

OSEP'S SUPPORT FOR MILITARY FAMILIES

FOCUSING ON SPECIAL EDUCATION FOR MILITARY-CONNECTED CHILDREN

APRIL 25TH, 2024

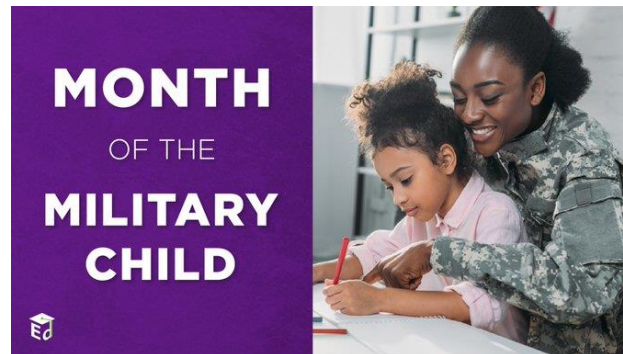
NATIONAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CALL

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.
- ▶ April, Month of the Military Child: Recognizing the resilience of military-connected children in special education.

Social Media Campaign

- ▶ Objective: Leverage social media to disseminate vital resources and support.
- ▶ Target Audience: Parents and the general public.
- ▶ Key Messages: Showcasing tools and services available for military-connected special education children.



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.

Role of DOD Liaisons

- ▶ Today's Call Objective: Introduce the role and activities of DoD liaisons in each region.
- ▶ Role of DoD Offices: Facilitate connections and streamline support from OSEP.
- ▶ Activities: Coordinate educational services and resources at the state level.

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.



Supporting Military-Connected Families with DoD Resources

Feel free to say hi in the chat!
(share your name and ask your questions!)



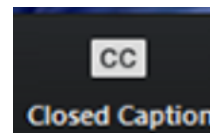
Presenters:

Karen Terry, Program Analyst,
Office of Special Needs, Military Community and Family Policy

Jeremy Hilton, South Central Regional Liaison,
Defense State Liaison Office

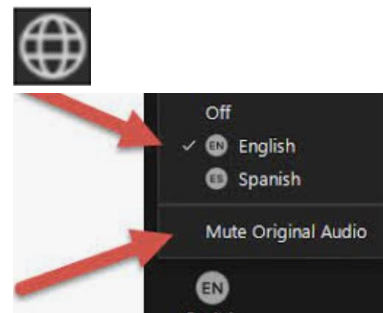
Using Closed Captioning

To start using CC, click the caption button



Uso de la interpretación de idiomas

- Hagan clic en el icono de interpretación
- Seleccionen "Spanish"
- Después de seleccionar "español", hagan clic "Mute Original Audio"





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- Introduction
- Chain of Command
- Office of Special Needs
 - DoD EIS
- Resources for Part C and 619 coordinators
 - Military OneSource
 - EFMP & Me
 - Education Directory
 - Exceptional Advocate
 - Podcasts
- School Liaison
- Defense State Liaison Office
 - Advance Enrollment
- Acronyms
- Questions



For your quick, future reference, resource slides, including URLs and POCs are at the end of the slide deck.

Department of Defense



Office of the Secretary of Defense

USD Personnel and Readiness

Manpower and Reserve Affairs

Military Community and Family Policy

Office of Military Family Readiness Policy

Defense State Liaison Office

Office of Special Needs



Installations



Taking Care of Our Military Families



September 2022 DOD Memo: Taking Care of Our Service Members and Their Families

“The Department of Defense has a sacred obligation to take care of our service members and families. Doing so is a national security imperative. Our military families provide the strong foundation for our force, and we owe them our full support.”

