



# Florida—Supporting Military Students On the Go!

*Celebrate and...*

*Purple Up!*

During April, the Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission (MIC3) joins the Department of Defense (DOD) Education Activity, DOD, Operation Military Kids (OMK), and military communities around the world in honoring military children. Our military children and families help sustain our fighting force, on whom we depend for the security and safety of our nation's families and communities. It is important to emphasize and recognize the role that military children play while their service-member parents are serving the nation. The MIC3 is committed to resolving the educational transition issues that are faced by these children and their families.

This year, we're inviting everyone to "Purple Up!," an annual campaign created five years ago by OMK. During the month of April they encourage community awareness and support of military children. Operation Military Kids also asks the nation to join together and wear something purple on **April 15** as a visible way to show support and thanks to all military children for their strength and sacrifices before, during, and after the deployment of loved ones.

## Why purple?

Purple is the color that symbolizes all branches of the military, as it is the combination of Army green, Coast Guard blue, Air Force blue, Marine red and Navy blue. MIC3 hopes everyone will take this opportunity to appreciate and celebrate these young heroes. Be creative! The goal is for military youth to witness a sea of "purple" on that day in order to witness visually the support of their community!



**PURPLE UP!**  
*for military kids*

# School Liaison Officers

Dawn Kaunike, Regional School Liaison Officer (SLO), Naval Air Station (NAS), Jacksonville, asked her local Florida Navy SLO's the question...

*How are you educating others about the Interstate Compact?*

The responses received were great and show their dedication to Florida's military kids!

## NAS Key West

(School Liaison Officer, Yoli Eldred)

“Because of the uniqueness of Key West, I work one-on-one with school principals and their staff to provide information on the Interstate Compact. The schools will usually reach out to me when there is a situation to assure that they are providing all the necessary support. Presently, we have two students within the school district who will be taking their EOC's/AP exams early because of our consistent communication.”

## NAS Pensacola

(School Liaison Officer, Carissa Bergosh)

“Military children experience many transitions. These frequent school moves can introduce some rough challenges for the military families. The Interstate Compact for Military children has been developed to help ‘level the playing field’ for our military children and can assist the military families. The goal of the Interstate Compact is to replace varying treatment of transitioning military students and provide a uniform policy in every school district in every state. As the school liaison officer for NAS Pensacola, I work closely with the local Escambia County School District to introduce and inform the many educators to this important legislation and how to use it. For example, on August 15 and 16, 2014, I met with all of the Elementary and Secondary school counselors during their before school (preschool) in-service about the Military Interstate Compact and other resources to assist our transitioning military families and families experiencing deployment. I continue to meet with them during their quarterly staff meetings to keep them up to date with this resource. I have received numerous phone calls from the school counselors asking me specific questions on how they can use this compact for their new students.”

## Naval Support Activity Panama City

(School Liaison Officer, Lynda Brown)

“Keeping all stakeholders informed about the Interstate Compact is an ongoing process. Not only do military families move frequently which supplies a perpetual group of people that need to know about the compact, school counselors and other school personnel change as well. Therefore, I have learned that in addition to training, I must also have ways to offer information on the compact to all pertinent people. Several of the main things that I do include annual training for all school counselors in the district, briefing parents at Child and Youth Program parent meetings, including MIC3 brochures in welcoming packets that I mail out to incoming families, placing the brochures in military family resource centers in the schools, and including the brochures with information that I distribute at a meet and greet table during events.”



## RESOURCES

### [Florida Military Families](#)

The Florida Department of Education has a number of timely resources for military families transitioning in and out of Florida public schools.

### [SAMHSA-Military Families](#)

This resource provides help for military families and veterans dealing with behavioral health issues associated with military service. The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) offers support through technical assistance for state, territory, and tribal behavioral health systems assisting service members, veterans, and their families.

### [The Education Directory for Children with Special Needs](#)

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

### [Military Child Education Coalition \(MCEC\)](#)

MCEC offers a full array of online and face-to-face courses for continuing education. For a complete listing of these courses visit [MCEC Trainings and Events](#)



**Naval Station Mayport**  
(School Liaison Officer, Judy Cromartie)

“I created a handout explaining the statutory requirements of the Interstate Compact which advises what the Interstate Compact does and does not cover. I provide this information to military members, spouses, and dependents via email which is usually based on a phone request or email, requests for school choice and/or enrollment information. I also include the information in the following ways:

- Briefs: indocs, pre-deployment briefs, CO’s department meetings, CMC monthly meeting, MWR monthly meetings
- Parent Groups: Ombudsman Assemblies, Family Readiness Groups (FRG), Mothers of Pre-Schoolers (MOPS), Naval Officers Spouse Association (NOSA)
- School Associated Groups: Parent-Teacher Association meetings (PTA), School Advisory Council (SAC) meetings
- Events: Florida State College Open House, NACAC College Fair (Jacksonville, FL), Financial Aid Night (NS Mayport), BEACON (multiple high schools Jacksonville, FL), Back-to-School Bash (NS Mayport), Military Families Back-to-School Resource Fair (NS Mayport)
- Professional Development: UNF Teacher In-Service trainings, Duval Schools and St. Johns County Schools Counselor trainings, Military Family Life Counselor (MFLC) trainings

Whenever there are opportunities to share about the Interstate Compact, I take full advantage of each situation!”

