



INTERSTATE COMPACT ON EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY FOR MILITARY CHILDREN

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION
fldoe.org

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Created with images by cwycycoff1 - "Company C 2nd Battalion/147th AVN BN Homecoming"

CELEBRATING MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

April is Month of the Military Child! This special recognition was established by former Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger in 1986 to honor the important role children play in contributing to the strength of military families. We are encouraging everyone in each of Florida's local school districts to reach out with events and celebrations that honor the hard work and applaud the courage of military children.



Military Children's Compact Commission (MIC3) is encouraging everyone to Purple Up! and wear purple on April 25, 2017, as a visible way to show support and thank military children for their strength and sacrifice.

The color purple was chosen because it symbolizes all branches of the military, as it is the combination of Army green, Coast Guard blue, Air Force blue, Marine Corps red and Navy blue.

FLORIDA SUPPORTS MILITARY STUDENTS ON THE GO!



In Collaboration with...



OPERATION HOMEFRONT: 2017 MILITARY CHILD OF THE YEAR® AWARD RECOGNIZING YOUNG PATRIOTS

[Visit Operation Homefront](#)

The recipients of the Military Child of the Year® Award are the young heroes of their community. This award recognizes military children who have demonstrated themselves as exceptional citizens while facing the challenges of military family life.

The average Military Child of the Year Award® nominee*:

- has moved five times or more;
- has experienced at least one parent deployment for 18 months or more;
- has volunteered with service groups an average of 75 hours during the year;
- has maintained above average grades, often with honors;
- has excelled in sports, theater and music; and
- has held leadership positions in school and community groups.

*2011 nominee average



140th Wing Colorado Air National
Guard Deployment Departure

ONE OF FLORIDA'S OWN...

The 2017 Military Child of the Year® award recipient for the Army is Henderson Heussner. Henderson's family moved to Florida from Colorado after his father was deployed to Afghanistan and as his family was caring for Henderson's terminally ill grandfather. Henderson shouldered the emotional burden and set a leadership-by-example standard for his peers.

As a student-athlete and member of the Estero High School varsity baseball team, Henderson worked tirelessly to rebuild his strength after he suffered two broken vertebrae during his sophomore year. He spent many hours alone in the batting cage in August 2016 in the sweltering Florida heat. He was not alone for long because he led one teammate after another to join him in putting forth the same spare-time voluntary pursuit of excellence. That is but one example of Henderson's leadership and can-do spirit. Henderson also devoted 240 volunteer hours in the year leading up to his nomination as a tutor and mentor for at-risk children and teens at the nonprofit New Horizons of Southwest Florida.

Henderson, a onetime American Legion Boys State Delegate and West Point Summer Leadership Experience participant, also served multiple terms as class president and as Student Government president. He has spent hundreds of hours as a youth group leader, Sports Camp counselor and Sunday School teacher at Summit Church.

[The 2017 Recipients are...](#)

THE MILITARY FAMILY EMPLOYMENT ADVOCACY PROGRAM

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

There are approximately 49,000 military spouses of active duty military and mobilized National Guard members and reservists who are currently residing in Florida.

The [Military Family Employment Advocacy Program](#) delivers priority workforce services for eligible military family members in the state of Florida. The primary focus of the program is to assist military spouses and dependents in obtaining and retaining gainful employment.

There are 10 Military Family Employment Advocates located in the [CareerSource Florida](#) centers near military bases and communities with a large population of military families, and there are nearly 100 CareerSource Florida centers located across the state of Florida. Customer Service Specialists at any one of these centers can assist military spouses and dependents. There is no charge for these services.

Program services include, but are not limited to:

- Assessment and testing services
- Career planning and counseling
- Referrals to educational and training programs
- Resumé assistance
- Interviewing skills training
- Job search and placement assistance
- Job fairs
- Job clubs



143d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) - "Hiring our heroes: Service members, veterans and spouses engage with civilian employers during a Hiring Event"

Military spouses are also eligible to receive training and other support services under the Federal Workforce Investment Act and may be eligible to collect unemployment compensation if they need to quit their jobs to relocate with their active duty military spouse. In addition, military spouses and dependents may be eligible to receive training and other supportive services under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.

For more information about the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, follow the link below.

[For more information visit...](#)

MOVING CAN BE DIFFICULT FOR STUDENTS OF MILITARY FAMILIES

Moving is part of military life and provides many challenges, but it doesn't have to lead to meltdowns and tantrums. School personnel can help ease the anxiety students from military families face when they are suddenly transferred to another duty station. Schools can help families plan ahead as much as possible and help families understand that the more they talk with their children about the move and their new home ahead of time, the easier the relocation will be. So, here are a few tips that might make a family's next move smooth for the children and the parents.

- Tell your kids about the move as soon as possible. Give your kids plenty of time to adjust to the idea of moving and saying goodbye to their friends.
- Give your kids space and answers. They may also have a lot of questions, so listen patiently and answer as best you can. Help your kids research their new school, nearby parks and base activities. The adjustment—for you and your kids—will take time.
- Give your kids a task. Depending on the age of your kids, there are many ways they can help. Older youth might be able to help plan portions of the move, such as searching for new houses online or researching fun things to do on the new installation. Younger kids can help by packing their own “first-day box.”
- Reassure your kids. Let them know they'll have a new home address, but the important things in life—like how much you love each other—won't change. Your kids take their cues from you. Stay positive and make the move fun to help them feel involved and excited.
- Enjoy your kids' favorite things and places. Before you go, make a point to visit the park, the frozen yogurt shop or another favorite place. You might take something from one of those places to the new house and encourage your child to find a new favorite spot.



SESAME STREET FOR MILITARY FAMILIES

Sesame Street for Military families provides helpful tips and videos for students on the go! Learning how to make this transition can sometimes be difficult. By expressing a positive attitude about military moves and asking your child to participate in the process, you can help them feel more at ease about the changes that may come with military relocation.

[Visit Sesame Street for Military Families](#)

DID YOU KNOW?

The 2016 Annual Business Meeting of the MIC3 was held October 26-28, 2016, at the World Center Marriott in Orlando, FL.



Florida Governor Rick Scott

The commission was honored with a visit from Florida Governor Rick Scott. "Florida is dedicated to being the most military friendly state in the nation and the best state for our children to get a world class education," said Governor Scott. "We appreciate the commission's work with military families and continue to be incredibly grateful to our service men and women for their sacrifices to protect our nation."

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

The Center for Deployment Psychology has a free online course on military cultural competence. This course provides a comprehensive introduction to military life and language and potential mental health concerns. You can find more information by visiting <http://deploymentpsych.org/online-courses/military-culture>.

The American Association for School Administrators has published a military student toolkit. The toolkit includes quick tips on how teachers and schools can support military families and what resources are available to military families, including free tutoring. For more information visit, <http://www.aasa.org/MilitaryChild.aspx>.

Military Kids Connect has a section for educators that provides tips on working with military students, common problems youth face during deployment, a beginner's guide to military culture, lesson plans and more. You can explore their website at <http://militarykidsconnect.dcoe.mil/educators>.

DON'T FORGET
...APRIL 25, 2017, IS



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RESOURCES

Florida Military Families

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

SAMHSA-Military Families

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)

The work of the Military Child Education Coalition (MCEC) is focused on ensuring quality educational opportunities for all military children affected by mobility, family separation, and transition.

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