

OSEP'S SUPPORT FOR MILITARY FAMILIES

FOCUSING ON SPECIAL EDUCATION FOR MILITARY-CONNECTED CHILDREN

Introduction

- ▶ Overview of OSEP's Mission: Enhancing educational outcomes for children with disabilities.
- ▶ Military Connected Children with Disabilities: Commitment to addressing unique challenges faced by military families through cross collaboration.
- ▶ Joining Forces: The mission of Joining Forces is to support those who also serve: military and veteran families, caregivers, and survivors.

Informational Calls Conducted with States

- ▶ Purpose: Gather insights directly from states with high numbers of military-connected special education children.
- ▶ Method: Strategic discussions with educational leaders across the top ten states. CA, CO, FL, GA, HI, MD, NC, TX, VA, and WA were all invited to join the various calls set-up by OSEP.
- ▶ Findings: Identified prevalent issues and potential areas for policy enhancement. States also shared policies and procedures they already have in place to support Military Families.

Interagency Collaboration

- ▶ Agencies Involved: Collaboration between OSEP and the Department of Defense (DoD), DoD Office of Special Needs, Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA), Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, Office of Under Secretary, First Lady's Office of The White House, and Administration of Community Living.
- ▶ Goals: Streamline resource sharing and program coordination.
- ▶ Strategies: Implement joint initiatives that directly benefit special education.
- ▶ Impact: Enhanced service delivery for military families.

Future Initiatives

- ▶ Upcoming Developments: Commitment to producing a self-assessment and sharing and promoting the technical assistance materials produced by OSEP's TAD network as well as our Federal partners. Timeline: Scheduled release over the next six months.
- ▶ Goals: Address emerging needs and enhance support frameworks for military families.
- ▶ OSEP is also exploring future data collection to identify issues and trends relating to military connected families.
- ▶ I will now turn the presentation over to our DOD Federal partners to share more information with you.



U.S. Department of Education

- [Veterans and Military Families](#)
- [OSEP IDEAs That Work:](#)
 - [Expect, Engage, and Empower: Successful Transitions for All!](#)
 - [Social, Emotional, Behavior and Mental Health Supports](#)
 - [IDEA Compliance](#)
- [Resources for Caregiving Veteran Families:](#)
 - [Federal Resources](#)
 - [Non-Federal Resources](#)
- [Center for Parent Information and Resources: Resources for Military Families](#)
- [Letter to State Directors of Special Education on Ensuring High Quality Education for Highly Mobile Children](#)
- [Letter on Military Connected Children with Disabilities](#)

Center for Parent Information and Resources

- [Resources for Military Families](#)
- Find your state's [Parent Training Information Center](#)

Related Resources

- [Letter on Military-Connected Children with Disabilities \(Nov. 9, 2023\)](#)
- [Parents and Families](#)

The White House

- [Joining Forces: Taking Action to Serve America's Families](#)
- [Joining Forces: Strengthening America's Military Forces](#)
- [Month of the Military Child Toolkit](#)

McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act

- [Supporting School Success for Homeless Children of Veterans and Military Service Members \(ed.gov\)](#)
- [Students on the Move: Reaching and Teaching Highly Mobile Children and Youth – National Center for Homeless Education](#)
- [Early Care and Education for Young Children Experiencing Homelessness – National Center for Homeless Education](#)