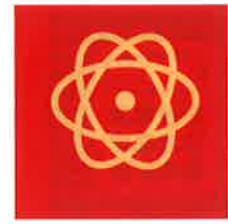




MILITARY INTERSTATE
CHILDREN'S COMPACT
COMMISSION



GUIDE FOR SCHOOLS/PARENTS

What is the Compact?

The Compact deals with the challenges of military children and their frequent relocations. It allows for uniform treatment as military children transfer between school districts in member states.

Note: The Compact only applies to public schools.

Students Covered

- Active duty members of the uniformed services, including members of the National Guard and Reserve on active duty orders (Title 10)
- Members or veterans who are medically discharged or retired for one year
- Members who die on active duty, for a period of one year after death
- Uniformed members of the Commissioned Corps of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and United States Public Health Services (USPHS)

Students Not Covered

- Inactive members of the National Guard and Reserves (Not Title 10)
- Members now retired not covered above
- Veterans not covered above
- Other Department of Defense personnel, federal agency civilians and contract employees not defined as active duty
- Members other than the uniformed personnel of NOAA and USPHS

May be required during transition

- Official military orders showing that the military member was assigned to the state (or commuting area) of the state in which the child was enrolled and attended school
- If a military child was residing with a legal guardian and not the military member during the previous enrollment they will have a copy of the family care plan, or proof of guardianship
- A transcript, official or unofficial, or an official letter from the proper school authority which shows record of attendance, academic information, and grade placement of the student
- Documented evidence of immunization against communicable disease.
- Evidence of date of birth.





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Some areas that are covered...



Enrollment

- Educational Records
- Immunizations
- Kindergarten & First Grade Entrance Age

Placement and Attendance

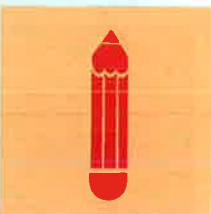
- Course & Educational Program Placement
- Special Education Services
- Placement Flexibility
- Absence Related to Deployment Activities

Graduation

- Waiving courses required for graduation if similar course work has been completed
- Flexibility in accepting state exit or end-of-course exams, national achievement tests, or alternative testing in lieu of testing requirements for graduation in the receiving state
- Allowing a student to receive a diploma from the sending school instead of the receiving school

Additional resources and information are available at

www.mic3.net



CONTACT US AT

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859.244.8133 | www.mic3.net | mic3info@csg.org





A MILITARY FAMILY'S GUIDE TO SCHOOL TRANSITIONS

Moving to a new post can spark anxiety in military families over the quality of the schools in and around a military installation. But families with children in preschool through high school can take certain actions to mitigate these concerns and help their children transition effectively to a new school. This guide has been compiled by military spouses with decades of experience in an effort to help simplify that process.



ORGANIZE SCHOOL RECORDS

Have at least an unofficial copy of your child's school records as well as report cards. While the receiving school district will make the request for the transfer of your child's official records, unofficial copies will give you some material to work with when discussing your child's placements in the new school. Don't forget a copy of your child's birth certificate and immunization records.

★
Be sure to inform schools of your military-connected status when filling out enrollment forms!



COMPILE SCHOOL CONTACT INFORMATION

For older students, especially high school students, compile contact information for teachers and coaches at the previous school who might be future references for your child.



FAMILIARIZE YOURSELF WITH THE SCHOOL CURRICULUM

Each curriculum has its own focus, style, and methodology, so becoming familiar with the curriculum that your child has been involved with can prove helpful in making school choices. You can often make efficient comparisons with the new school's program knowing what reading, math, science, and social studies curricula were used. Write down the names of the books that your child used in his or her last school as a starting point.



KNOW YOUR CHILD'S INTERESTS

Have a list of your child's extracurricular activities and interests — including sports and level of participation, volunteer commitments, and hobbies. Be aware of new activities that your child might want to participate in, as well as athletics tryout eligibility requirements — especially if transferring mid-season. This information helps to round out the picture of your child that you present as a new member of this school community.



CONNECT WITH SCHOOL LIAISONS

School liaisons at the military installation serve as a clearinghouse for information about the schools on and near bases, and the services and programs offered in them. Meeting with them should be the first step for all transitioning parents, as they are the subject matter experts on education. It is their job to assist you in best understanding your new installation and the educational offerings it provides and supports — both inside and outside of the gates.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2





GET TO KNOW YOUR LOCAL SCHOOL BOARD

Follow local school board members in the region where you are moving. Use local newspapers and district websites to become aware of their objectives, student outcomes, and performance goals prior to your arrival. Know when they hold public meetings. Many school boards now include a military representative, who can be another great resource.



