

Supporting Our Military Youth

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Military Youth

- 1.85 million children have one or both parents serving in the U.S. Military
- 1.2 million of these children have parents in active duty
- 660,000 children have parents in the reserves
- 1.2 million fall into the K-12 education range (6-18 years)

90% are in public schools



Challenges

- Multiple School Transitions
- Parental Deployment
- Lack of Community Support



Multiple School Transitions

- Relocation causing Tension at home
- Slow transfer of records
- Differences in school curriculum
- Adapting to new school environments
- Making friends
- Limited access to extra curricular activities
- Lack of understanding of military culture by school teachers and staff



Parental Deployment

- Extended war-time deployments
- Remaining parents inability to cope with deployment
- Role Strain
- Child relationship with the deployed parent
- The cycle of deployment
- Reintegration/Adjustment



Deployment

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eEsZnw0xvcQ>



Lack of Community Support

- Reservist families not connected to Military installations
- Most school faculty and staff cannot identify military students
- School faculty and staff do not have an understanding of military culture or how to help them
- One of the largest sub-culture in the US but also the least visible
- Disagreements between political parties
- Anti-war activist/war protestors



Implication for School Counselors

- Become Informed
- Advocacy (support and identify)
- Student to Student programs
- Counseling groups
- Connecting to resources
- Staff training
- Schoolwide recognition



Sources of Strengths

- Frequent Moves and Resilience
- Self-confidence and Cultural competence



Deployment and Resilience

- Competence and Character through adult roles
- Connection, Caring, Coping and Contribution, through shared experiences



How can you support military families at your school?

DADE COUNTY SCHOOLS SYSTEM STUDENT REGISTRATION

DATE REGISTERED: _____ GRADE: _____ SCHOOL: _____

Student Name: _____ LAST: _____ FIRST: _____ MIDDLE: _____

Social Security #: _____ Date of Birth: ____/____/____ Age: ____ Sex: ____

Address where student resides: _____ CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP CODE: _____

Resident of Douglas County: YES ___ NO ___ Multi-Family Residence: YES ___ NO ___

Mother/Guardian (SCHOOL USE): LAST: _____ FIRST: _____ MI: _____
 Home #: _____ Work #: _____ Cell #: _____
 Email: _____ Employment: _____

Father/Guardian (SCHOOL USE): LAST: _____ FIRST: _____ MI: _____
 Home #: _____ Work #: _____ Cell #: _____
 Email: _____ Employment: _____

Student resides with: (Please circle one)
 Both Parents _____ Mother _____ Foster Parent _____ Guardian (Legal Parent) _____

Student's Race (Choose only one): No, Not Hispanic/Latino ___ Yes, Hispanic/Latino ___
 Student's Ethnicity (Choose all that apply):
 American Indian or Alaska Native ___ Asian ___ Black or African American ___
 Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander ___ White ___
 Is the student's primary language English? Yes ___ No ___
 What was the first language your child learned to speak? _____
 What language does your child speak most often? _____ At home? _____ State: _____

Residence Information: City: _____
 If home outside of U.S.A. please list country of birth: _____
 Was date of entry in a U.S. school: _____
 Were parents serving in the U.S. Military at the time of student's birth? Yes ___ No ___

PURPLE UP FOR MILITARY KIDS

April is more than a month for birthdays, taxes, and testing. It is also the month to celebrate children within military families. We want to honor our home-front heroes and all of our military family members on April 24, 2014 at Bright Star Elementary School.

Purple Up! To celebrate military children we are asking all school staff and students to wear purple on Thursday, April 24, 2014. Why Purple? Purple Up Day was begun by New Hampshire Operation Military Kids and is now celebrated across the nation. Purple is the color that represents all branches of the military.

Military Kids on The News: We would like to honor children whose parents have served in the military on our morning BSES news. Please complete the form below so that we can announce your student(s) name.