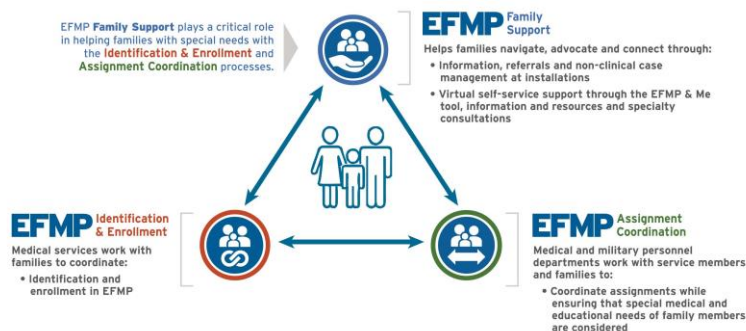
– Lloyd J. Austin, SECDEF

September 2021 Joining Forces Report: Strengthening America’s Military Families

“The families of our service members and veterans, caregivers, and survivors ... may not wear a uniform ... but they sacrifice for us all. They give their best to the United States, and we owe them nothing but our best in return.”

– Dr. Jill Biden, FLOTUS

Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP)



- DoD program, mandatory for active-duty service members with eligible family members.
- G/r members are mandatory per Service policy (typically 6-month orders).
 - G/r can use installation and Military OneSource support services regardless of activation or enrollment status.
- DoDI 1315.19

IDEA Support

- OSN provides DoD policy and oversight for the provision of IDEA services on DoD installations.
- Early intervention services provided by Educational and Developmental Intervention Services (EDIS).
 - Overseas locations (OCONUS), some stateside (CONUS) installations.
- OCONUS EDIS also provides related services for DoDEA students
- DoDEA provides special education per IDEA and DoDI 1342.12 to eligible DoD dependents 3-21.
 - Preschool programs OCONUS



DoD Educational and Developmental Intervention Services (EDIS)



- OCONUS EDIS programs serve two distinct purposes
 - Early Intervention Services
 - Special Education Related Services

- CONUS EDIS programs at installations with a DoDEA school AND the family lives on the DoD Installation

- How can you help?
 - IFSP transfers
 - Find EDIS providers at [MilitaryINSTALLATIONS \(militaryonesource.mil\)](http://militaryinstallations.militaryonesource.mil)



DoD Educational and Developmental Intervention Services (EDIS)



CONUS Locations

Ft Buchanan
Ft Campbell
Ft Jackson
Ft Knox
Ft Liberty
Ft Moore
Ft Novosel
Ft Stewart
West Point
Beaufort
Camp Lejeune
Quantico
Maxwell AFB

OCONUS Locations

Korea	Iwakuni
Landstuhl	Sasebo
SHAPE	Misawa
Stuttgart	Yokota
Vicenza	Aviano
Vilseck	Alconbury
Wiesbaden	Lakenheath
Guantanamo Bay	Spangdahlem
Naples	
Rota	
Sigonella	
Bahrain	
Okinawa	
Guam	
Atusgi	



Resource: Military OneSource



<https://www.militaryonesource.mil>

MILITARY ONESOURCE

- Military OneSource is a web-based U.S. Department of Defense program that provides resources and support to active-duty, National Guard and reserve service members and their families anywhere in the world.
- Many resources can be accessed by civilian providers without a CAC.
- Quick access to OSN resources.
 - Exceptional Family Member Program
 - Educational support articles, products and information



Resource: EFMP & Me



<https://efmpandme.militaryonesource.mil/>

EFMP&ME

- The EFMP & Me online tool provides checklists, resources and referrals to guide service members and their families through each step of the EFMP.
- A self-service tool for service members and families which can be accessed on any device with online capability, 24/7.
- Users can contact EFMP Family Support providers through EFMP & Me.
- A dashboard for service providers providing the latest in EFMP support, information and resources.
- A platform to empower military leaders with information on EFMP so they can provide informed assistance to their Service members and families.

The screenshot shows the EFMP & Me website interface. At the top, it identifies itself as an official Defense Department website with a navigation link to see the network of support. The main heading is "Your 24/7 Guide to the Exceptional Family Member Program". Below this, a paragraph explains that navigating military and community resources during major life events can be challenging and that the tool provides checklists, resources, and referrals to guide users through each process. A "GET STARTED" button is prominently displayed. Below the button, a note states that interacting with the tool does not enroll users in EFMP. At the bottom, there are two image-based links: "About the EFMP & Me Tool" and "About EFMP the Program".

