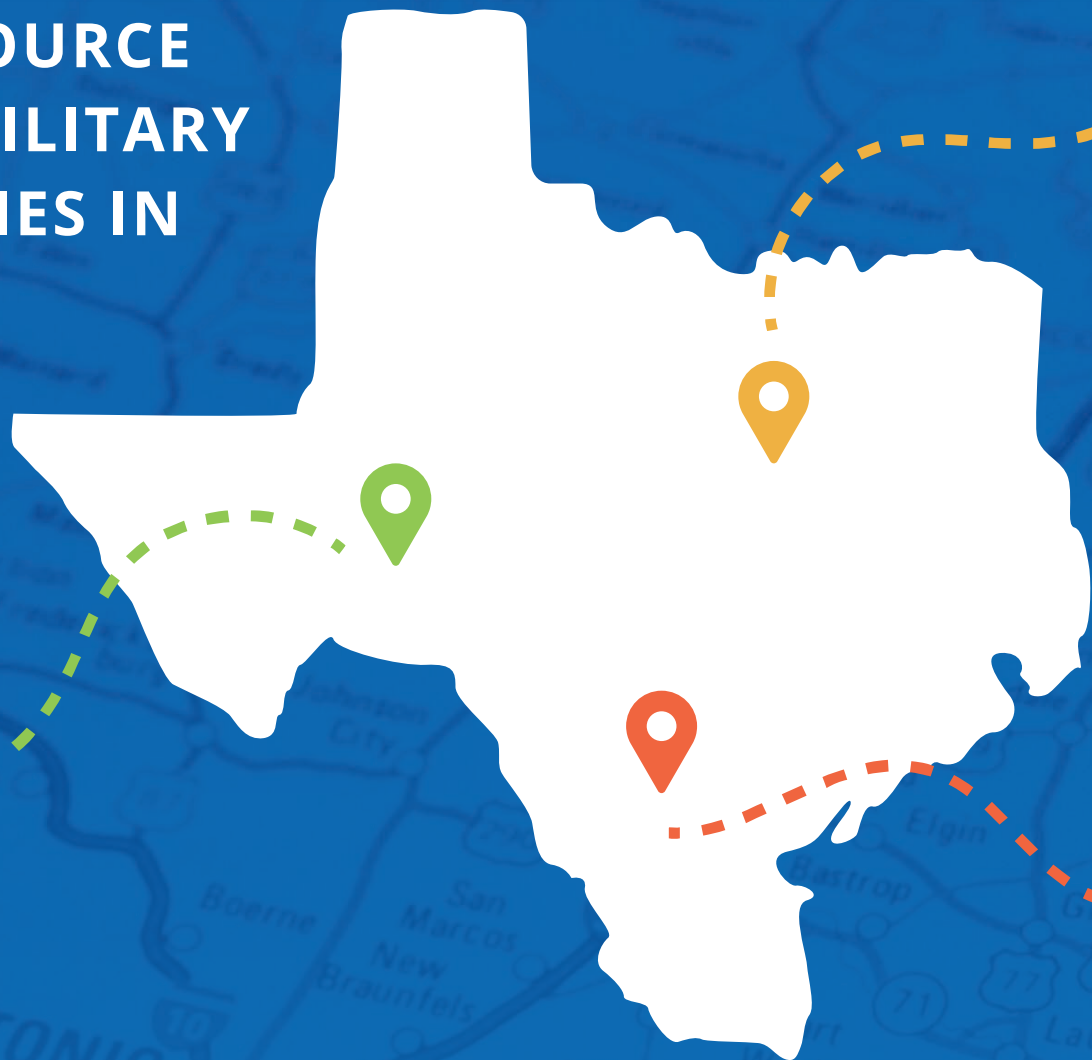


New School, New Beginning

A RESOURCE
FOR MILITARY
FAMILIES IN
TEXAS



Contents



A MESSAGE FROM TEA COMMISSIONER

3

MOVING CHECKLIST

4

**WHY TEXAS PURPLE STAR SCHOOLS MATTER TO
MILITARY FAMILIES**

5

COLLEGE, CAREER, AND MILITARY READINESS (CCMR)

7

ASSESSMENT: "WHAT IS THE STAAR?"

