



# **Are We Serving Our Military Children? A National Overview of K-12 Research and Policies**

**Jennifer Dounay Zinth**

**Education Commission of the States**

**For Virginia Council on the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity  
for Military Children**

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**Equipping Education Leaders, Advancing Ideas**

# Overview



- **About ECS**
- **What the Research Says**
- **What States Are Doing**
- **Additional Resources**

# About ECS



- **50-state compact established in 1965**
- **Nonpartisan, nonprofit**
- **Serves all state-level education leaders and their staffs:**
  - ✓ **Governors**
  - ✓ **Legislators**
  - ✓ **State superintendents**
  - ✓ **State board members**
  - ✓ **Higher education leaders**

# What ECS Does



- **Provides P-20 perspective**
  - ✓ **Across the spectrum and across agencies**
- **Provides technical assistance**
- **Convenes policymakers**
- **Analyzes and tracks state policy**

# Virginia Commissioners



- **\*Patricia Wright**, Superintendent of Public Instruction
- **Governor Robert McDonnell**
- **Antione Green**, Southside Community and Housing Development
- **Joseph Guzman, Board Member, Loudoun County Public Schools**
- **Patricia A. Harvey, Richard Bland College**
- **Algie Howell, Delegate, Virginia House of Delegates**
- **Stephen H. Martin, Chair, Senate Education and Health Committee**

# What the Research Says



## Military Children in the U.S.

| <b>Data on Military-Connected Children</b>      |                    |
|---|--------------------|
| (Figures are approximate as of November 2010)   |                    |
| <b>Total military-connected, 0-18</b>           | <b>1.9 million</b> |
| • of which, school-aged                         | 1.2 million        |
| • of which, children of active duty             | 765,000            |
| • of which, attend a DOD school                 | 85,000             |
| <b>Children of a currently-deployed parent</b>  | <b>220,000</b>     |
| • of which, school-aged                         | 116,000            |
| • of which, deployed multiple times             | 75,000             |
| <b>Percent of service members with children</b> |                    |
| (Active duty and Reserve Component)             | 43%                |
| Active duty single parents                      | 75,000             |
| Active duty dual-military families              | 40,000             |

