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

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Education Commission of the States

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

September 19, 2013
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.

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

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

- Increased academic need (due to differences in district and state curricula): 20% slightly or not at all, 32% moderately challenging, 41% extremely or very challenging
- Large percentage of students with special needs: 34% slightly or not at all, 22% moderately challenging, 36% extremely or very challenging
- Lack of connectedness with school (due to frequent moves): 33% slightly or not at all, 34% moderately challenging, 24% extremely or very challenging
- Behavioral issues in classroom (due to frequent moves/parent deployment): 38% slightly or not at all, 31% moderately challenging, 24% extremely or very challenging
- Transitioning of teachers and staff (who are in military families): 46% slightly or not at all, 27% moderately challenging, 13% extremely or very challenging
- Large percentage of low-income students: 50% slightly or not at all, 23% moderately challenging, 15% extremely or very challenging
- Lack of participation by parents: 56% slightly or not at all, 17% moderately challenging, 17% extremely or very challenging
- Transportation (i.e., buses traveling on military bases): 65% slightly or not at all, 10% moderately challenging, 13% extremely or very challenging
- Other challenges: 14% slightly or not at all, 5% moderately challenging, 19% extremely or very challenging

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 ≥ 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)

ECS State Policies for Open Enrollment Database, 2013
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)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District Name</th>
<th>Number of Military-Connected Students</th>
<th>Total Number of Students</th>
<th>Percentage of Student Population That Is Military Connected</th>
<th>District Provided Training That Meets Criteria</th>
<th>If Training Provided, Number of Trainings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alamance-Burlington Schools</td>
<td>1,609</td>
<td>22,133</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alexander County Schools</td>
<td>462</td>
<td>5,450</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Alleghany County Schools</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>1,447</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Anson County Schools</td>
<td>276</td>
<td>3,755</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Ashe County Schools</td>
<td>222</td>
<td>3,145</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Asheboro City Schools</td>
<td>338</td>
<td>4,565</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Asheville City Schools</td>
<td>337</td>
<td>3,855</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Avery County Schools</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>2,120</td>
<td>6%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Beaufort County Schools</td>
<td>817</td>
<td>6,904</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Bertie County Schools</td>
<td>261</td>
<td>2,730</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Bladen County Schools</td>
<td>531</td>
<td>5,066</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Brunswick County Schools</td>
<td>1,485</td>
<td>11,989</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Buncombe County Schools</td>
<td>3,096</td>
<td>25,258</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Burke County Schools</td>
<td>799</td>
<td>13,290</td>
<td>6%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cabarrus County Schools</td>
<td>3,229</td>
<td>28,465</td>
<td>11%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Caldwell County Schools</td>
<td>952</td>
<td>12,655</td>
<td>8%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Camden County Schools</td>
<td>504</td>
<td>1,906</td>
<td>28%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Carteret County Public Schools</td>
<td>1,718</td>
<td>8,342</td>
<td>21%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Caswell County Schools</td>
<td>260</td>
<td>2,880</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Catawba County Schools</td>
<td>1,371</td>
<td>17,082</td>
<td>9%</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools</td>
<td>3,033</td>
<td>11,629</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools</td>
<td>7,455</td>
<td>32,675</td>
<td>5%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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


Responses to information requests

Review of bill drafts/draft regulations

Testimony/presentations