8

MIC3: "WHAT IS THE COMPACT?"

10

**STATE ADVISORY COUNCIL ON EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY
FOR MILITARY CHILDREN**

12

**PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES:
A SUCCESSFUL JOURNEY REQUIRES TEAMWORK**

13

LEVERAGING RESOURCES FOR MILITARY FAMILIES IN TEXAS

14

A MESSAGE FROM TEA COMMISSIONER

Welcome to Texas!

Whether this move brings your family to a new duty station, a temporary assignment, or a permanent change of station, we recognize that relocating with school-age children comes with both excitement and challenges. Texas is home to a large and supportive military community, and many resources are in place to help make your child's school transition as smooth as possible.

Texas public schools and open enrollment charter schools serve a varied population of military-connected students and are familiar with the unique needs of families who move frequently. The state is a participating member of the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children (MIC3), which helps ease transitions by addressing enrollment, placement, attendance, eligibility, and graduation requirements.

In addition, many military installations offer School Liaison Officers (SLOs), who serve as a bridge between military families, schools, and installation leadership. SLOs can assist with school selection, enrollment questions, graduation requirements, special education services, and connecting families to local resources.

If your child requires additional support (e.g., special education services, gifted and talented programs, English language support, or counseling) Texas schools are committed to working with families to provide continuity of services. Sharing your child's records and communicating early with school staff can help create a successful school transition.

No one knows your child better than you do, and your involvement is one of the most important factors in their success. By taking advantage of the support services available in Texas and partnering with school staff, you can help your child feel confident and supported in their new learning environment.

This resource serves as a guide to help navigate your child's education path. We hope you find this information helpful, practical, and empowering.

We thank you for your service and sacrifice, and we are proud to welcome your family to Texas. We wish you and your children a successful and positive new beginning in your new school and community.



Mike Morath
Commissioner of Education

Moving Checklist

FROM THE PARENT/GUARDIAN

- Student's Birth Certificate
- Student's Social Security Number
- Student's Health Record (*Immunization, etc.*)
- Legal Documents (as needed)
- Proof of Residency
- Military Orders

SCHOOL INFORMATION

- Address, Phone Numbers, Other Contact Information
- Course Description Book/Grading Scale
(*if available for 6th grade and above*)
- Copy of the Cover of Each Textbook or the Title Page
- School Profile/Handbook
- School Web Page (URL)
- Other _____

SCHOOL RECORDS

- Copy of Cumulative Folder (*Only the copy mailed between schools is considered official*)
- Current Schedule
- Report Cards
- Withdrawal Grades or Progress Reports
- Test Scores (*Standardized or Special Program Testing, etc.*)
- Other _____

SPECIAL PROGRAMS RECORDS AS APPROPRIATE

- Individual Education Plan (IEP) / Individual Accommodation Plan (504) / Gifted Program Description
- English as a Second Language (ESL) or Bilingual Education
- At-Risk or Other Action Plans for Classroom Modifications
- Other _____

OTHER DOCUMENTS AND EXAMPLES

- Writing Samples and Other Work Examples
- Activities Records (*co/extracurricular*)
- Community Service or Service Learning
- Other Work or Performance Examples
- Academic Recognitions and Competition Participation
- Other _____



Before the move, gather copies of all school records, including report cards, transcripts, immunization records, and any IEP or 504 plans. Carry unofficial copies with you in case official records are delayed. Texas schools are generally familiar with enrolling military students quickly, but having paperwork on hand helps ensure proper class placement and uninterrupted services, especially for children with special education needs.

Why Texas Purple Star Schools Matter to Military Families



Moving is part of military life, and for families with school-age children, finding the right school matters. Texas created the **Purple Star Campus Designation** to help military families feel confident that their child's school understands military life and is ready to support them from day one.

