Military Students

in

Alamogordo Public Schools
Some Facts & Figures

- Nationwide there are over 2,000,000 children of “Active Duty” service members
- 80% of those students attend public schools
- Alamogordo Public Schools has a total enrollment of approximately 6000 students
- Over 1,000 of these students are dependents of “Active Duty” Service members (~18%)
- An additional 10-12% are considered “Military Connected”
- Approximately 20% of military families transition in/out of our District each year
What’s the Difference?

Active Duty Dependent – a child of a service member who is currently serving an active, full-time commitment in the military.

Military Connected – this includes retired military, part-time guard and reserves, civilian contractors who work on federal property, medically retired, and the dependents of deceased service members.
Overview of APS Services

- APS employs a full-time Military Community Liaison
- APS employs a full-time Military Connected Counselor
- APS partners with the Military Child Education Coalition (MCEC)
- APS sponsors military connected clubs and activities on all 15 school campuses
- Superintendent holds regular meetings with military parents
- All counselors and administrators have undergone training on the Military Compact
- APS leadership holds regular meetings with Holloman AFB leadership
Why?

Because Alamogordo Public Schools recognizes that military students cope with two major additional challenges which may affect their ability to be successful in the classroom:

- **Transition**
- **Family Separation**
**Transition**

The average military student moves 6-9 times during his or her K-12 career.

- “I’m the ‘new kid’ again.”
- “But I’ve already taken World History!”
- “Who will eat lunch with me?”
- “I was ‘gifted’ in Arizona…”
- “What do you mean I’ll have to complete an extra semester to graduate?”
- “But I never got to play sports in my German high school.”
- I was elected to Student Council just before we left VA. Guess I’ll just have to try again next year…”

**Family Separation**

- Our nation has been at war for 16 years
- During this time, over 2,000,000 children have had a parent deployed ‘at least’ once
- More than 900,000 have experienced having one or both parents deployed multiple times
- Holloman AFB reports that 400 of the Base’s 3,000 children had a deployed parent in 2016
- Military families are often geographically separated from grandparents and extended family
How Does This Affect a Child?

- Military students experience additional stress and anxiety in comparison to their civilian counterparts.
- It takes time to adjust to new schools, routines, curriculum, etc. Many feel that just as they’re comfortable, it’s time to move again.
- Many students find it difficult to concentrate in the classroom when they are worried about the safety of deployed loved ones.
How Does APS Address the Challenges?

Military Community Liaison

- Identifies and interacts with military-connected students in all schools.
- Establishes programs to engage and support military-connected students both, in and out of school.
- Serves as a resource to both military-connected parents and school administrators.
- Provides training to counselors, administrators, teachers, and parents on the Military Compact.
- Communicates directly with the Superintendent regarding issues military students face in our District.
- Works closely with administrators and military leadership to foster the relationship between Alamogordo Public Schools and Holloman AFB.

Military Counselor

- Familiar with military family life.
- Supports schools that have a population of greater than 15% military dependents.
- Working with APS Directors to develop a resiliency training program for military students.
- Funded by a DoDEA grant.
Military Child Education Coalition (MCEC) Partnership

- Provides training to APS staff on transitional and socio-behavioral issues affecting military children (in 2017 “Responding to Military Child with Exceptional Needs”)
- Provides leadership training to high school students and assistance in developing a Student to Student Program.
- Provides resources (print, on-line, interactive) to school districts to better serve military communities.
- Recognizes and champions communities that demonstrate exemplary partnerships between cities and military installations.
- Resource: [http://www.militarychild.org](http://www.militarychild.org)

Implementation of the Military Compact

- Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children
- Has been adopted by all 50 states, Washington DC, DoDEA
- Addresses transitional needs of military students
- Organized through the Council of State Governments
- Governed by an elected board in Lexington, KY
- New Mexico adopted the compact in 2010
The Military Compact in New Mexico

Commission

Compact Commissioner: Dr. Paul Aguilar  
Dep. Secretary of Finance & Operations, NMPED

