents' education system.

(2) The Secretary shall provide any summer school program under this subsection on the same financial basis as programs offered during the regular school year, except that the Secretary may charge reasonable fees for all or portions of such summer school programs to the extent that the Secretary determines appropriate.

(3) The amounts received by the Secretary in payment of the fees shall be available to the Department of Defense for defraying the costs of conducting summer school programs under this subsection.

(Pub. L. 95-561, title XIV, §1402, Nov. 1, 1978, 92 Stat. 2365; Pub. L. 99-145, title XII, §1204(b)(1),

Nov. 8, 1985, 99 Stat. 720; Pub. L. 102-484, div. A, title III, §382, Oct. 23, 1992, 106 Stat. 2392; Pub. L. 106-65, div. A, title III, §354(1), Oct. 5, 1999, 113 Stat. 572; Pub. L. 107-314, div. A, title III, §343, Dec. 2, 2002, 116 Stat. 2515.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

This chapter, referred to in subsec. (a), was in the original "this title", meaning title XIV of Pub. L. 95-561, Nov. 1, 1978, 92 Stat. 2365, as amended, known as the Defense Dependents' Education Act of 1978, which enacted this chapter, section 489 of Title 37, Pay and Allowances of the Uniformed Services, and section 1769b of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare, amended sections 1773 and 1789 of Title 42, and enacted provisions set out as notes under this section. For complete classification of this title to the Code, see Short Title note below and Tables.

AMENDMENTS

2002—Subsec. (d)(2). Pub. L. 107-314 amended par. (2) generally. Prior to amendment, par. (2) read as follows: "The Secretary shall provide in regulations for fees to be charged for the students enrolling in a summer school program under this subsection in amounts determined on the basis of family income."

1999—Subsec. (b)(1). Pub. L. 106-65 substituted "to receive" for "to receive".

1992—Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 102-484 added subsec. (d).

1985—Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 99-145 added subsec. (c).

EFFECTIVE DATE

Pub. L. 95-561, title XIV, §1415, Nov. 1, 1978, 92 Stat. 2373, provided that:

"(a)(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) this title [see Short Title note below] shall take effect on July 1, 1979.

"(2) Section 1407(b) [enacting section 926(b) of this title] and the amendments made by section 1407(c) [enacting section 429 of Title 37, Pay and Allowances of the Uniformed Services], 1408(a) [enacting section 1769b of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare], and 1408(b) [amending sections 1773 and 1789 of Title 42] shall take effect on October 1, 1978.

"(b) Notwithstanding subsection (a) or any other provision of this title no provision of this title shall be construed to impair or prevent the taking effect of the provision of any other Act providing for the transfer of the functions described in this title to an executive department having responsibility for education."

SHORT TITLE

Pub. L. 95-561, title XIV, §1401, Nov. 1, 1978, 92 Stat. 2365, provided that: "This title [enacting this chapter, section 429 of Title 37, Pay and Allowances of the Uniformed Services, and section 1769b of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare, amending sections 1773 and 1789 of Title 42, and enacting provisions set out as a note under this section] may be cited as the 'Defense Dependents' Education Act of 1978'."

REPORT ON CONDITION OF SCHOOLS UNDER JURISDICTION OF DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE EDUCATION ACTIVITY

Pub. L. 110-181, div. B, title XXVIII, §2879, Jan. 28, 2008, 122 Stat. 564, provided that:

"(a) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than March 1, 2008, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees [Committees on Armed Services and Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives] a report on the conditions of schools under the jurisdiction of the Department of Defense Education Activity.

"(b) CONTENT.—The report required under subsection (a) shall include the following:

- "(1) A description of each school under the control of the Secretary, including the location, year constructed, grades of attending children, maximum capacity, and current capacity of the school.

“(2) A description of the standards and processes used by the Secretary to assess the adequacy of the size of school facilities, the ability of facilities to support school programs, and the current condition of facilities.

“(3) A description of the conditions of the facility or facilities at each school, including the level of compliance with the standards described in paragraph (2), any existing or projected facility deficiencies or inadequate conditions at each facility, and whether any of the facilities listed are temporary structures.

“(4) An investment strategy planned for each school to correct deficiencies identified in paragraph (3), including a description of each project to correct such deficiencies, cost estimates, and timelines to complete each project.

“(5) A description of requirements for new schools to be constructed over the next 10 years as a result of changes to the population of military personnel.