What Is a Texas Purple Star Campus?

A Purple Star Campus is a Texas school that has shown it is committed to supporting military-connected students. These schools know that military children may move often, start school mid-year, or experience a parent's deployment, and they are prepared to help.

What Purple Star Means for You?

Seeing the Purple Star Campus Designation lets you know your child's school is prepared, informed, and committed to helping military-connected students thrive. It's one less thing to worry about during a move.





The emotional side of moving is just as important as the logistics. Military Permanent Change of Station (PCS) moves can be hard on kids, particularly when they're leaving friends or entering a new school mid-year. Encourage open conversations about how they're feeling and help them stay connected to old friends if that brings comfort. Many schools offer student ambassador programs that can help kids adjust more smoothly to their new school.

How Purple Star Campuses Support Your Family?

- Purple Star Campuses help make enrollment smoother by understanding military orders, transferring records quickly, and placing students in the right classes without unnecessary delays.
- Each Purple Star Campus has a designated staff member who serves as a point of contact for military parents. This person can answer questions, help you navigate school policies, and connect you to support when you need it.
- Staff at Purple Star Campuses receive training about the unique experiences of military children. They understand the challenges of frequent moves, deployments, and reintegration, and how those experiences can affect learning and emotions.
- Purple Star Campuses work to create welcoming environments where military children feel included. Many offer counseling services, peer connections, and activities that help students adjust and feel at home.
- Purple Star Campuses partner with School Liaison Officers, military installations, and local organizations to ensure families know about available resources and support services.



*To learn more,
visit the Texas
Education
Agency website.*

College, Career, and Military Readiness (CCMR)



The Texas Education Agency (TEA) and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) developed the College and Career Readiness Standards (CCRS). They are a set of expectations that define what students should know and be able to do by the time they graduate from high school to be successful in entry-level college courses and in the workforce.

In Texas schools, College, Career, and Military Readiness (CCMR) indicators help shape the opportunities students receive so they graduate prepared for postsecondary education, the workforce, or military service. As part of the state's overall accountability system, CCMR indicators contribute to the Student Achievement domain, which evaluates performance across all subjects for all students on STAAR and STAAR End-Of-Course (EOC) assessments, CCMR outcomes, and graduation rates. CCMR includes access to advanced coursework, college credit, Career and Technical Education (CTE), industry certifications, military readiness options such as the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB), and strong advising support, providing students with multiple pathways to reach their goals.

Purpose of CCRS

- Support student readiness for both college and careers.
- Bridge high school and college expectations.
- Guide curriculum and instruction.

What Subjects Are Covered?

- English/Language Arts (ELA)
- Mathematics
- Science
- Social Studies
- Cross-disciplinary skills

What This Means for Your Child?

- Succeed in college without needing extra support classes.
- Be prepared for careers or job training after graduation.
- Feel confident handling academic and real-world challenges.



To learn more, visit the Texas Education Agency website.

Assessment: "What is the STAAR?"



The State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR) is a standardized academic achievement test designed to measure the extent to which a student has learned and is able to apply the defined knowledge and skills in the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) at each tested grade, subject, and course. In addition, STAAR fulfills the requirements of the federal Every Student Succeeds Act, which requires that all students be assessed in specific grades and subjects throughout their academic careers.

As soon as you know you are moving, inquire about the required state tests your child must take for his or her grade level. You can do this at your first meeting with your child's teacher. If your student did well on his or her state tests last year, it doesn't guarantee success on the Texas-required test. For example, under the current system of state standards and assessment, a student who was proficient in grade 4 math in one state may or may not be proficient in grade 4 math in another state. This student could be behind before the school year even starts.

Ask your child's teacher(s) for information on state-required assessments. Inquire about family nights that introduce the state assessment programs. Look for released versions of the tests; just make sure released versions are for the current assessment program.

Who Must Take the STAAR?

All students enrolled in Texas public schools and open-enrollment charter schools in grades 3–8 and specific high school courses are required by both federal and state law to participate in STAAR.