An official Defense Department website
See our network of support for the military community

EFMP&ME

Your 24/7 Guide to the Exceptional Family Member Program

Navigating military and community resources during major life events can be challenging as a military family. The EFMP & Me tool provides [checklists, resources and referrals](#) to guide you through each process and find support from the [Exceptional Family Member Program](#).

Use this tool to maneuver through the Defense Department's network of services and supports for families with special needs. No sign-up is required for service members and family members, but you can choose to create an account to save your progress and preferences.

Start by selecting which role best describes you.

Family Member Service Member
 Service Provider Leadership

GET STARTED >

Interacting with this tool **does not enroll you** in EFMP.

[About the EFMP & Me Tool >](#) [About EFMP the Program >](#)



Resource: Education Directory for Children with Special Needs



<https://efmpeducationdirectory.militaryonesource.mil>

- Early Intervention Directory
- School-Age Directory
- Directory of early intervention, special education, and related services in OCONUS communities
- Helps families make informed assignment decisions
- Eases transitions
- Find State and local information and support



The Education Directory for Children With Special Needs

The Education Directory for Children With Special Needs provides military families who have children with special needs the resources they need to make informed assignment decisions and experience easier transitions.

The directory consists of two components:

Early Intervention Directory (Birth-3)

The Early Intervention Directory provides information on early intervention services for children birth through 3 years old. Here, you can:

Locate your state's early intervention services, funding, resources and tools.

Use these interactive tools and resources to prepare you for your child's early intervention needs before you move.

Find additional national, government and military early intervention resources to support your family's needs.

Discover the meaning of frequently used early intervention abbreviations and terms.

[View the directory](#)



Resource: Exceptional Advocate



<https://www.militaryonesource.mil/epublications/>

TRICARE Benefits, Dependent Care Spending & MiParent Support
Military OneSource sent this bulletin at 10/04/2023 02:59 PM EDT

 An official communication from the United States Department of Defense. [View In Browser](#)

EFMP Exceptional Family Member Program Fall 2023 Newsletter



TRICARE Emergency Coverage

Disaster can strike when you least expect it. Learn how TRICARE works during an emergency and how you and your family can access the prescriptions and health care services you need.

Be Prepared

You can also check out the emergency prep checklist on [EFMP & Me](#) to get help with crisis planning.

- The Exceptional Advocate is a quarterly e-newsletter created by OSN for military families with special needs and the providers that support them.
- E-newsletter contains the latest information on EFMP, new resources and highlights program events at various locations.
- You can subscribe to the e-newsletter and receive it via email automatically
 - [EFMP Exceptional Advocate eNewsletter | Military OneSource](#)
 - Archived versions of the Exceptional Advocate are also available at this link.



EFMP Podcast Series



<https://www.militaryonesource.mil/resources/podcasts/efmp/>

- Created to give our family another way to receive important information and EFMP updates
- Guests are experts in the topic they are sharing. Topics include:
 - Education
 - Tricare
 - Standardization
 - Self-advocating
 - Self care
 - Safety and emergency situations
 - Legal considerations
 - Estate planning
- Podcasts range from 10-40 minutes
- Available on all major podcast platforms, search for “Office of Special Needs EFMP”





OneOp



<https://oneop.org/>



OneOp

Readiness. Knowledge. Network.