Wall of Heroes: Beginning on Monday, April 21, a large mural will be placed in the front hallway of our school. Students and Staff are encouraged to bring in pictures or draw pictures of military family members. The pictures can include the entire family. Please include the name of each person in the picture and the rank and branch of service of the military family member. Turn your picture into Mrs. Ruff so that we can add it to our wall of heroes!

Hero Lunch: As a special guests of honor we are inviting military family members to dine with their students on April 24, 2014. The menu includes a choice of Oven fried chicken with roll, Beef Nachos, Diet Turkey wrap, spinach and zucchini, seasoned corn, and chiled peaches. Lunch costs \$1.50.

Military Kids On The News
 Name of Student _____ Teacher: _____
 Military Parent _____ Years of service _____
 Rank and Branch of Military _____

Hero Lunch
 Name of Student _____ Teacher: _____
 Military family member _____ Years of service _____
 Rank and Branch of Military _____
 Number of guests attending _____

Please return forms to the front office by April 23, 2014



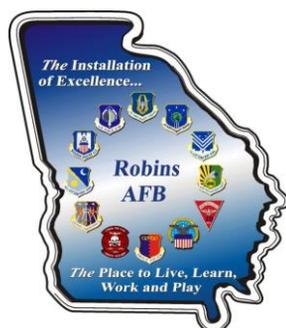
Were parents serving in the U.S. Military at the time of student's birth? Yes ___ No ___

Web Resources to Support Military Students with Transition

Organization	Web Address	Summary
Military One Source	www.militaryonesource.mil	This site offers current information on military culture to community service providers including printable and orderable materials. A Link to "Youth on the Move," is a website dedicated to helping military students with school transition.
Department of Defense Education Activity	www.militaryk12partners.dodea.edu	This site offers best practices for working with military students and quick reference guides about military culture and families. Militaryk12partners also describes several DOD initiatives to assist public schools that serve military children.
Military Child Education Coalition	www.militarychild.org	This site offers resources for parents, students, and school staff to help military children with school transition. The coalition links schools with local military installations and military student transition consultants.
Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission	www.mic3.net	This site provides information and documentation of the interstate compact designed to help ease school transition of military students between states.
Tutor.com	www.tutor.com/military	Offers free tutoring for military students
Department of Veterans Affairs Parenting for service members and veterans	http://t2health.dcoe.mil/programs/militaryparenting	This resource addresses the unique challenges of parenting in military families through an online anonymous parenting course, interactive activities and stories of real military and veteran families that will provide valuable skills for the everyday challenges of raising military children



Robins Air Force Base



Robins AFB Deployment Support Groups

RENEE D. DAUGHTRY
Robins AFB School Liaison Officer

"The Installation of Excellence ... The Place to Live, Learn, Work and Play"



Deployment Support Groups (DSG)



Robins Air Force Base

- SLO & Family Readiness Conduct DSGs in 9 Schools
 - Over 800 students participated in DSGs in 2016 school year
- Work w/ School Counselors in highest military impacted schools to ID children w/ deployed parent & schedule DSGs
- Multiple Benefits of DSGs
 - Gives students chance to identify w/ other students & realize they are not alone in having deployed parent
 - Do age appropriate craft w/ focus on staying connected to deployed parent or preparing for reintegration
 - Examples: Decorating Memory Boxes, Countdown to Homecoming Candy Jars, making duct tape wallet w/ photo holder to put parent's picture in and keep at all times
- Child & Youth MFLC attends w/ SLO; fosters environment to allow students to share feelings & helps teach coping skills for separation anxiety, depression, anger mgmt, etc

"The Installation of Excellence ... The Place to Live, Learn, Work and Play"

13



Deployment Support Groups



Robins Air Force Base

- Base Personnel Hold DSGs in 9 Military Impacted Elementary Schools Twice Per Semester



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14

COLUMBUS HIGH SCHOOL



**Dr. Debbie Harnois
Junior Counselor &
Student 2 Student Advisor**

Columbus High School



- Liberal Arts Magnet School
- Located in Columbus and adjacent to Ft. Benning.
- 1,284 Students in Grades 9-12
- 211 Students have active military parent(s).

