



World Class Educators
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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DoDEA IGNORING ITS OWN CUSTOMER SATISFACTION SURVEY BY PROPOSING CUTS TO MIDDLE SCHOOL, KINDERGARTEN STAFFING

Proposals by DoDEA Director Dr. Shirely Miles to drastically cut staffing in middle schools and full day kindergarten classes directly contradict results of the customer satisfaction survey DoDEA released just a few weeks ago.

In the survey, administered to DoDEA parents/sponsors and students, respondents were asked to select the most important improvement they felt had the potential to improve the school they or their child attended. A list of eight options, including choices such as “consistent discipline policies” and “increasing access to instructional technology,” were offered as possible answers, along with “none of the above” and “other.” Respondents were asked to select the first, second and third most important improvements that had the potential to improve schools.

The option “reducing class size” was the top answer from both parents/sponsors and students in Europe and Stateside (including ties with other possible answers and excluding the “none of the above” option). The “reducing class size” option also finished just below “raising academic standards” in the Pacific as the first most important potential improvement (also excluding “None of the above”).

Despite this recent feedback from stakeholders, DoDEA Director Dr. Shirley Miles last week issued memos to her staff outlining plans to swell middle school Pupil to Teacher Ratios from the current 16:1 to 25:1 – an increase in class sizes of 50 percent!

Dr. Miles also announced that full day kindergarten classes would no longer be staffed with their own aide to assist teachers. Under the present formula for kindergartens of 29 students per 1 teacher and 1 aide, the kindergarten classes effectively have a ratio of 14.5 kindergarteners per adult. Dr. Miles’ proposal would change that to 18 students per teacher, with no dedicated aide in each room to help facilitate instruction, effectively increasing the class size that kindergarten teachers have to instruct with no assistance.

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DoDEA IGNORING ITS OWN CUSTOMER SATISFACTION SURVEY BY PROPOSING CUTS TO MIDDLE SCHOOL, KINDERGARTEN STAFFING (continued)

“This is further proof of how misguided Dr. Miles’ proposals are,” says FEA President Michael Priser. “The parents and students know that reducing class size is crucial to academic achievement, and they say so clearly and unmistakably in DoDEA’s own customer survey.”

“I don’t see how DoDEA can justify increasing class sizes in middle school and expecting kindergarten teachers to handle more kids all by themselves when the parents and students are saying that smaller class sizes are what we need.”

Complete results of DoDEA’s 2008-2009 Customer Satisfaction Survey can be found at www.dodea.edu/datacenter/surveys.cfm

With over 5,400 members, the Federal Education Association (FEA) is the leading advocate for educators and classroom excellence throughout DoDEA. The association was founded in Germany in 1956 and now represents faculty and staff in Europe, Asia and Stateside.