- Formerly Military Family Learning Network
- Free, online professional development specifically for DoD and civilian service providers working with military-connected families
 - Collaborative effort between DoD and USDA Cooperative Extension universities
- Opportunity to earn FREE CEUs and certificates of completion.
- Webinars, self-paced courses, blogs, and podcasts



School Liaison Program



School Liaison

- Subject Matter Expert for outreach and educational support of military connected students in PreK-12
- Primary link between school personnel, commanders and parents
- Targeted support for military families experiencing challenges due to transition, deployment, or reintegration

Responsibilities

- Transition Support
- Education Options
- Parental Absence Support
- Special Education Support
- Information and Referral
- Community Relations
- Homeschool Support
- College, Career and Military Readiness
- Child and Youth Behavioral (CYB) Military Family Life Counselors (MFLCs)
- Grants, Resources, and Scholarships
- Critical Incident Response





Defense-State Liaison Office (DSLO)



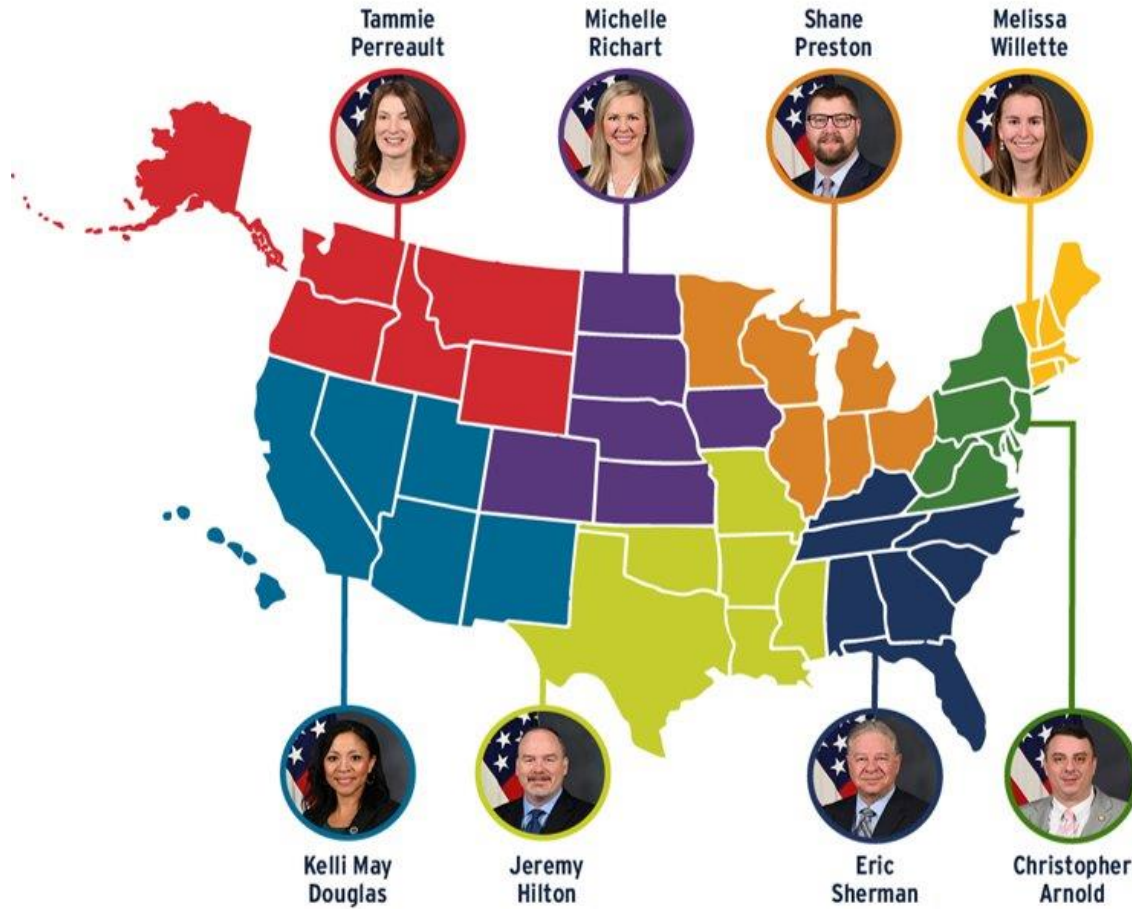
www.statepolicy.militaryonesource.mil

- The Defense-State Liaison Office works with state policymakers to change laws and policies to improve military family well-being.
- DSLO has assisted state policymakers in enacting more than 1,150 bills since 2008 covering occupational licensure, employment protection, consumer protection, family law, childcare, child protection, voting, education, health care and state judicial systems.
- DSLO regional liaisons assist state policymakers by providing educational information, identifying “best practice” legislation, and presenting testimony when requested.