MEET WITH A SCHOOL'S SPECIAL NEEDS DIRECTOR

If you have a child with an active Individualized Education Program (IEP), consider communicating with the district's Special Education Director to identify where services that your child may use are provided. Even schools in close proximity to one another can vary significantly in the availability of special education services. District staff can provide the most complete picture of their offerings and locations. A copy of your child's current IEP provides the receiving district with facts about your child's current services and your expectations. This can expedite continued support for your child upon arrival, especially for mid-year transitions. Bases also offer supports through the Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP). Be sure to reach out to the EFMP Coordinator at your new base before moving to get connected.



GET FAMILIAR WITH THE INTERSTATE COMPACT

The Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children addresses key educational transition issues encountered by military families including enrollment, placement, attendance, eligibility, and graduation. While the compact "levels the playing field" for students, it's not intended to impact curriculum or local standards of education. To resolve compact-related concerns, families should first work with the school and military school liaison officer — or contact their state commissioner if additional assistance is needed. Visit www.mic3.net for more information.



TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE PLETHORA OF MILITARY PARENT RESOURCES

Several key organizations provide information and insight about transitioning from one post to another and how to mitigate the impact on your child's school experience, including Military Families for High Standards, Military Child Education Coalition, the Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission, National Military Family Association, and ZERO TO THREE. Visit their websites and read their publications for more information, and get in touch if you have questions.

Each child is as unique as each family's experience. But remember, you are not alone. Military spouses at the new installation or spouses who have recently lived at that particular base have learned the ins and outs of that location and are often happy to share their experiences.

Learn more at militaryfamiliesforhighstandards.org





Frequently Asked Questions and Suggested Use for Military Student Identifier Code

Overview:

With the adoption of the **Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)**, military-connected students are now recognized as a distinct subgroup, including students with a parent who is a member of the Armed Forces (defined in section 101(a)(1)(4) of title 10, United States Code) on active duty (as defined in section 101(d)(5) of such title). Over 80% of military-connected pupils attend US public schools. Students with parents/guardians who serve full-time in the military move and change schools frequently. In addition, they experience separations from a parent/guardian due to their parents' service to the U.S. Military. The **Military Student Identifier (MSI)** provides educators with critical information to personalize attention to military dependent children. This document responds to frequently asked questions about the MSI and provides examples of effective implementation for State Education Agencies (SEAs) and Local Education Agencies (LEAs).

What is the purpose of this FAQ on the Military Student Identifier (MSI) Code?

- To restate the ESSA definition of a military-connected student
- To describe a school's responsibility to collect MSI information upon student enrollment
- To provide examples of appropriate collection methods
- To summarize procedures
- To provide examples of constructive uses of MSI information
- To provide the Common Education Data Standards (CEDS) description of the MSI.

What is the definition of a military connected student as required by ESSA?

The MILITARY STUDENT IDENTIFIER CODE (as it is commonly referred to in the field) indicates a student with a parent who is a member of the Armed Forces (defined in section 101(a)(1)(4) of title 10, United States Code) on active duty (as defined in section 101(d)(5) of such title).

What about Students of National Guard parents?

Students of parents who serve on full-time National Guard duty, where "armed forces," "active duty," and "full-time National Guard duty" have the same meanings given them in 10 U.S.C. 101(a)(4), 101(d)(1), and 101(d)(5) are also provided an MSI code.

"National Guard" means a member of the Army National Guard of the United States or the Air National Guard of the United States in the member's status as a member of the National Guard of a State or territory, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, or the District of Columbia

What are a school's obligations for collecting MSI data?

- Schools (LEAs and public Charters) must include the military student identifier question, for example in their student enrollment procedure.
- Each State or LEA will determine additional collection and reporting requirements related to their pupil management systems policies and processes.

How should a school ask the MSI question in an easy-to-understand way?

- A straightforward way to ask the question is to break it into parts:
 - "Is the student a dependent of a member of the United States military service in the Active Duty Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, or Coast Guard?"

Check "yes," "no," or decline to answer.

- Is the student a dependent of a fulltime member of the National Guard, or Reserve force of the United States military (Army, Navy, Marine Corps or Air Force)."

Check "yes," "no," or decline to answer.