# What the Research Says



## GAO report, 2011

### **“EDUCATION OF MILITARY DEPENDENT STUDENTS: Better Information Needed to Assess Student Performance”**

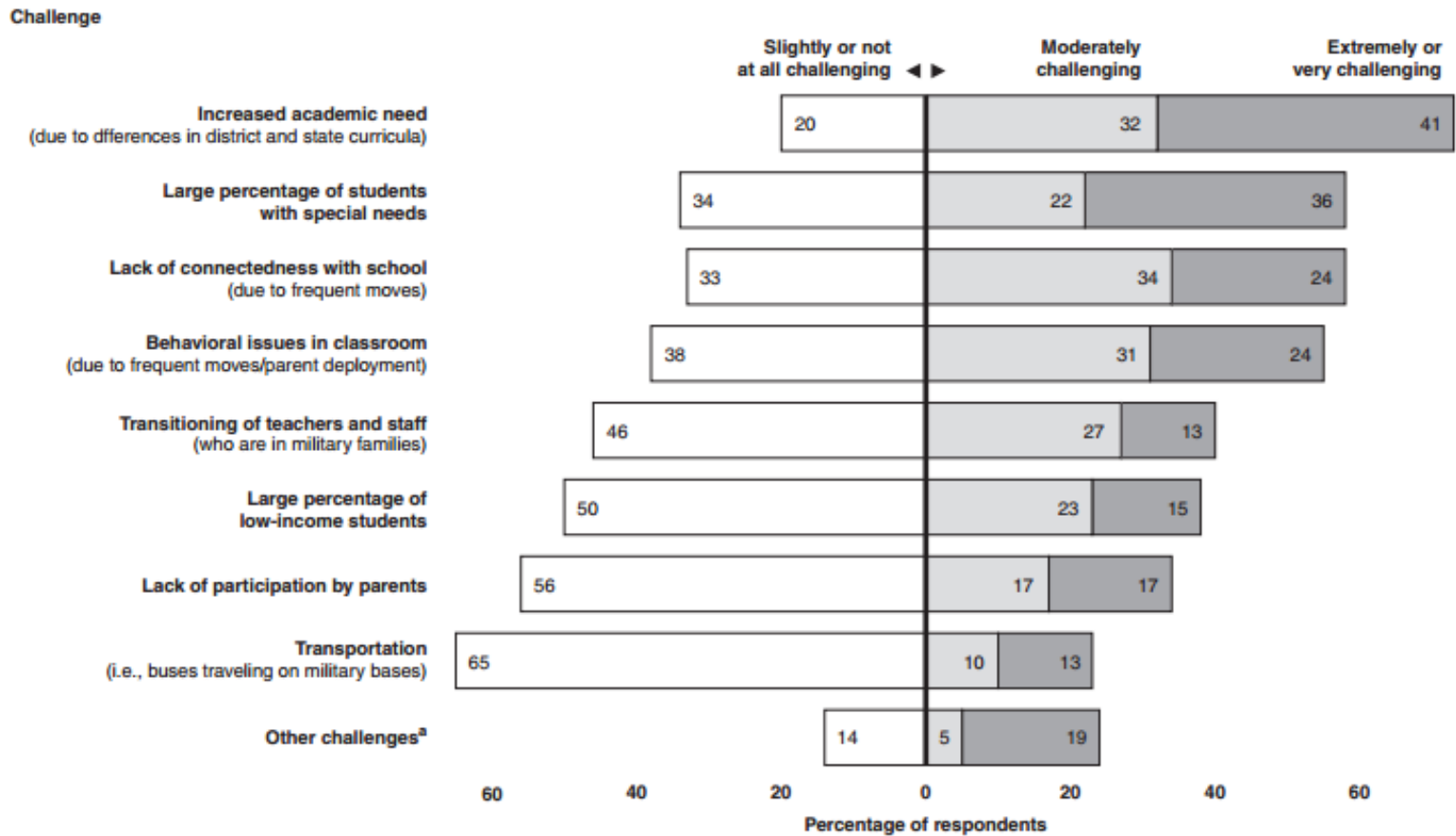
#### **Findings:**

- **No national data on military dependent students as a group**
- **Frequent moves and educating military dependents with special needs are primary challenges for school districts**

# What the Research Says



**Figure 6: School District-Reported Challenges in Educating Military Dependent Students**



GAO, "EDUCATION of MILITARY DEPENDENT STUDENTS: Better Information Needed to Assess Student Performance," March 2011



# What the Research Says



## RAND report, 2011

### “Effects of Soldiers’ Deployment on Children’s Academic Performance and Behavioral Health”

#### Findings:

- Children whose parents were deployed  $\geq 19$  mos. since 2001 had modestly lower (and statistically significant) achievement scores.
- School staff had little consistent information on which students are military, when students may be experiencing deployment.

# Where Are We Now?



**No state has comprehensively addressed the research findings in policy...**

***BUT...* States are making headway:**

- ✓ **Identifying military students**
- ✓ **Facilitating student transfer**
- ✓ **Allowing excused absences**
- ✓ **Staff training**
- ✓ **Funding for supplemental instruction**

# What States Are Doing



## Identifying military students

**NV: Requires (to the extent funds are available) unique identifier to be est'd in state accountability information system for each student w/parent member or reservist in U.S. Armed Forces or National Guard. (2013 A.B. 224)**

**TX: Requires TEA to annually collect data from districts and charter schools through PEIMS on the enrollment of student dependents of active duty military, National Guard, and reservists at the beginning and end of each school year. (2013 H.B. 525)**

