

Youth with a Parent who is a Member of the Armed Forces and is on Active Duty

Defined:

The term 'armed forces' refers to the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Coastal Guard.

The term 'active duty' means full-time duty in the active military service of the United States. Such term includes full-time training duty, annual training duty, and attendance, while in the active military service, at a school designated as a service school by law or by the Secretary of the military department concerned. Such term does not include full-time National Guard duty.

The term "active duty for a period of more than 30 days" means: active duty under a call or order that does not specify a period of 30 days or less.

** There are over 4 million children living throughout the U.S. who have had a parent serve in the U.S. Military since 9/11. It is likely that there is a military or veteran-connected child in every school district in America.

** There are over 107,000 military dependents ranging from 19 to 22 years of age in college and youth with a parent in the military can have an increased risk of experiencing disruption in their academic progress.

Access and Equity Considerations:

- Academic services should know about available benefits and provide access to resources for networking and success.
- Military-connected learners can face unique challenges, including separation from a parent or caregiver due to deployment that impacts their educational experience; implement services or an alert system for students to identify when there are deployments or deployment struggles.
- Provide information and professional development on military-connected students because when a student's educational environment does not understand the unique needs of military-connected students and does not actively work to support them, the student is more likely to experience school failure or failure to graduate on time.
- Create a support group/community for military-connected students.
- Connect with community organizations to provide students access to additional assistance. This could include:
 - mental health services
 - child care facilities
 - community action agencies
 - government benefit offices



STUDENTS WITH
unique or special
circumstances

Additional Information and Examples

Additional Information:

Organizations

- Military Child Education Coalition

Initiatives

- Building Belonging for Military Family Students – Western Governors University
- College for All Texans - Combat Exemption for Children of Military Service Members
- Operate Educate the Educators - Over 100 colleges and universities have agreed to a set of guiding principles, put forth by MCEC and the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education, that introduce the subject of military-connected children in the curriculum in hopes of helping educators identify and meet the needs of students.

Services

- Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA)
- The Military Family Readiness System
- Travel Benefits for College Students Who Are Military Family Members

Current Literature and Research:

- College, Career and Life Readiness for Military and Veteran Children: A Military and Community Leaders' Guide. By Military Child Education Coalition. No Date
- Serving the Children of Those Who Serve Us All. By Military Child Education Coalition. No Date.
- Supporting Military-Connected Learners in Career Technical Education. By ACTE. 2024.
- Supporting Youth with Parents in Active Armed Forces Active Armed Forces Recruitment and Retention Super Strategies Recruitment and Retention Super Strategies. By ICSPS. 2023.
- Travel Benefits for College Students Who Are Military Family Members. By Military One Source. 2021.
- Where is 'College Fit' in the Conversation for Military-Connected Students? By Higher Ed Military 2024.

Program Examples:

- Military Network and Military Families Center at Austin Community College.
- Military-Connected Services at Dallas Community College
- Military Peer Network



STUDENTS WITH
unique or special
circumstances