



Educator Preparation Materials for Students with Military Families

General Overview/Background Materials

- [Strengthening Our Military Families: Meeting America's Commitment](#) – **FREE**
– The Obama Administration (Department of Defense)
The Obama Administration's comprehensive plan for addressing the needs and concerns of military families. Priority #2 addresses the need of "ensur[ing] excellence in military children's education and their development."
- [Military Students on the Move: A Toolkit for School Leaders](#) – **FREE**
– Department of Defense
This toolkit is designed for school leaders (superintendents, principals) who will experience a large gain in school population due to the movement of military members and their families. This toolkit is designed to help school leaders develop and implement school transition strategies.
- [Traumatic Grief in Military Children: Information for Educators](#) – **FREE**
– The National Child Traumatic Stress Network
This guide offers a basic overview to the needs of military-connected children during times of traumatic loss for them and their families.
- [Tackling Tough Topics: An Educator's Guide to Working with Military Kids](#) – **FREE**
– Superintendent of Public Instruction-Washington
Provides a succinct overview covering the basic components facing a military-connected child (deployment, homecoming/reunion, stress, grief/loss, fostering resilience).
- [Ten Tips for Teachers](#) – **FREE**
– Military Child Initiative; John Hopkins – Bloomberg School of Public Health
Gives educators a core list of tips for developing connections with their military-connected students.
- [Ten Tips for Administrators](#) – **FREE**
– Military Child Initiative; John Hopkins – Bloomberg School of Public Health
Gives administrators a core list of tips for developing connections with their military-connected students.
- [School Connectedness: Improving Students' Lives](#) – **FREE**
– Military Child Initiative; John Hopkins – Bloomberg School of Public Health
This paper examines the crucial aspect of school connectedness in the lives of military-connected students.
- [Working with Military Children: A Primer for School Personnel](#) – **FREE**
– Virginia Military Family Services Board
Developed during Operations Desert Shield and Storm, this guide offers timeless advice and guidance for school personnel who work with military-connected children. Accompanying this guide are several workshops and projects that can be useful in the classroom setting.
- [Helping Children Cope When a Loved One is on Military Deployment](#) – **FREE**
– Megan Allen & Lynn Staley
Discusses the implications for educators who may be working with military-connected children and how to offer support to both children and their families.



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- [*Educators Guide to the Military Child During Deployment*](#) – **FREE**
– Educational Opportunities Directorate of the Department of Defense
A publication from the Department of Education, this guide offers background and strategies for military-connected children. Also features a helpful F.A.Q. section to address concerns among educators.
- [*Supporting Youth During Deployment: Strategies for Professionals and Families*](#) – **FREE**
– Angela J. Huebner, Ph.D., and Jay A. Mancini, Ph.D.
Provides a basic overview of offering support to both students and families during times of military deployment (less specific to the field of education).
- [*Tips for Helping Students Recovering from Traumatic Events*](#) – **FREE**
– U.S. Department of Education
Addressing traumatic events and their effects on students as a whole this guide, developed by the Department of Education, provides teachers, counselors and administrators with some helpful guidelines when aiding students experiencing trauma.
- [*Best Practices: Building Blocks for Enhancing School Environment*](#) – **FREE**
– Arthur Robert Blum, MD, MPH, Ph.D.; Military Child Initiative; John Hopkins – Bloomberg School of Public Health
Offers suggestions for educators seeking to improve the quality of their classroom environments for all of their students. This guide provides specific insight into how to adapt the classroom environment for military-connected children (pg. 24).
- [*Ten Things Military Teens Want You to Know*](#) – **FREE**
– National Military Family Association
Created from the viewpoint of military-connected teenagers, this guide offers a ten-point perspective regarding military-connected teenagers and their education environment; providing educators with strategies for effective inclusion in classroom settings.

