



IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DoDEA Educational Partnership Awards \$540,000 Grant to Monroe County School District's Sigsbee Charter School

ARLINGTON, VA –The Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) Educational Partnership awarded a \$540,000 grant to Monroe County Public School's Sigsbee Charter School through the FY 11 Grant Program.

The School District serves students whose parents are assigned to Naval Air Station Key West.

"The Department of Defense is strongly committed to ensuring that the children of military families receive an excellent education that prepares them for successful careers and to be active contributors to their communities and the nation," said Marilee Fitzgerald, DoDEA Acting Director. "Our partnerships with public schools serving military-connected families are an important part of that commitment."

This grant will enhance resources and opportunities in science, technology and math. In addition, service learning projects will be embedded in curriculum frameworks to ensure that students are learning with meaning and purpose. Service learning opportunities and overcoming transportation barriers will further connect transient students to their community and bolster their sense of belonging. Professional development initiatives and additional support staff will empower teachers to provide opportunities that meet the needs of each individual student.

"I would like to thank the Department of Defense for their generosity and support of Sigsbee Charter School," said Dr. Jesus Jara, Superintendent. "I am proud of the work done by our Sigsbee Family as well as our outstanding relationship with the Naval Air Station Key West. This grant will continue to offer great opportunities for our students and teachers in the coming year."

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"Congratulations to Sigsbee Charter School on their award of the DoDEA grant, which will serve to enhance student learning opportunities and academic achievement - not just for our military-connected children, but for all the students of Sigsbee Charter School," said Naval Air Station Key West Commanding Officer Capt. Patrick Lefere.

"Confidence in quality schooling for our military children is a big factor in military readiness, and I am thankful for the support of the school district and the community members who make Sigsbee Charter a great place for our children to learn," Lefere added.

All grants focus on enhancing student learning opportunities, student achievement, and educator professional development at military-connected schools. Some grants also have a counseling component that focuses on easing the challenges that military students face due to transitions and deployments.

While some active duty military families are stationed in overseas locations, the majority live on or near a military installation in the U.S. Approximately 60% of the children of military families in the U.S. are school age and the majority of them attend public schools throughout the nation.

The Educational Partnership Grant Program is designed to ease transition of children from military families from attendance in DoDEA schools to attendance in public schools.

DoDEA awarded more than \$64 million in grants this year to public schools serving military children throughout the nation. The grants were awarded to 57 military-connected local education agencies (LEAs) to increase student achievement and ease the challenges military students face due to transitions and deployment.

To be eligible for participation in the grant, the district must have an active military-connected student population of 5% or more, with a population of 15% or more military-connected students at the school level.

DoDEA consists of the Department of Defense Dependents Schools located overseas, and the Department of Defense Domestic Dependent Elementary and Secondary Schools located in the U.S. and its territories and possessions. DoDEA provides education to eligible DoD military and civilian dependents from pre-kindergarten through 12th grade. DoDEA also provides support and resources to Local Education Activities throughout the U.S. that serve children of military families.