# What States Are Doing

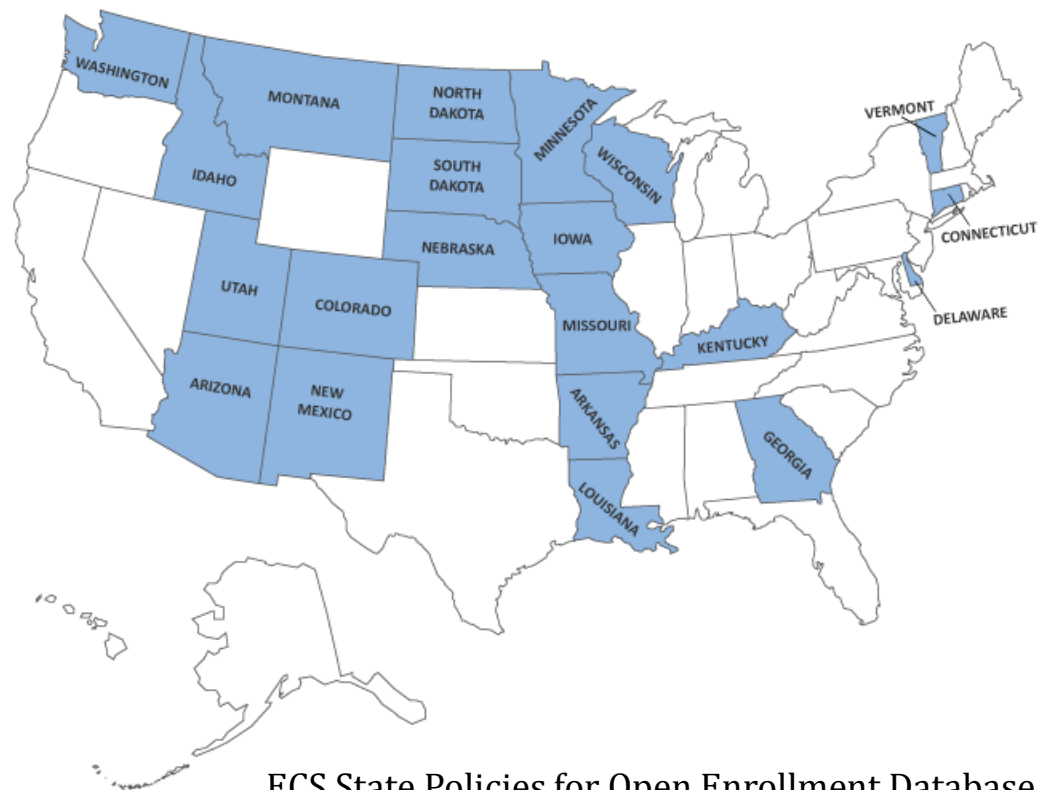


## Facilitating transfer

Where are districts required to allow students to cross boundaries to attend school?

**Interdistrict Mandatory Open Enrollment**

(includes those states that limit transfer to low-performing schools and who have very limited statutorily outlined provisions)



# What States Are Doing



## Facilitating student transfer

**OK: Requires district policies to approve cross-district transfer of dependents of full-time active duty military and active duty reservists if:**

- ✓ OK is parent's home of record
- ✓ Parent provides evidence of temporary transfer to another location on active duty status or active duty orders for more than 30 consecutive days
- ✓ Student will be residing with a relative in receiving school district or living in receiving district w/in 6 mos. of filing transfer application. (2013 S.B. 759)

# What States Are Doing



## Facilitating student transfer

**MS: Children of active duty and civilian military personnel residing on a military base may enroll in district of parent's choosing, provided school is less than 30 miles from residence. (2013 H.B. 879)**

# What States Are Doing



## Facilitating charter school entry

**IL: Charter school in a district containing all or part of a federal military base may set aside up to 33% of enrollment to students with parents assigned to base.**

**If a student with a parent assigned to the base withdraws from charter school during school year, other students with parents assigned to base must be given preference in filling the vacancy. (2013 H.B. 3112)**

# What States Are Doing



## Excused absences

**Multiple states: Student must be granted excused absence before, during leave from, or upon return of parent's deployment away from home.**

**TX and LA: Up to 5 days per school year**

**TX: Minimum deployment of 4 mos.**

**LA: Overseas deployment to a combat zone or combat support posting, not upon parent return**

**CA: Deployment to a combat zone or combat support posting. Period of time at district superintendent's discretion.**



# What States Are Doing



## Training staff

**NC: Local boards must annually report to state board:**

- ✓ # of students w/immediate family member who has served in active or reserved armed forces since Sept. 2011.
- ✓ Whether district employed at least 1 employee trained in unique needs of children w/immediate family members in military.
- ✓ Frequency w/which employee provided training to school administrators, nurses, nurse aides, counselors, social workers, and other district staff that year. (2011 S.B. 597)