**NAS Jacksonville**  
(School Liaison Officer, Dawn Mills)

“As the School Liaison Officer at NAS Jacksonville, I have been able to educate service members and families about the Interstate Compact by speaking at the command monthly INDOCs. I also host bring your lunch and learn workshops which have been very successful. I talk to families and service members during events in which I have a resource table set up with information about MIC3. I have been invited to speak at counselor in service workshops and military key spouse trainings. This is also a great opportunity to discuss the Interstate Compact. When I have the opportunity to speak with the National Guard and Reserve families at family day events or pre-deployment yellow ribbon events, I discuss the Interstate Compact and how it could assist them as well!”

**NAS Whiting Field**  
(School Liaison Officer, Chris Hendrix)

“I teach the Interstate Compact in several different ways. I teach the school district by displaying a PowerPoint presentation at the annual principals meeting and at the school counselors meeting. I am able to reach every single principal and school counselor for a refresher every year. I reach out to the parents in several ways. I provide information and the link to the Interstate Compact website, MIC3, on my installation website page. I also include the information on my PowerPoint presentation of all of the different INDOCs I do each month for the various commands on the installation. I also have a handout that is included in my ‘Welcome Aboard’ transition folders which are housed at every school and given to the new military family by someone at the school or the by the schools Military Family Life Counselor when the new family arrives.”



# Promising Programs for Military Families

The Military Child Education Coalition (MCEC) Parent to Parent program empowers parents to be their child's strongest advocate on educational and social issues through MCEC Parent Workshops. More than 170,000 parents have attended these workshops since the program's beginning in 2006.

In the MCEC Parent Workshops, trainers share practical ideas, proven techniques, and solid resources to support military-connected families.

There are 15 Parent to Parent teams in the United States, and Europe. Teams usually consist of three highly-trained professionals, and they concentrate on providing the Parent Workshops to families in their region; the Department of the Army has provided funding for many of these teams.

Because military-connected families live in every zip code, the MCEC has developed the Parent to Parent Surge Program to offer one-day parent education seminars for parents outside the range of the community-based teams.

Army installations without a resident Parent to Parent team may request a Parent to Parent Surge from the Department of the Army Family, Morale, Welfare, and Recreation Command. This one-day parent education seminar provides our most requested parent education workshops and resources at no cost to the installation. These seminars are also available to non-Army Installations and civilian communities and school districts for a nominal fee.

For information on the Parent to Parent Surge Program, please contact Judy Glennon at [Judy.Glennon@MilitaryChild.org](mailto:Judy.Glennon@MilitaryChild.org).



# Living in the New Normal: Helping Children Thrive Through Good and Challenging Times

The MCEC Living in the New Normal: Helping Children Thrive through Good and Challenging Times Institute, a two-day interactive professional development for school counselors, school psychologists, school social workers, school nurses, installation leaders, transition specialists, community professionals and military parents, explores how concerned adults can support military-connected children and youth through good and challenging times. Participants will learn how to differentiate affective aspects of children dealing with change, recognize how a family member's military experience formulates methods that build resilience and maximize the natural strengths of children, and identify current resources available specifically to support children. Topics include Grief, Fostering Resilience through Positive Psychology, Responses to Challenges through the Developmental Lens, Coping, and Post Traumatic Stress and the Impact on Children.

Participants will learn to:

- Differentiate affective aspects of children dealing with change;
- Recognize how a family member's military experience affects the child;
- Formulate methods that build resilience and maximize the natural strengths of children;
- Identify national, military, and community resources currently in place to support children; and
- Create unique home front plans to address needs of military children in the community.

For more information and to register for the training visit <http://www.militarychild.org/professionals/programs/living-in-the-new-normal-linn>.

## *Did you know*

### According to the Compact

If a student transfers before or during the school year, the receiving state school shall initially honor placement of the student in educational courses based on the student's enrollment in the sending state's school or educational assessments conducted at the school in the sending state if the courses are offered. Course placement includes, but is not limited to, Honors, International Baccalaureate, Advanced Placement, vocational, technical, and career pathways courses. A school in the receiving state is not precluded from performing subsequent evaluations to ensure appropriate placement and continued enrollment of the student in the courses.

### Making a Difference—School Highlights —Stewart Elementary

“When one member joins, the whole family serves.” Many of us have heard this a thousand times, but what does it mean to your family?

Here at Stewart Elementary, we have nine students who are part of a military family. Four years ago I began a support group called “Operation Stewart,” where we met on a monthly basis to encourage the students to talk about their feelings, prepared care packages for those serving, participated in the Stewart float, planted a tree honoring those serving, and overall, used the experiences as an educational opportunity. This year, we have collected and donated Halloween candy to the troops, adopted nine soldiers and mailed them care packages for the holidays and communicated with other military students in other elementary schools to show their support.

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**PURPLE UP!**  
for military kids

*Don't forget . . .*

*Purple Up!*

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