- Is the student a dependent of a member of the National Guard, or Reserve force of the United States military (Army, Navy, Marine Corps or Air Force)."

Check "yes," "no," or decline to answer

What if a parent or guardian declines to provide the requested information?

- Parents/Guardians may decline to respond to this voluntary question. If a parent declines, the answer is reflected as "no."
- No parent/guardian should be asked to verify their military status by showing a military identification or other DOD documentation; however, verification of military membership may be required if the school has a special program for which eligibility is a requirement, such as state-funded prekindergarten.

How can these data be used?

- ESSA regulations ([section 200.2](#)) require States to be able to disaggregate assessment results within each LEA, and School by "Status as a student with a parent who is a member of the armed forces on active duty or serves on full-time National Guard duty, where "armed forces," "active duty," and "full-time National Guard duty" have the same meanings given them in 10 U.S.C. 101(a)(4), 101(d)(1), and 101(d)(5)."
- States (SEAs) may choose to require LEAs or public charters to include this information in their school report cards.
- Schools regularly disaggregate student demographic and performance data to determine program effectiveness, to identify areas requiring attention or resources, and to detect students in need of specific academic assistance. MSI data provide an additional dimension that more finely attunes the schools' programs to respond to the needs of children.
- The MSI is essential to improve and personalize academic and social/emotional responses for the unique military student population, which is highly likely to move and frequently change schools during their K-12 education years.
- Just as schools consistently concentrate on the unique needs of all students (e.g., English language needs, learning disabilities, economically disadvantaged), they can now add **another unique group of students** to consider in their planning, programming and curriculum design.
- For example, schools can review their welcoming practices, transition planning, and need for enrichment or additional "catch-up" tutoring for mobile military-connected students.
- By effectively utilizing MSI, schools can also consider programs that recognize contributions of the military to their community as they do for other groups.

Can schools get these data from the military rather than having to ask parents/guardians at registration?

- No. There is no current process available to connect students enrolled in schools and districts with their military parents. As you may expect, there are privacy and permission, as well as national security, implications associated with sharing data between and among governmental agencies.

Is the MSI designation connected to Impact Aid eligibility?

- No. The Military Student Identifier has a completely separate and distinct purpose from Impact Aid. Just as identifying a subgroup of students as economically disadvantaged is separate from student groups such as ethnicity, gender or special programs, the purpose of the MSI is to provide local educators with quality, actionable data concerning their military-connected students.
- See ESSA Title VIII, SEC. 7003. PAYMENTS FOR ELIGIBLE FEDERALLY CONNECTED CHILDREN. (20 U.S.C. 7703) for definitions of students identified for Federal Impact Aid. Several different criteria are used in this process. Federal Impact Aid encompasses military, Native American and civilians working on federal installations making it difficult to accurately determine eligible students from only military student identifier codes.
- For more information about Impact Aid, go to the US Department of Education, Office of Impact Aid Programs <http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/oese/impactaid/index.html>
E-Mail address: ImpactAid@ed.gov

What is an example of a school's MSI data collection form?

- See the example below for how one Texas public school district asks for MSI information:

Please fill out the following form, sign, and return to the campus for your KG-12th grade student

Military Connected Student

Student is a dependent of a member of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps or Coast Guard on Active Duty

Student is a dependent of a member of the Texas National Guard (Army, Air Guard, or State Guard)

Student is a dependent of a member of a reserve force in the United States military (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps or Coast Guard)

None of the above

Is there a Common Education Data Standards (CEDS) data definition for the military student identifier?

- Yes, the **Common Education Data Standards (CEDS)** includes the following definition for military-connected students in the national standards.

Military Connected Student Indicator

Definition

An indication that the student’s parent or guardian is on Active Duty, in the National Guard, or in the Reserve components of the United States military services

Option Set

Description	Definition	Code
Not Military Connected	Student is not military-connected.	<u>NotMilitaryConnected</u>
Active Duty	Student is a dependent of a member of the Active Duty Forces (full-time) Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, or Coast Guard.	<u>ActiveDuty</u>
National Guard Or Reserve	Student is a dependent of a member of the National Guard or Reserve Forces (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, or Coast Guard).	<u>NationalGuardOrReserve</u>
Unknown	It is unknown whether or not the student is military-connected.	<u>Unknown</u>

You may explore the Common Education Data Standards (CEDS) at <https://ceds.ed.gov/elementsCEDS.aspx>