Purpose of the STAAR

- Assess student readiness for the next grade or course.
- Ensure students meet Texas curriculum standards.
- Provide data for instruction and accountability.
- Guide interventions where students need support.



Grades and Subjects Tested

GRADES 3-8

- Reading Language Arts and Mathematics

GRADES 5 AND 8

- Science

GRADE 8

- Social Studies

HIGH SCHOOL END-OF-COURSE (EOC)

- Algebra I
- English I
- English II
- Biology
- U.S. History

Scoring and Performance Levels

- Masters Grade Level
- Meets Grade Level
- Approaches Grade Level
- Did Not Meet Grade Level

Students who score Approaches or higher are considered to have passed.

**STAAR changes coming starting 2027-28 school year.*



*To learn more,
visit the Texas
Education
Agency website.*

MIC3: "What is the Compact?"



The Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children, commonly referred to as the Military Compact, was created to reduce educational barriers and provide consistent support to military-connected students as families relocate across state lines. Its primary goal is to ensure smooth, timely school transitions, minimize disruptions in learning, and maintain educational continuity despite frequent moves.

Texas has been a proud member of the Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission (MIC3) since 2009. As of 2014, all 50 states and the District of Columbia are members of the Compact.

As a parent, you want to be familiar with the language of the Compact. Your military installation's School Liaison Officer would be a good starting point for questions regarding the Compact. You can also contact your state's MIC3 Commissioner through the MIC3 website, www.MIC3.net

Who is Covered?

Dependent children of the following:

- 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 perish while 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).





The Military Compact addresses the following areas:

ENROLLMENT

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

PLACEMENT & ATTENDANCE

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

ELIGIBILITY

- Eligibility for Student Enrollment
- Eligibility for Extracurricular Participation

GRADUATION

- Waiving courses required for graduation if similar coursework 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.



*To learn more,
visit the Texas
Education
Agency website.*

State Advisory Council on Educational Opportunity for Military Children



The State Advisory Council on Educational Opportunity for Military Children was established in 2021 by the 87th Texas Legislature in Texas Education Code §162.006.

The purpose of the State Advisory Council is to provide for coordination among state agencies, school districts, and military installations concerning the state's participation in and compliance with the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children. The State Advisory Council will play an important role in helping disseminate information regarding the Military Compact and identifying topics and issues of interest to military-connected parents and students, and the districts and schools that serve them.



*To learn more,
visit the Texas
Education
Agency website.*

Parent-Teacher Conferences: A Successful Journey Requires Teamwork



Schools frequently have back-to-school nights or open houses at the beginning of the year.

While this time allows families to meet teachers and ask general questions, more detailed or personal conversations are best handled during a scheduled conference arranged through the school office.

One of the most important things you can do, whether your child is moving to a new school or just starting a new school year, is to arrange a face-to-face conference with your child's teacher(s). Do not wait until the end of the first grading period when many schools have traditionally held parent-teacher conferences. A conference early in the school year, followed up at the grading period mark will set your child up for success.

Plan for a productive conference by following these tips:

- Write down any questions you may have prior to the conference. This will help keep the conference focused.
- Ask your child what he or she would like you to talk about with his or her teacher. Are there any concerns he or she has related to the new school, his or her class, or the new school year?
- Be on time and stay on track. Conferences are a great opportunity to connect with your child's teacher, and staying focused helps ensure all important topics are covered.
- If you have a portfolio of your child's work, take it with you. This is a good way for you to let the teacher know what "right" looks like for your child. If your child has already completed work for their new teacher, ask to see a sample of this work and discuss with the teacher if his or her work is on track, how it could improve, or what you can do at home to support learning.
- Ask about school and class policies regarding absences, make-up work, and how often students are tested. Is there a student handbook and how can parents obtain access to this?
- Be sure to find out the best way to communicate with the teacher in the future. Does he or she prefer email or phone calls, for example? Does the teacher have a website?
- After the conference, share the information with your child. Let your child know that you and their teacher are a team, united by the shared goal of helping them succeed academically.
- When appropriate for your child's age and maturity, consider having them join the parent-teacher conference. Their participation promotes self-advocacy, encourages them to voice their own learning needs, and helps them take an active, responsible role in their educational progress.

