

THE MILITARY-CONNECTED STUDENT: PENNSYLVANIA LEGISLATION

Pennsylvania, similar to many other states, has four impactful pieces of legislation to support military-connected students. How is your school implementing supports for children experiencing frequent relocation and/or separation due to deployment, training or geographical distance?



ADVANCE ENROLLMENT

Act 24 of 2023, added 6 November 2023, allows eligible families to enroll in a school district prior to establishing residency. Some benefits can include prior coordination of: a student welcome/orientation, IEP's/504 Plans, course selection, and Military Interstate Children's Compact areas of coverage.



MIC3

MILITARY INTERSTATE CHILDREN'S COMPACT

Act 6 of 2012, added 2 February 2012, addresses transfer topics such as educational records, immunizations, K and 1st grade entrance age, program and course placement, absences related to deployment activities, eligibility for enrollment and extracurricular participation, and supports on-time graduation.



Military Student Identifier

MILITARY STUDENT IDENTIFIER

To meet state and federal requirements, PA Department of Education must collect Military Student Identifier (MSI) data. This data is essential for local education agencies to personalize academic and social/emotional responses for the military student population.



PURPLE STAR SCHOOLS

Act 69 of 2022, added 11 July 2022, provides a designation to a school or district which actively supports military-connected students. Applications open in April, Month of the Military Child.

SUPPORT IN ACTION

- Sign up for the free MIC3 training and other free trainings through OneOp and the School Liaison.
- Ensure registration asks the MSI question and shares the information with educators.
- Update the school/district's registration site to include Advance Enrollment.
- Become a Purple Star School.
- Host lunch bunch groups and tours for new students.

For additional information, contact the School Liaison at nnamechnsaphilsl@us.navy.mil.

Educator Resources

- ★ PA Military Child Advance Enrollment – <https://www.palegis.us/statutes/unconsolidated/law-information/view-statute?SESSYR=1949&SESSIND=0&ACTNUM=14&SMTHLWIND=&CHPT=13&SCTN=2&SUBSCTN=1>
 - PA Dept of Education: Enrollment of Students - <https://www.education.pa.gov/Policy-Funding/BECS/Purdons/Pages/EnrollmentStudents.aspx>
- ★ Military Student Identifier – https://militarychild.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/MCEC_MSIFAQ_20250324.pdf
- ★ Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission (MIC3) – MIC3 offers various free training programs and resource materials to assist schools/districts in supporting military families.
 - Rules Book (pages 8 – 11): https://mic3.net/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/MIC3-Rules-Book_Dec2023_WEB_1-10-24.pdf
 - PA State Statutes: <https://mic3.net/state/pennsylvania/>
 - FAQ's: https://mic3.net/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/FAQ-Final-Updates-2023_FINAL_2023.08.16.pdf
 - Training and Materials: <https://mic3.net/training-resources/>
- ★ PA Purple Star Schools Application – <https://www.pa.gov/agencies/education/programs-and-services/schools/school-services/military-children/purple-star-schools-application-guidelines>
- ★ Peer to Peer Orientation Example – <https://kadenams.dodea.edu/student-transition>
- ★ Military Family Webpage Example – <https://www.fcps.edu/services/families-and-caregivers/family-academy/families-military>
- ★ School Liaison – <https://mic3.net/state/pennsylvania/> School liaisons provide direct support to military families navigating military moves and transitions. Educators, contact a school liaison to learn more about:
 - Understanding military culture (active-duty, Guard, Reserve, and independent duty stations)
 - Resources for military families
 - Military-connected special needs support
 - Implementing school-based peer-to-peer orientation programs
 - Incorporating impactful military family events
 - Military-connected scholarships
- ★ OneOp –Live webinars, self-paced courses, a library of learning resources on-demand, and free continuing education credits are offered for professionals working with military families. <https://oneop.org/>
- ★ Military Impacted Schools Association: Promising Practices – Best practices are shared to strengthen military family and school partnerships. <https://militaryimpactedschoolsassociation.org/promising-practices>
- ★ Clearinghouse for Military Family Readiness Learning Modules –Offers online learning modules for school personnel to increase understanding of military-connected student challenges and the strategies and resources to ease those stressors. <https://schoolresources.militaryfamilies.psu.edu/>
- ★ National Military Family Association Bloom Field Guide to the Military Teen – Created by mil-teens for mil-teens, the field guide shares their stories and tangible solutions supported by quantitative data. <https://www.bloommilitaryteens.org/fieldguide>
- ★ United Through Reading (UTR) –Either through the app or a story station UTR, provides active-duty or veterans with the opportunity to record, share, and save storytime no matter the distance. The recording can be sent to the student and/or the classroom along with a free book. <https://unitedthroughreading.org/>
- ★ A Walk in My Shoes: Military Life – A video for educators in understanding military life. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EqvHKJvEWtU>



School Liaison Padlet - resources and opportunities for educators and families.

