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Dear FEA Leaders,

Compliance with Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth's Workforce Acceleration and Recapitalization Initiative should not come at the expense of military-connected children. You know better than anyone how damaging these cuts would be to your school communities. Now is the time to speak out and stand up for our students!

I'm writing to share key talking points for your conversations with members regarding the recent and deeply concerning cuts tied to the *Future-Ready DoDEA Initiative*. These cuts target Educational Technologists (ETs), speech-language assessors, special education assessors, and automation clerks—impacting hundreds of critical positions across the system.

We know our members are frustrated, alarmed, and seeking clarity. The points below outline where FEA stands and the actions we are urging:

Our Stance

- The misnamed *Future-Ready DoDEA Initiative* is a step backward for students, their families, and educators.
- DoDEA has long fulfilled its mission of providing a world-class education to military-connected students. Cutting key positions undermines that mission.
- Eliminating Educational Technologists will hinder schools' ability to use technology effectively—leaving students without reliable access to devices and educators without essential tech support.
- Removing special education and speech assessors limits DoDEA's ability to identify and support high-need students, causing service delays and broader academic disruption.
- These cuts are not “future ready”—they disregard the educational success of military-connected children, particularly those with disabilities.
- Rather than slashing essential school-based roles, DoDEA should reassess administrative overhead. Duplicative roles such as CILs and other non-instructional positions offer opportunities for cost-saving without harming student learning.

What FEA Is Doing

- We're calling on Congress to demand that DoDEA reverse these harmful decisions. Let FEA be clear—we do not support this plan. FEA advocates for redirecting full-time equivalents (FTEs) from above-school-level positions back into schools and for implementing the Government Accountability Office's recent recommendations to better serve special education students in DoDEA: [GAO Report](#).
- We're also mobilizing our members to take a stand by providing a [link](#) to the Legislative Action Center (LAC), where they can email their members of Congress directly.

In accordance with 5 U.S.C. § 7211, federal employees have the protected right to communicate with Congress:

“The right of employees, individually or collectively, to petition Congress or a Member of Congress, or to furnish information to either House of Congress, or to a committee or Member thereof, may not be interfered with or denied.”

We are urging members to exercise this right and contact Congress to demand that DoDEA reverse these harmful changes. While we encourage active participation, it is critical that members speak in their personal capacity as concerned constituents—not in their official roles as DoDEA educators. You can participate in the writing campaign [here](#).

Please feel free to use or adapt these talking points in discussions with members. We will continue to provide updates as our efforts progress.

In solidarity,
Sharon Manuel



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