Studies

- [*Views from the Homefront: The Experience of Youth and Spouses from Military Families*](#) – **FREE**
([VIDEO: Congressional Briefing](#))
– RAND Corporation
The report addresses the general well-being of military youth during and after parental deployment, with attention to their emotional, social, and academic functioning. It also examines the challenges that their non-deployed caregivers face.
- [*Effect of Soldiers' Deployment on Children's Academic Performance and Behavioral Health*](#) – **FREE**
– RAND Corporation
The report describes the academic and behavioral health challenges these children face related to deployment, identifies the barriers to addressing these challenges, and offers recommendations to better meet the needs of these children.
- [*Children on the Homefront: The Experience of Children from Military Families*](#) – **FREE**
– Anita Chandra, Dr.PH, Sandra Lara-Cinisomo, Ph.D., Lisa H. Jaycox, Ph.D., Terri Tanielian, MA, Rachel M. Burns, MPH, Teague Ruder, MA, and Bing Han, Ph.D. (published in American Academy of Pediatrics)



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In this study the health and well-being of children from military families from the perspectives of the child and nondeployed parent are described. Additionally, the experience of deployment for children and how it varies according to total months of deployment and military service component are assessed.

- [**Making It Easier for School Staff to Help Traumatized Students**](#) – **FREE**
– RAND Corporation
Describes Support for Students Exposed to Trauma (SSET), a cognitive-behavioral program intended to be delivered in schools by teachers or school counselors rather than clinical personnel.
- [**Impact Aid and the Education of Military Children**](#) – **FREE**
– RAND Corporation
Children of military parents in the United States generally attend public school and have a portion of their education expenses paid for by the federal government through the Department of Education's Impact Aid program. Impact Aid provides \$900 million a year to approximately 1,400 local education agencies, which enroll 1.2 million eligible children, 36 percent of whom are military children. RAND studied this program, emphasizing the implications for military children. The authors contend that the funding formula is flawed because of inconsistent district boundary definitions, leading to wide variances in Impact Aid.

Workshops/Activities

- [**My Goodbye Book**](#) – **FREE**
– Jo Knox, Ph.D., and Dorothea Cudaback, Ph.D.; Operation R.E.A.D.Y.
Activity booklet designed to help children ages 3-5 cope with military separation.
- [**Goodbyes Are Hard**](#) – **FREE**
– Jo Knox, Ph.D., and Dorothea Cudaback, Ph.D.; Operation R.E.A.D.Y.
Activity booklet designed to help children ages 6-8 cope with military separation.
- [**I Can Do That!**](#) – **FREE**
– Jo Knox, Ph.D., and Dorothea Cudaback, Ph.D.; Operation R.E.A.D.Y.
Activity booklet designed to help children ages 9-12 cope with military separation.
- [**Separations Happen**](#) – **FREE**
– Jo Knox, Ph.D., and Dorothea Cudaback, Ph.D.; Operation R.E.A.D.Y.
Activity booklet designed to help children ages 13-15 cope with military separation.
- [**Army Kids Fun Activity Book**](#) – **FREE**
– Operation R.E.A.D.Y.
Activity book designed for pre-school aged children regarding military deployment.
- [**Army Kids Fun Activity Book**](#) – **FREE**
– Operation R.E.A.D.Y.
Activity book designed for students ages 6-9 regarding military deployment.



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Websites

- [Sesame Street: Talk, Listen, Connect – Deployments, Homecomings, Changes](#) – **FREE**
Part of Sesame Street’s ongoing series, “Talk, Listen, Connect,” this website offers a variety of resources, videos, etc. geared towards helping children cope with the anxieties surrounding military-connected families. (Resources are available in English and Spanish).
- [VIDEO: Supporting the Military Child](#) – **FREE**
– American Association of School Administrators
This video presents a conversation with educators from Fort Belvoir Elementary School in Fairfax County, Virginia, on how schools can support students whose parents are deployed or in transition.

Other Resources

- [Military K-12 Partners: a DoDEA Educational Partnership Program](#)
- [National Military Family Association: Children’s Education](#)
- [Military Child Initiative – John Hopkins University](#)
- [Special Education Laws & Rights for the Military Child - NCLD](#)
- [Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children](#) (Kentucky)
- [Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children](#) – (VIDEO)
- [Military Interstate Children’s Compact Commission \(MIC3\)](#)
- [Tutoring Military Family Program](#)

News/Articles

- [“The Military Children Left Behind: Decrepit Schools, Broken Promises”](#)
- [“Military Children Face Greater Academic Challenges Due to Relocation and Emotional Stress”](#)