Chief State Officer: Hannah Skandera  
Secretary of Education, NMPED

Attorney: None Appointed

Military Family Education Liaison: None Appointed

Military DoD Representative: None Appointed

State Council Members:
- Kathy Fuller: Appointed  
  NMSU-Alamogordo  
  School Liaison Officer, Kirtland AFB
- Beth Mann: Appointed  
  Chief Information Officer, NMPED
- Mike Archibeque: Appointed
- Stan Rounds: Appointed as Supt.  
  No longer superintendent
- Dan McCormack: Appointed  
  Chief Financial Officer, NM Veterans Association

Commissioner Responsibilities at the National Level

- Participate on Commission standing committees
- Act as a liaison between the National Office, State Council, and School Districts
- Coordinate with the Military Family Education Liaison
- Ensure dues are paid within requirements set by commission
- Attend Commission meetings
- Ensure appointment is in compliance with state statute
**Commissioner Responsibilities at the State Level**

- Promote the purpose and mission of the Commission
- Coordinate rules implementation
- Ensure state operations and council are in compliance
- Document questions and cases that arise
- Handle all cases in a timely manner
- Develop a working relationship with stakeholders: other state commissioners, school liaison officers, district and school personnel

**State Council Responsibilities**

- Advisory Board and advocacy body
- May be tasked with policy development regarding operations and procedures of the compact within that state
- Assist the state commissioner with their responsibilities
- Archive meeting agendas/minutes with the National Office
- Promote the Interstate Compact to school administrators
- Follow “Public Notice” requirements for each state
- Be familiar with state statute and implementation of the code.
Compact Content

Article I  Purpose
Article II  Definitions
Article III  Applicability
Article IV  Enrollment
Article V  Placement and Attendance
Article VI  Eligibility
Article VII  Graduation
Article VIII  State Coordination
Article IX  Interstate Commission
Article I – Purpose

...to remove barriers to educational success imposed on children of military families because of frequent moves and deployment of their parents by:

Facilitating

- Timely enrollment
- Student placement
- Qualification and Eligibility
- On-time graduation

Providing

- Implementation of the compact
- Uniform collection and sharing of information

Promoting

- Coordination between states
- Flexibility between the educational system, parents, and students
Article II – Definitions

Including, but not limited to:

“active duty”

“children of military families”

“deployment”

“extra-curricular activity”

“sending and receiving states”

“rule”

“transition”
Article III – Applicability

...The interstate compact on educational opportunity for military children shall apply to the children of:

1. Active duty members of the uniformed services
2. Members or veterans of the uniformed services who are severely injured and medically discharged or retired for a period of one year after medical discharge or retirement
3. Members of the uniformed services who die on active duty or as a result of injuries sustained while on active duty and extending for a period of one year after death.
Article IV – Enrollment

Educational Records

What’s included:

- Parents can receive a copy of unofficial records
- Receiving school must accept the unofficial records to enroll and place the student pending reception of official records
- Sending school must send official records within 10 business days of receiving a request from the receiving school.

What’s not covered:

- Giving parents the right to request a copy of every paper in the student file
- Receiving unofficial records free of charge

Immunizations

What’s included:

- Child is given 30 days from enrollment to obtain required immunizations
- A series of immunizations must be started within 30 days of enrollment

What’s not covered:

- TB testing: since it is a test rather than an immunization, the test may be required before enrollment
Kindergarten and 1st Grade Entrance Age

**What’s included:**

- A student can continue in the same grade in the receiving state regardless of entrance age requirements if he or she has already enrolled in kindergarten or 1st grade in an accredited public school in the sending state and as long as the student meets age requirements in the sending state and their academic credits are acceptable to the receiving school board.

- A student may go to the next grade regardless of age requirements, if he or she has successfully completed kindergarten or 1st grade in the sending state.

**What’s not covered:**

- A student who has not been enrolled in kindergarten, even though they are of eligible age to have started...
Article V
Placement and Attendance

Course and Program Placement

What’s included:

- Receiving state will initially honor placement in courses or programs based on student’s enrollment in the sending state
- Receiving state may subsequently perform an evaluation to ensure the appropriate placement and continued enrollment

What’s not covered:

- Guarantee of continued enrollment, if not qualified
- Although the receiving school must demonstrate reasonable accommodation, there is no requirement to create a course or additional space

Special Education Services

What’s included:

- Receiving state will initially provide the same services identified in the student’s Individual Education Plan from the sending state
- Receiving state may subsequently perform an evaluation to ensure the appropriate placement of the student

