

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE DEPENDENTS SCHOOLS

PARTNERS
IN SPECIAL
EDUCATION
A Parent Guide





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*With appreciation to everyone who contributed
to the development of the Department of Defense
Dependents Schools Special Education Parent Guide*

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A Message To Parents

“Partners in Special Education: A Parent Guide” has been developed to assist you as parents, guardians, or other family members in learning more about special education and how we can work together as partners in providing appropriate educational services for your child. If you have noticed that he/she may be having difficulties in school or is not developing as expected, this handbook will provide you with helpful information in getting answers to your concerns and questions. It is not unusual for you to feel alone or anxious about this situation.

Your son or daughter may be in need of some special support and assistance through the Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) Special Education system. As you will see in this handbook, a process has been designed to give you the opportunity to join in partnership with educators and other professionals in designing special support and assistance for your child to be successful in school. By becoming involved in this partnership, you will be a vital link in promoting your child’s social, emotional, and academic growth. Remember, you are the best informed and most knowledgeable advocate for your child and are a very important member in this partnership.

This handbook will address many commonly asked questions families have when beginning the special education process. If you have additional questions or want more information, remember that you are not alone. Talk with your child’s teachers and other staff members at the school. It may also be helpful to talk with other families that also have had experience in this process. As partners, we can make it work.

Lillian Gonzalez
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