

# USAG Stuttgart Special Town Hall

## 19 February 2025

### DoDEA

- We are passionate about our mission and our community, and we are committed to ensuring our students have the best possible future.
- The portrayal of notable historical figures and related lessons—regardless of race, creed, or sex—is allowed. However, these depictions should not be part of cultural identity celebrations that highlight one group over others during a specific month.
- Historical figures are an integral part of DoDEA’s standards-based curriculum, and DoDEA-Europe has provided schools with clarifying guidance on this matter.
- If you have concerns about a school issue, we encourage you to first speak with the school principal. If you are not satisfied with the response, you may reach out to the Community or District Superintendent.
- While principals oversee the changes they implement, they may not always be aware of every adjustment a teacher makes in their classroom. These changes may or may not be connected to recent policy updates and guidance. Classroom decorations often evolve as students’ progress through different sections of the curriculum.

### Curriculum, standards, and teaching resources:

- DoDEA’s curriculum and instructional standards [are available for review online](#).
- DoDEA has identified some curriculum resources that will be reviewed more closely to ensure they are in compliance with the “[Defending Women from Gender Ideology Extremism and Restoring Biological Truth to the Federal Government](#)” and “[Ending Radical Indoctrination in K-12 Schooling](#)” executive orders.
  - Teachers have been asked to pause using extra resources while these compliance reviews take place.
  - There is not currently a timeline for when that review will conclude.
- Full curricula and textbooks are not being removed from the classroom; it is only of certain (mostly ancillary) instructional resources and library materials being held while these reviews are conducted.
- Teachers continue to use available resources to teach the existing curriculum. If teachers have questions about materials they were planning to use, they can get support from subject matter experts and instructional system specialists who already work closely with them.
- Detailed questions about specific elements of curriculum should be directed to principals or the superintendents’ offices, who can put you in contact with the instructional system specialist who is responsible for that content area.

### **On policy implementation, interpretation, and guidance:**

- DoDEA received guidance to begin implementing the executive orders and policy as soon as practicable. DoDEA-E has been supporting teachers, staff, and administrators through this process. The DoDEA Office of the General Counsel is providing legal opinions. Staff are encouraged to ask questions and have discussions with leadership.
- Local leadership is working closely with region and HQ leadership to provide timely information.

### **Student organizations:**

- Based on legal guidance, and consistent with student rights to free speech and assembly outlined in DoDEA regulations, clubs organized by students, for students are allowed at school. They require an adult volunteer for supervision who does not run the club or set its agenda as a sponsor.
- Some clubs that were being sponsored by a paid, on-duty employee whose involvement was affected by policy changes have been paused and must reorganize as a student-led club. This has been communicated to students at the high school.

### **AP Psychology:**

- One section of instruction for Advanced Placement Psychology is under review. Written guidance is forthcoming, but based on information currently available, the AP designation and college course credit are not affected. Message was sent out to parents and students on Mar. 3 with clarifying information.

### **Student mental health:**

- DoDEA takes student mental health very seriously and supports students through a variety of resources including teachers, school counselors, Military and Family Life Counselors (MFLCs), and Army Substance Abuse Program (ASAP) counselors.

### **Special events and music:**

- A special performance advertised as a Black History Month celebration, to be hosted by a private organization at a school auditorium, was canceled under current guidance as the event would be making use of federal resources.
- There are no known changes or impacts to DoDEA's curriculum in music as a result of the Executive Orders or DoD policy changes.

### **Use of non-federally funded materials:**

- Administrative Instruction 7241.01: Acceptance of Gifts for Schools Operated by the DoDEA provide guidance that a gift to the school needs to be approved after consideration and consistent with current policies. Under this instruction we are not able to use non-federally funded materials and displays in our schools that would go against current policies.

## **School choice**

- The specific operational impacts of the “[Expanding Educational Freedom and Opportunity for Families](#)” Executive Order are currently unknown with regard to the ability of families to use DoD funding to enroll children in non-DoDEA schools requiring tuition fees.

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### **On the types of events and materials that may be used:**

- Simple rebranding’s of existing events and materials that have already been associated with cultural observances that may no longer be supported would not be consistent with the new policy guidance.

### **Impacts of the January Force Protection Exercise**

- Based on lessons learned from previous exercises, the garrison had requested and received approval to make certain adjustments to measures taking effect during January’s force protection exercise to account for school-related traffic and mitigate installation access delays.
- Despite this, and a focused curtailment of services to reduce traffic entering post, there were significant delays, particularly at Patch Barracks, where volume was nearly equivalent to a normal workday.
- We tried to find a balance and did not get it right in this instance, though important lessons were learned that will be taken into consideration going forward.
- In reality, schools will not be in session during a time of heightened force protection measures, and future exercises will be scheduled for times when school is not in session.
- The garrison will work on improving communication and contingency plans for future exercise.

### **Patch Access Control**

- The garrison is planning to initiate upgrades to the main access control point (main gate) at Patch Barracks, to include an alternate gate along Pascalstrasse near the Swabian Special Events Center.

### **Policies around protests and demonstrations on installations**

- The garrison commander has substantial discretion to control the use of the installation in accordance with applicable laws and regulations. A military base is a non-public forum, and the commander can place any restrictions on protests and speech that are reasonable and not an effort to suppress expression merely due to opposition to the message. The commander has the authority to act to prevent dangers to health, safety, welfare, morale, and discipline on the installation.

## **Parking on Floridastrasse**

- Cars and trucks parked on both sides of Florida Strasse cause impediments to traffic flow that make it hard for service and construction vehicles to safely get through, and to the visibility of residents as they attempt to exit their driveways.
- Signs will initially limit parking to one side of the street from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekdays. Between Buildings 2416 and 2430, drivers will be allowed to park on the east side of the street (the side with even building numbers). Past building 2431, parking will be allowed on the south side of the street (the side with odd building numbers).
- Map and details here: <https://www.stuttgartcitizen.com/announcements-news/new-street-parking-rules-coming-to-patch-floridastrasse/>