What’s not covered:

- A requirement to provide the exact programs as sending state
- Anything above the requirements in the IDEA
Article V
Placement and Attendance (continued)

Placement Flexibility

What’s included:

- Allowing flexibility to the Local Education Agency (LEA) to waive course or program prerequisites or other preconditions, if similar course work has been completed in another LEA

What’s not covered:

- Mandatory waivers of prerequisites or preconditions

Absence Related to Deployment Activities

What’s included:

- Flexibility for additional excused absences to visit the parent or legal guardian due to deployment
  
  Note: Deployment window is defined as one month before the member’s departure from his/her home station through six months after return to his/her home station

What’s not covered:

- Requiring more than “reasonable accommodation”
  
  Note: This provision provides discretion and flexibility to the LEA and school superintendent during state testing periods or if the student has already missed so much school that additional absences will be detrimental


Article VI – Eligibility

Enrollment

What’s included:

- A LEA cannot charge tuition to military children placed in care of a non-custodial parent or person serving “in loco parentis”
- A student can continue to attend his or her current school, even if living with a non-custodial parent or person serving “in loco parentis”
- The power of attorney for guardianship is sufficient for enrollment and all other actions requiring parental participation or consent
- State and local agencies shall facilitate the opportunity for inclusion in extracurricular activities regardless of deadlines, as long as the child is otherwise qualified

What’s not covered:

- State student athletic associations, some of which are not affiliated with state or LEAs
- Although, the receiving school must demonstrate reasonable accommodation, there is no requirement to hold open or create additional spaces
Article VII – Graduation

From Receiving State, From Sending State, Exit Exams

What’s included:

- Waiving courses required for graduation, if similar coursework has been completed in another LEA
- Flexibility in accepting sending state exit or end of course exams, national achievement tests, or alternative testing in lieu of testing requirements for graduation in the receiving state
- Allowing a student to receive a diploma from the sending school as an alternative to accommodations for exit exams and graduation requirements that the student doesn’t have the time to meet
- Should a waiver not be granted to a student who would qualify to graduate from the sending school, the LEA shall provide an alternative means for acquiring coursework so graduation may occur on time

What’s not covered:

- Mandatory waivers…although LEA must show good cause for a denial of waiver
- Mandatory waiver of the exam or acceptance of alternative results
- The right of parents to request a change of graduation requirements in the receiving LEA
**APS Military Highlights**

- APS Military Community Liaison attended MCEC National Training Seminar in Washington DC
- Alamogordo High School’s Student-to-Student group was selected as one of 17 high schools to attend a week-long training
- MCEC S2S in-house training
- MIC3 National Convention and Military Compact Training
- All counselors and administrators trained in Military Compact
- MCEC in-house training on “Responding to the Military Child with Exceptional Needs”
- DoDEA Grant (“Seeds for Success”) for social/emotional learning and positive behavior support
- USO Tour
- Frances Hesselbein Student Leadership Selection 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017
Administration Offices

Superintendent’s Office  812-6000
Support Services  812-6014
Director of Schools  812-6004
Chief of Staff  812-6075
Curriculum & Instruction  812-6034
Special Education  812-5970
Safety  812-6077
Transportation  812-6017
Athletics  812-5564
Human Resources  812-6060
Student Nutrition  812-6084
Health Services  812-6095
Technology Support Services  812-6024
Business & Finance  812-6044
Schools

**Elementary**

- Buena Vista Elementary (575) 812-5100
- Desert Star Elementary (575) 812-5750
- Heights Elementary (575) 812-5200
- High Rolls Mt. Park Elementary (575) 812-5275
- Holloman Elementary (575) 812-6100
- La Luz Elementary (575) 812-5300
- North Elementary (575) 812-5400
- Oregon Elementary (575) 812-5600
- Sierra Elementary (575) 812-5800
- Yucca Elementary (575) 812-5900

**Middle Schools**

- Chaparral Middle School (575) 812-6300
- Holloman Middle School (575) 812-6200
- Mt. View Middle School (575) 812-6400

**High Schools**

- Academy del Sol Alternative High School (575) 812-5500
- Alamogordo High School (575) 812-6500
Alamogordo Public Schools
Military Community Liaison

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Notes