



## **IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **DoDEA Educational Partnership Awards Grant to Craven County School District**

**ARLINGTON, VA** –The Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) Educational Partnership awarded a grant to Craven County School District, in New Bern, North Carolina through the Promoting Student Achievement at Schools Impacted by Military Force Structure Changes FY 09 Competitive Grant Program. The amount of the grant is approximately \$1.5 million. The Craven County School District serves children whose families are stationed at the Marine Air Station Cherry Point, Camp Lejeune and the New River Air Station.

"We are thrilled that Craven County Schools was awarded the DoDEA grant," said Colonel Frank P. Bottorff, Commanding Officer, Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point. "This grant will have a direct impact on improving the reading skills of numerous students to include the children of our Marines, Sailors and government employees."

"Our military families don't just live here, we are an integral part of the community and we're happy to be a part of a program that benefits so many schools," Bottorff said. "This DoDEA grant extends the opportunity to learn to more children through the Fast ForWord Reading program. We look forward to assisting the school system with implementation of this grant."

The grants focus on enhancing student learning opportunities, student achievement, and educator professional development at military-connected schools with projected military student growth between 2007 and 2009 due to force structure changes. This data is based on a Report to Congress on Assistance to Local Educational Agencies for Defense Dependents Education published in March 2008. School districts serving 22 military installations identified through that report were invited to submit a grant proposal.

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"We all know that reading is essential for success in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. The more we know about how the brain learns to read, the more apparent it becomes we need to choose instructional strategies and programs that will result in improved student performance," said Larry Moser, Superintendent Craven County Schools. "We are very excited to have this opportunity to not only impact the reading achievement of our military students, but all students in our military impacted schools!"

Craven County Schools will use the grant to implement the research-proven Fast ForWord program from Scientific Learning to assist struggling readers to develop the cognitive skills that are foundational to reaching achievement and success across the K-12 curriculum. Our goals are to enhance student achievement, student learning opportunities, and educator professional development.

"This is the first year DoDEA has been able to execute our grant program and it's very gratifying to be able to offer assistance to the schools that are educating our military's children," said Dr. Shirley Miles, Director of DoDEA. "We are looking forward to seeing how the districts implement the programs they've developed. We know that all children in the grant recipient districts will benefit from these awards."

DoDEA's aim is to enhance the education of military students, but funds may be used to raise student achievement for all students.

In FY 2007, the John Warner National Defense Authorization Act allowed DoDEA to expand its reach to the approximately 92% of military students that do not attend DoDEA Schools. Through collaboration with the Department of Education, DoDEA is working to ease the transition of military students and providing resources to Local Education Agencies (LEAs) who educate military dependent students.

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.