Leveraging Resources for Military Families in Texas



Texas offers a strong network of education, special education, and military family resources to help military-connected students and families stay supported and informed. This section highlights key programs and how they can help your family navigate education, special education services, and school transitions.

Once arrived, getting involved early helps children feel settled. Encourage participation in school sports, clubs, or fine arts programs, as well as community organizations. Texas communities near military installations often have strong support networks for military families, which can help kids build friendships quickly and feel a sense of belonging.

Military-Connected Student & Family Support in Texas

TEXAS EDUCATION AGENCY (TEA)

TEA oversees public education in Texas, including special education and supports for military-connected students. It provides resources on student rights, Section 504, and programs to help families navigate school transitions.



CAMPUS-BASED MILITARY LIAISONS & PURPLE STAR CAMPUSES

Purple Star campuses designate a trained Campus-Based Military Liaison to support military-connected students and families. They help with:

- School transitions
- Family connections to resources
- Staff training on military student needs
- Accurate student identification in school data systems



EDUCATION SERVICE CENTERS (ESCs)

ESCs provide regional education support across Texas. They assist with:

- Transition guidance
- Regional resource sharing
- Staff support and training



SCHOOL LIAISON PROGRAM (MILITARY INSTALLATIONS)

School Liaisons or School Liaison Officers work directly with military families across all service branches to assist with:

- School transitions
- Navigating new school systems
- Local education resources



CHILD AND YOUTH BEHAVIORAL MILITARY FAMILY LIFE COUNSELORS (CYB-MFLC)

CYB-MFLCs provide free, confidential, non-medical counseling for children, parents, and school staff. Available on installations and some public school campuses.



MILITARY INTERSTATE CHILDREN'S COMPACT COMMISSION (MIC3)

The Interstate Compact among states addresses educational challenges faced by military-connected students, including eligibility, enrollment, placement, and graduation.

- [Compact Commission Compact Rules \(Book\)](#)
- For help, reach out to a [School Liaison](#) or the [Texas MIC3 Commissioner](#)



MILITARY CHILD EDUCATION COALITION (MCEC)

MCEC is a national nonprofit dedicated to addressing the unique needs of military-connected students. It is the nation's most complete resource for states seeking to start a [Purple Star School](#) program.

MCEC offers:

- Programs and resources for [families](#) and [students](#)
- [Professional development](#) and trainings
- Individual support through [Military Student Consultants](#)



MILITARY ONESOURCE

Military OneSource offers 24/7 confidential support, information on education, relocation, EFMP, health, finances, and relationships.



SPEDEX - TEXAS SPECIAL EDUCATION INFORMATION CENTER

Texas families can access statewide special education resources and guidance through SPEDTex, the Special Education Information Center of Texas.

- Clear explanations of special education rights and processes
- Help families navigate evaluations, eligibility, services, and safeguards
- Live expert support by phone, email, or online chat



SECTION 504 SUPPORTS

Students receiving accommodation through Section 504 can access a variety of Texas Section 504 resources.



EXCEPTIONAL FAMILY MEMBER PROGRAM (EFMP)

EFMP supports military families with enrollment and identification, assignment coordination, medical, education, housing and community support, and ongoing family case support. It works closely with military installations and civilian agencies to ensure families receive coordinated care across duty stations.





DALLAS

Shreveport

Lufkin

Alexandria

Bryan

Huntsville

Corrigan

Jasper

Leesville

College Station

Livingston

Woodville
Kirbyville

LA. TEXAS

DeRidder

Brenham

Conroe

Kountze

Longville

Kinderhook

HOUSTON

Cleveland
Liberty

Beaumont

Lake Charles

Baytown

Pasadena

Port Arthur

Calcasieu Lake



MCEC[®]

tea.texas.gov

militarychild.org