“(c) USE OF REPORT AS MASTER PLAN FOR REPAIR, UPGRADE, AND CONSTRUCTION OF SCHOOLS.—The Secretary shall use the report required under subsection (a) as a master plan for the repair, upgrade, and construction of schools in the Department of Defense system that support dependents of members of the Armed Forces and civilian employees of the Department of Defense.”

PILOT PROGRAM ON PRIVATE OPERATION OF DEFENSE
DEPENDENTS' SCHOOLS

Pub. L. 104-106, div. A, title III, §355, Feb. 10, 1996, 110 Stat. 269, provided that:

“(a) PILOT PROGRAM.—The Secretary of Defense may conduct a pilot program to evaluate the feasibility of using private contractors to operate schools of the defense dependents' education system established under section 1402(a) of the Defense Dependents' Education Act of 1978 (20 U.S.C. 921(a)).

“(b) SELECTION OF SCHOOL FOR PROGRAM.—If the Secretary conducts the pilot program, the Secretary shall select one school of the defense dependents' education system for participation in the program and provide for the operation of the school by a private contractor for not less than one complete school year.

“(c) REPORT.—Not later than 30 days after the end of the first school year in which the pilot program is conducted, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report on the results of the program. The report shall include the recommendation of the Secretary with respect to the extent to which other schools of the defense dependents' education system should be operated by private contractors.”

§ 922. Administration of defense dependents' education system

(a) Operation; Director

The defense dependents' education system is operated through the field activity of the Department of Defense known as the Department of Defense Education Activity. That activity is headed by a Director, who is a civilian and is selected by the Secretary of Defense. The Director reports to an Assistant Secretary of Defense designated by the Secretary of Defense for purposes of this chapter.

(b) Implementation of program functions of Secretary of Defense through Director

Except with respect to the authority to prescribe regulations, the Secretary of Defense may carry out his functions under this chapter through the Director.

(c) Functions of Director

The Director shall—

(1) establish personnel policies, consistent with the Defense Department Overseas Teach-

ers Pay and Personnel Practices Act (20 U.S.C. 901 et seq.), for employees in the defense dependents' education system,

(2) have authority to transfer professional employees in the defense dependents' education system from one position to another,

(3) prepare a unified budget for each fiscal year, which shall include necessary funds for construction and operation and maintenance of facilities, for the defense dependents' education system for inclusion in the Department of Defense budget for that year,

(4) have authority to establish, in accordance with section 928 of this title, local school advisory committees,

(5) have authority to arrange for inservice and other training programs for employees in the defense dependents' education system, and

(6) perform such other functions as may be required or delegated by the Secretary of Defense or the Assistant Secretary of Defense designated under subsection (a).

(d) Establishment of regional or area offices; reports to Congress on reorganizations; authorized number of civilian employees

(1) The Director shall establish appropriate regional or area offices in order to provide for thorough and efficient administration of the defense dependents' education system.

(2) Whenever the Department of Defense Education Activity is reorganized in a manner that affects the defense dependents' education system, the Secretary of Defense shall submit a report to the Congress describing the reorganization.

(3) Subject to the approval of the Secretary of Defense, the Department of Defense Education Activity is authorized an appropriate number of civilian employees in its central office and such regional or area office as are established pursuant to paragraph (1).

(Pub. L. 95-561, title XIV, §1403, Nov. 1, 1978, 92 Stat. 2365; Pub. L. 106-65, div. A, title III, §354(2), Oct. 5, 1999, 113 Stat. 572; Pub. L. 106-398, §1 [[div. A], title X, §1087(g)(8)], Oct. 30, 2000, 114 Stat. 1654, 1654A-294.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Defense Department Overseas Teachers Pay and Personnel Practices Act, referred to in subsec. (c)(1), is Pub. L. 86-91, July 17, 1959, 73 Stat. 213, as amended, which is classified generally to chapter 25 (§901 et seq.) of this title. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 901 of this title and Tables.

AMENDMENTS

2000—Subsec. (c)(6). Pub. L. 106-398 struck out “the” before “the Assistant Secretary of Defense”.

1999—Pub. L. 106-65, §354(2)(A), amended section catchline.

Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 106-65, §354(2)(A), added subsec. (a) and struck out former subsec. (a) which read as follows:

“(1) There is established within the Department of Defense an office to be known as the Office of Dependents' Education.

“(2) The Office of Dependents' Education shall be headed by a Director of Dependents' Education (hereinafter in this chapter referred to as the ‘Director’), who shall be a civilian and who shall be selected by the Secretary of Defense and shall report to the Assistant Sec-