

Taking Care of Our People

UNIVERSAL PREKINDERGARTEN AT DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE EDUCATION ACTIVITY (DODEA) SCHOOLS

MARCH 21, 2023



THIS INITIATIVE CHAMPIONS THE PRESIDENT'S FISCAL YEAR 2024 BUDGET REQUEST FOR FULL-TIME UNIVERSAL PREKINDERGARTEN AT DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE EDUCATION ACTIVITY SCHOOLS.

FAST FACTS:

- **WHAT IS IT?** The president's budget seeks \$90.4M in FY2024 to fully fund prekindergarten at all DoDEA schools. If enacted by Congress, this budget proposal will offer tuition-free, full-day prekindergarten to eligible 4-year-old family members.
- **WHAT DOES IT DO?** This initiative will provide tuition-free, full-day prekindergarten at DoDEA schools. Studies show that children who go to preschool are nearly 50% more likely to finish high school and go on to earn a two or four-year degree, no matter their background.
- **WHO IS ELIGIBLE?** Approximately 4,000 military-connected 4-year-olds will be eligible for free, full-day prekindergarten at DoDEA schools. Eligibility for universal prekindergarten at a DoDEA school will be governed by existing DoDEA policies for CONUS and OCONUS locations (detailed here: DoDEA, "Registration Process - Eligibility and Enrollment," <https://www.dodea.edu/registration-process.cfm>).
- **WHEN WILL IT BE AVAILABLE?** President Biden's fiscal year 2024 budget seeks \$90.4M to fund universal prekindergarten at DoDEA schools. The Defense Department will work with Congress to fund this important program in FY2024. Once funded to do so, DoDEA will begin phased implementation of prekindergarten across all DoDEA schools in school year 2024-2025.
- **HOW DO I ENROLL MY CHILD?** Once funded, each DoDEA school will begin appropriate provisioning to begin accepting applications to enroll eligible 4-year-old family members. Parents will receive updates from their local schools on the application process.