Helpful Hints For Military Families With EFMs

PEATC is not a legal services agency and cannot provide legal advice or legal representation. Any information contained in this training is not intended as legal advice and should not be used as a substitution for legal advice.
Who is PEATC?

PEATC is a statewide nonprofit whose passion is to empower families in Virginia. Our central focus is on families with children who have disabilities.

Additional targeted outreach initiative areas include:

- Latino Outreach
- Military Outreach
- Family Engagement
- Early Childhood

- Poverty Reduction Programs
- Bullying Awareness
- Court Involved Youth
Part of a larger entity

PEATC is also supported by a Technical Assistance Project
Funded by the USDOE, OSEP
Objectives

- Provide a basic understanding of military culture
- Gain knowledge about programs available to assist military families with special needs children
- Discuss PCSing with an IEP
- Learn about the Military Interstate Compact
- Consider planning for the future
Vocabulary

Papa
Echo
Alpha
Tango
Charlie

PCS
MIC
SLO
EFMP
SBP
DoD

WWW.PEATC.ORG
Alyssa Mea’Alofa Louise

- Born Fallon, NV
  - Normal birth
  - Fallon leukemia cluster

- Medical History
  - Typical development
  - Developmental delays
  - Seizures
  - Initial diagnosis

- Therapy/Education/Training
  - ABA
  - Speech & Occupational Therapy
  - Meds
  - IEPs
  - Schools
Challenges

- Diagnosis
- Doctors / Medical
- Tricare / EFMP
- Deployments & Detachments
- Schools
- ABA
- Respite Care
- VA CCC+ Waiver / Medicaid
- SSI
- Childcare
Special Education and the Military
IDEA, State Regs, and the Military

“In the case of a child with a disability who transfers school districts within the same academic year, who enrolls in a new school, and who had an IEP that was in effect in another state, the school district SHALL provide such child with a free appropriate public education, including service COMPARABLE TO those described in the previous IEP, in consultation with the child’s parents UNTIL SUCH TIME as the district CONDUCTS AND EVALUATION, if determined to be necessary, and DEVELOPS A NEW IEP, if appropriate, that is consistent with Federal and State Law.”
Students and families experience:

- High mobility rates
- Academic and social challenges
- Difficulties qualifying for, receiving, or continuing special educational
- Changing school divisions 6-12 times before they graduate
- Difficulty understanding, applying, and using regulations and policies with each new school division
- Elevated stress – making new friends, adjustment to a new school, community, and home
- Increased risk for depression and anxiety
Every Student Succeeds Act – Military Student Identifier

- Schools are required to collect data on military children assessments
- Military student identifier is part of the ESSA, flags child of an active-duty service member
- Generally asked in the registration process
- Parents are not required respond to the questions
- Child is anonymous in data reported to the state and national levels (race, ethnicity, free lunch, homeless, etc.)
What would you do?

You’re serving at the Pentagon. You have spent the last two years creating, developing, and maintaining a collaborative relationship with the northern Virginia public school your child attends – one of the best in the country- and have special education services in place which meet and exceed your expectations. You are ordered to a new job - it is important to the needs of the military and your career, but the public schools surrounding the new base are suffering and simply can’t put your child on the same path for success.
What Happens?

Harrell Elementary to Harvey Elementary in Kingsville

Harrell Elementary in Kingsville to David Crocket in Corpus Christi

Harrell Elementary in Kingsville to Blue Angels Elementary in Pensacola
Military Interstate Compact
What educational policies does the Compact cover?

**Enrollment**
- Educational record
- Shot record
- Starting age

**Graduation**
- Waiving or putting aside courses
- Flexibility in accepting state exit exams
- Diploma

**Placement**
- Program flexibility
- Special education services
- Absence related to deployment
- Extracurricular activities
What educational policies does the Compact cover?

**Enrollment**
- Educational record
- Shot record
- Starting age

**Graduation**
- Waiving or putting aside courses
- Flexibility in accepting state exit exams
- Diploma

**Placement**
- Program flexibility

**SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES**
- Absence related to deployment
- Extracurricular activities
Who does the MIC3 Cover?

- Children of full-time active-duty service members, including National Guard and Reserve Component service members on active duty, enrolled in kindergarten through grade 12

- Children of service members or veterans who are severely injured and medically discharged or retired for a period of one year after medical discharge or retirement

- Children of service members who die on active duty or because of injuries sustained while on active duty for a period of one year after death
Readiness

The Department of Defense’s enduring mission is to provide combat-credible military forces needed to deter war and protect the security of our nation. Should deterrence fail, the Joint Force is prepared to win. Reinforcing America’s traditional tools of diplomacy, the Department provides military options to ensure the President and our diplomats negotiate from a position of strength.

The surest way to prevent war is to be prepared to win one. Doing so requires a competitive approach to force development and a consistent, multiyear investment to restore warfighting readiness and field a lethal force. The size of our force matters. The Nation must field sufficient, capable forces to defeat enemies and achieve sustainable outcomes that protect the American people and our vital interests. Our aim is a Joint Force that possesses decisive advantages for any likely conflict, while remaining proficient across the entire spectrum of conflict.
Exceptional Family Member Program

- **Mandatory** enrollment program for active duty service members
- Provides comprehensive and coordinated community **support**, housing, educational, medical, and personnel services
- **Dependent** must have a physical, emotional, developmental, or intellectual disability requiring specialized services
- EFM’s **needs** must be considered when service member is up for orders
- OCONUS and CONUS Family Member Travel Screening (FMTS)
School Liaison Officer (SLO)

- Defense contractors/civilian employees each branch of service provides for school support services
- Familiar with the unique aspects of military life that can have an effect on a student’s education
- Help build partnerships between military families, installations, and schools
- Act as the installation’s point of contact for all things school related
- Provide assistance to relocating families
- Resource for Parent Centers
Retention

Recruit the **Sailor, Soldier, Airman, Marine, Coastie**; retain the **family**.
Planning Retirement and Transition

- Very individualized
- Based on child’s disability
- Considerations
  - state services
  - timing
  - medical
  - taxes
  - residential facility
  - family support
  - second career
  - special needs trust, guardianship, wills
Questions
Thank You!

PEATC
8003 Forbes Place, Suite 310
Springfield, VA 22151
703-923-0010 / 800-869-6782/703-943-5633 (direct)
www.peatc.org
Hablamos Español