Defense-State Liaison Office Regional Liaisons





State Support for Military Families with Special Education Needs



<https://statepolicy.militaryonesource.mil/priorities/state-support-for-military-families-with-special-education-needs>



Research

- Congressional Report on Military Families in Special Education
- Penn State SPEAK Military Project
 - Literature Review
 - Data Extraction Report
 - Final Report (anticipated release summer 24)
- Military Connected CYSHCN Literature Review
- Blue Star Family Annual Survey Results
- OSEP Letter 10 Nov 2022
- GAO Report 11-231



State Support for Military Families with Special Education Needs



<https://statepolicy.militaryonesource.mil/priorities/state-support-for-military-families-with-special-education-needs>



Key Message

- Highly mobile children, including military children, are more likely to experience recurring educational disruptions and challenges, particularly those who need access to special education and related services. proceedings.

Request

- Streamline processes to ensure timely establishment of comparable special education services upon relocation and reducing burdens associated with due process

Status

- Identify other engaged community advocates for students with disabilities and highly-mobile students
- Engage with states as a coalition in targeted regions



Requirements



Requirements for Fully Meeting Objective: Enact at least one of the following actions for each category:

1. Minimizing Delays

- Require any required evaluations be conducted no more than 30 days after transferring into the school system **OR**
- Clarify that existing advance enrollment policies apply to students with IEPs or 504 plans. **OR**
- Focus state disability programs on assisting military and other highly mobile families

2. Reducing Burdens

- Enact enhanced parental consent requirements related to eligibility, placement criteria and changes to services related to the transferring of IEPs or 504 plans between school districts **OR**
- Shift the burden of proof in due process cases to the school districts **OR**
- Require reimbursement of expert witness fees in due process cases in which a hearing officer finds in favor of the parents.

Requirements for Partially Meeting Objective: Enact at least one of the above actions to either 1) minimize delays or 2) reduce burdens



Advance Enrollment



<https://www.militaryonesource.mil/education-employment/for-children-youth/advance-school-enrollment>



What is it?

- Preliminary enrollment, registration, application
- At the same time as the general student population
- Temporary waiver of proof of residence
- 41 States



Benefits

- Increased certainty through cross-state transitions
- Ability to apply to/participate in lotteries for special programs
- Ensure availability of school, courses or programs



Requirements

- Documentation of a pending military relocation to the state
- Proof of residency provided to the school district within the required number of days after arrival at the new location



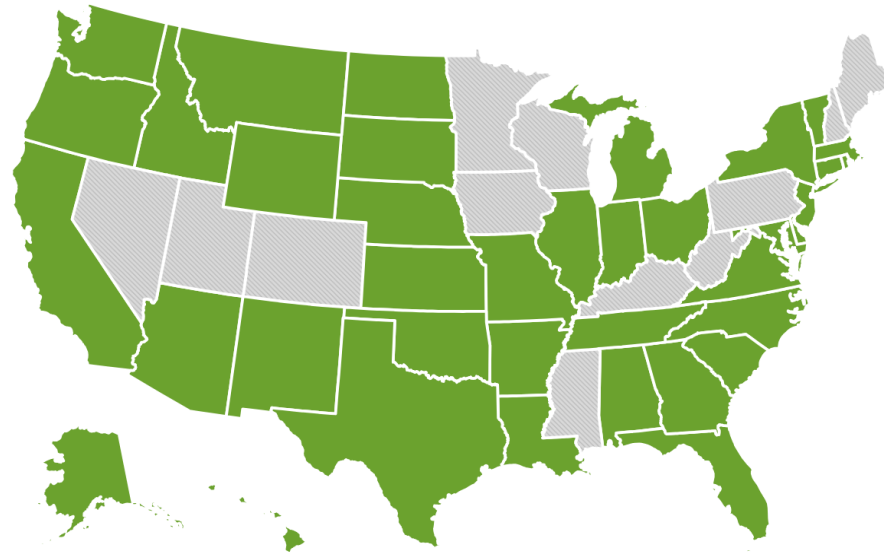
Medicaid Waivers (Emeritus Issues)



<https://statepolicy.militaryonesource.mil/emeritus-status-tracker/>

Medicaid Waivers

EXPLORE OTHER EMERITUS PRIORITIES >



Questions?