# What States Are Doing



## NC Training Components

**NC: Employee meets training req't if trained on:**

- ✓ **The # of children with active duty or reserve military immediate family members in the district.**
- ✓ **Available curricula on military families**
- ✓ **Impact of deployments on children and families' emotional and psychological well-being**
- ✓ **Potential warning signs of emotional and mental health disorders, substance use disorders, suicide risks, child maltreatment, or domestic violence.**
- ✓ **Appropriate resources to which students and families may be referred**
- ✓ **Scholarships for after-school and enrichment activities available through DoD, National Guard, or reserves for children of actively deployed parents.**

# What States Are Doing



## Training: Far from statewide

*Table Three: Number of Military-Connected Students, Total Number of Students, and Percentage of Student Population That Is Military Connected, Whether or Not Training Has Been Held that Meets General Assembly's Criteria, and Number of Trainings that Meet Criteria, North Carolina School Districts (Ordered Alphabetically by County)*

| District Name                     | Number of Military-Connected Students | Total Number of Students | Percentage of Student Population That Is Military Connected | District Provided Training That Meets Criteria | If Training Provided, Number of Trainings |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|---|--|---|
| Alamance-Burlington Schools       | 1,609                                 | 22,133                   | 7%  |  |   |
| Alexander County Schools          | 462                                   | 5,450                    | 8%  |  |   |
| Alleghany County Schools          | 50                                    | 1,447                    | 3%  |  |   |
| Anson County Schools              | 276                                   | 3,755                    | 7%  |  |   |
| Ashe County Schools               | 222                                   | 3,145                    | 7%  |  |   |
| Asheboro City Schools             | 338                                   | 4,565                    | 7%  |  |   |
| Asheville City Schools            | 337                                   | 3,855                    | 9%  |  |   |
| Avery County Schools              | 120                                   | 2,120                    | 6%  |  |   |
| Beaufort County Schools           | 817                                   | 6,904                    | 12%   |  |   |
| Bertie County Schools             | 261                                   | 2,730                    | 10%   |  |   |
| Bladen County Schools             | 531                                   | 5,066                    | 10%   |  |   |
| Brunswick County Schools          | 1,495                                 | 11,969                   | 12%   |  |   |
| Buncombe County Schools           | 3,096                                 | 25,258                   | 12%   |  |   |
| Burke County Schools              | 799                                   | 13,290                   | 6%  |  |   |
| Cabarrus County Schools           | 3,229                                 | 28,465                   | 11%   |  |   |
| Caldwell County Schools           | 952                                   | 12,555                   | 8%  |  |   |
| Camden County Schools             | 504                                   | 1,906                    | 26%   |  |   |
| Carteret County Public Schools    | 1,718                                 | 8,342                    | 21%   |  |   |
| Caswell County Schools            | 280                                   | 2,880                    | 10%   |  |   |
| Catawba County Schools            | 1,371                                 | 17,092                   | 8%  |  |   |
| Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools | 3,033                                 | 11,629                   | 26%   |  |   |
| Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools     | 7,455                                 | 124,588                  | 6%  |  |   |

North Carolina State Board of Education, *Report to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee: Behavioral Health Services for the Military*, December 2012

# What States Are Doing



## Principal requirements

**NC: Principals must develop a means for identifying and serving the unique needs of students who have immediate family members in the active or reserve components of the U.S. armed forces. (N.C.G.S.A. § 115C-288(m))**

# What States Are Doing



## ■ Supplemental appropriations

**TX: Districts receive an additional \$650 allotment to provide supplemental services for:**

- ✓ Each student w/parent/guardian serving active duty in a combat zone, and
- ✓ Each student:
  - ✓ Who has active duty parent/guardian who has transferred to the district during the school year due to action taken under the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990.

# Additional Resources



## ECS State Policy Database

<http://www.ecs.org/ecs/ecscat.nsf/WebTopicView?OpenView&count=-1&RestrictToCategory=Special+Populations--Military>

**Responses to information requests**

**Review of bill drafts/draft regulations**

**Testimony/presentations**



## **Education Commission of the States**

**700 Broadway, Suite 810**

**Denver, Colorado 80203**

**(303) 299-3689**

**[www.ecs.org](http://www.ecs.org)**

**[jdounay@ecs.org](mailto:jdounay@ecs.org)**