



Military Child Education Coalition



**MIC3 Annual Business Meeting
Colorado Springs, CO
October 23-24, 2019**

Military Child Education Coalition

Why does MCEC exist?

Our MCEC Vision: Every military-connected child is college, workforce, and life-ready.

What does MCEC do?

MCEC Mission: To ensure inclusive, quality educational opportunities for all military-connected children affected by mobility, transition, deployments and family separation.

...Serving the children of those who serve us all.





How Does MCEC Advance Our Mission?

We Advocate – Collaborate – Educate

The outcomes we seek are...

1. The **educational needs are recognized** at a national level and receive appropriate support
2. **Students thrive** and succeed in our education system and become college, workforce and life-ready
3. **Parents are empowered** to be informed, proactive supporters, making positive impact in the academic, social, and emotional needs of their children
4. **Education professionals** possess the knowledge to identify, reinforce strengths and **respond** to complex needs of children whose parents serve in our Armed Forces or are Veterans
5. **State and local communities are responsive** in supporting military and veteran-connected children during times of transition, family separation, or trauma



MCEC Programs

Student Programs



MCEC believes that enabling students to thrive and succeed in our education system by providing them the tools necessary to become college, workforce, and life-ready, is of the highest importance. *Student 2 Student*® (S2S™) programs at the elementary (eS2S™), middle (JS2S™), and high school (S2S™) levels bring military and civilian kids together to welcome new students, create a positive environment, support academic excellence, and ease transitions as students pass in or out of schools. 100% acceptance is a hallmark of this program.

Parent Programs



MCEC parent programs empower parents to become informed, proactive supporters, allowing them to make a positive impact in the academic, social, and emotional needs of their children. *Parent to Parent*™ provides informative and interactive parent workshops to groups and organizations in the local community that address academic, social, and emotional issues associated with a military family lifestyle.

Military Student Transition Consultants/Affiliates



MCEC Military Student Transition Consultants (MSTC) serve as expert “navigators” and advocates for military-connected students and their families as they transition into and out of the school district. MSTCs provide on-going, continuum of care to help students and parents traverse the often confusing paths associated with transitions. The Military Student Transition Affiliate (MSTA) is an employee of the LEA able to assume additional work responsibilities in support of military connected students.

Professional Development

MCEC believes in the importance of professionals possessing the knowledge necessary to identify and respond to the complex needs of military and veteran-connected children. Across disciplines such as education, healthcare, childcare, and business, MCEC trains professionals to address the unique challenges facing our military children. All training is grounded in research and presented by highly skilled instructors. MCEC continues to represent those we serve with senior military and national leaders as a member of the Secretary of Defense’s Roundtable and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs’ Roundtable.



Educational Support for Military-Connected Children

Office of the Secretary of the Navy
1051 Navy Pentagon
Washington, DC 20350-1051

Office of the Secretary of the Army
101 Army Pentagon
Washington, DC 20310-0101

Office of the Secretary of the Air Force
1670 Air Force Pentagon
Washington, DC 20330-1670

FEB 23 2018

MEMORANDUM FOR THE NATIONAL GOVERNORS ASSOCIATION

SUBJECT: Consideration of Schools and Reciprocity of Professional Licensure for Military Families in Future Basing or Mission Alternatives

Thank you for your support of our men and women in the military. We are often asked what communities can do to support those who serve. While focus on the mission is always our priority, the factors military families cite most frequently as drawbacks to military service include military dependent's difficulty assimilating into local school systems following a duty station transfer, the quality of schools available for their children, and the ability of spouses to obtain jobs and sustain careers. With that in mind, we will encourage leadership to consider the quality of schools near bases and whether reciprocity of professional licenses is available for military families when evaluating future basing or mission alternatives.

Military families relocate frequently. The services endeavor to schedule transfers to minimize impact on the academic year, but this is not always possible. As a result, incoming students face difficulties transferring credits between school systems, adjusting to varied curriculum, and joining sports teams or clubs after the start of the school year. Exclusion from extra-curricular activities is particularly challenging for our military children, as they are critical to social development and self-esteem. Some school systems recognize this and accommodate military families during transfers. These schools should be commended and emulated.

Facilitating military spouses in continuing their work in a new place of residence without delays or extra expense is also important. Spouses in professionally licensed fields such as medical, legal, engineering, education, accounting, or the cosmetic arts face challenges due to delays or cost of transferring licenses to a new state or jurisdiction. Eliminating or mitigating these barriers will improve quality of life for our military families, and ease the stress of transferring duty stations with consideration for long-term career implications.

We realize improving schools and changing laws or regulations regarding professional licensure will take time. Over the long term, however, leaders who want to make a difference for the military and our missions will make the most impact if we focus on what matters. Reciprocity on licensure and the quality of education matter.

Readiness Issue for the Department of Defense

Evaluating School Quality to Drive Future Basing Decisions

Thank you for your help and attention. We look forward to continuing to work with you and thank you again for your support of our men and women in the military.

Richard V. Spencer
Secretary of the Navy

Mark T. Esper
Secretary of the Army

Heather Wilson
Secretary of the Air Force



Initiatives

- **Military Student Identifier** – We know our youth reside in every zip code across America, but we need to identify them and assess the access to opportunity and academic achievements.
 - National Guard and Reserve implementation
 - State/district/campus implementation...MCEC FAQs
 - State/district/campus report cards easily accessible to parents
 - <https://education.alaska.gov/ReportCardToThePublic/Report/2017-2018/16>
 - <https://myschoolinfo.arkansas.gov/>



Initiatives

- **Purple Star Campus Program** – State recognition of campuses that support military connected students. (TX, AR, SC, OH, VA, GA)
 - Campus staff POC
 - Dedicated web page(s)
 - Student peer transition support group
 - Staff professional development
 - Other optional activities



Initiatives

- **State Education Agency Military Student and Families Specialist**
 - Transition Support
 - Professional Development
 - Military Student Identifier Implementation, Reporting, Observations
 - MIC3 Subject Matter Expert
 - Wrap-Around Support Throughout State
 - Purple Star Campus Program Success
 - Positive Relationships via Outreach and Support



Other matters...

- **MCEC CEO Transition Complete**
 - Dr. Becky Porter, Ph.D.

- **MCEC Stakeholder Survey**
 - Issue survey Spring 2020
 - Survey findings release Summer 2020

- **MCEC SchoolQuest Parent Tool**
 - Spring 2020 Pilot-Phase Launch
 - Go-Live Launch Fall 2020

Military Child Education Coalition



MILITARY INTERSTATE
CHILDREN'S COMPACT
COMMISSION

Together

Serving the children
of those who serve us all.