Acronyms



Acronym	Full Name
CAC	Common Access Card
CONUS	Continental United States (does not include Alaska, Hawaii or territories)
OCONUS	Outside the Continental United States
OSN	Office of Special Needs
EDIS	Educational and Developmental Intervention Services
EFMP	Exceptional Family Member Program
DSLO	Defense State Liaison Office
SecDef	Secretary of Defense
FLOTUS	First Lady of the United States
G/r	Guard/reserve
DoDEA	Department of Defense Education Activity
SL	School Liaison
MFLC	Military Family Life Consultant
CYB	Child and Youth programs



Resources



A-Z Military Installations EFMP Family Support Locator

Contact Info, Phone Numbers & Address | [MilitaryINSTALLATIONS \(militaryonesource.mil\)](https://militaryonesource.mil)

Direct URL's:

- Military OneSource: <https://www.militaryonesource.mil>
- EFMP & Me: [EFMP & Me: The Exceptional Family Member Program Resource \(militaryonesource.mil\)](https://militaryonesource.mil/efmp-me)
- Exceptional Advocate e-Newsletter: [EFMP Exceptional Advocate eNewsletter | Military OneSource](https://militaryonesource.mil/efmp-exceptional-advocate)
- Education Directory: [EFMP | Education Directory for Children with Special Needs \(militaryonesource.mil\)](https://militaryonesource.mil/efmp-education)
- OneOp: <https://www.oneop.org>

OSN: [Military Office of Special Needs Overview | Military OneSource](https://militaryonesource.mil/osn)

Videos: Coming Summer 2024

Podcasts: [Office of Special Needs EFMP Podcast | Military OneSource](https://militaryonesource.mil/efmp-podcast)



Resources



A-Z Military Installations School Liaison Locator

[Contact Info, Phone Numbers & Address | MilitaryINSTALLATIONS \(militaryonesource.mil\)](#) **Articles**

- School Liaison Program [How School Liaisons Help Military Youth | Military OneSource](#)
- School Liaison Special Education Support [Military School Liaisons for Special Education | Military OneSource](#)
- Changing Schools [Military Children Changing Schools Support | Military OneSource](#)
- Ways to Help Your Children Cope with Moving [Helping Kids Cope with a Military PCS Move | Military OneSource](#)
- Ways to Support Your Children in School [Support Your Military Child in Grade School | Military OneSource](#)
- Staying Connected With Your Child's Teachers During Your Deployment [Parent-Teacher Connection While Deployed | Military OneSource](#)

Videos

2021 -- What is a School Liaison Anyway 22:58 minutes [What is a School Liaison Anyway? \(youtube.com\)](#)

2021 -- Parenting Through Deployment with School Liaisons (Deployment Strong) – 15:21 minutes
[Live: Parenting Through Deployment with School Liaisons. \(youtube.com\)](#)

2022 -- School Liaisons work with local school systems and the military community – 1:51 minutes
[Deployment Strong: Parenting Through Deployment with School Liaisons \(youtube.com\)](#)

2022 -- Fast Five 1:36 minutes [School Liaisons: The Fast Five \(youtube.com\)](#)

Podcasts

- School Liaisons and Geo-dispersed Families
- How School Liaisons Can Help with Special Education
- Post Secondary Education for Military-Connected Youth



Resources



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](#)



MILITARY
ONESOURCE

Defense Department School Liaison Program



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Marine Corps

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Navy

NavyHQSchoolLiaison@us.navy.mil



Air Force

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Space Force

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