What is S2S?



- Military Child Education Coalition (MCEC) www.militarychild.org
- **Ambassador** assists new student with **Finding the Way** (around school & community), **Relationships** (peers, teachers & administrators) & **Academic** (Graduation requirements, AP Courses, Senior Projects, etc.)
- **Ambassadors and new students** attend S2S events, such as monthly meetings, participate in S2S activities, such as book drive, Wall of Heroes, etc.
- Transfer student first meet Ambassadors during orientation that is provided a couple of days before school starts. They are paired with a lunch buddy.

S2S Orientation for Transfer Students



Student 2 Student Bingo



Getting to know you activities, such as S2S Bingo, Speed Greet & Kahoot Jeopardy. www.getakahoot.com

Operation Gratitude



School-wide letter writing campaign to deployed soldiers.
www.operationgratitude.com

Wall of Heroes



Students submit photos of family members who served or have served in the military or reserves for Veterans' Day. Faculty too.

S2S Book Drive Wynnton Fine Arts Academy



S2S Annual Book Drive for
Wynnton Fine Arts Academy
6,058 Books Donated over 7 years!

Columbus High School College Fair Sponsored by S2S

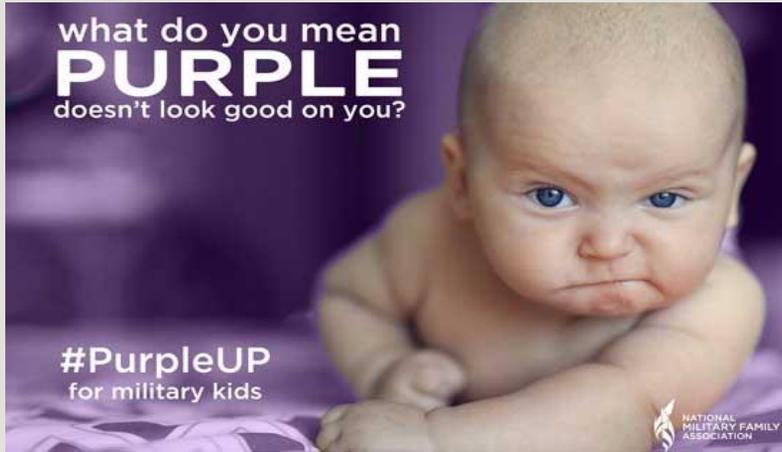


S2S Ambassadors assist with the
college fair by providing
refreshments to college reps. &
managing the information table.



Columbus Mayor Teresa Tomlinson
representing Sweet Briar College

April is the Month of the Military Child



PurpleUP! For Military Kids



April is the Month of the Military Child. CHS students & faculty wear purple every Thursday in April to show our support for military families.

April is the Month of the Military Child



Cake Served to Students with Active and Retired Military Parents



The official flower of the military child is the dandelion.



We're Proud of You!

April, 2017

Month of the Military Child

We Thank You for Your Service, too!

NAME _____

OUR MISSION

To ensure inclusive, quality educational opportunities for all military-connected children affected by mobility, family separation, and transition.

OUR VISION

To serve as a model of positive leadership and advocacy for ensuring inclusive, quality educational opportunities for all military-connected children.

Artwork by Elizabeth | Grade 3 | Hoffman Elementary | San Antonio, Texas | U.S. Air Force

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Military kids bloom wherever the wind takes them



References

Easterbrooks, M. A., Ginsburg, K. & Lerner, R. M. (2013). Resilience among military youth. *The Future of Children*, 23, 299-120.

Ruff, S. B., & Keim, M. A. (2014). Revolving doors: The impact of multiple school transitions on military children. *The Professional Counselor*, 4, 103–113. doi:10.15241/sbr.4.2.103

Ruff, S.E. (2015). Giving them a voice: An evaluation of the military youth advisory council in Georgia (Doctoral dissertation). <http://gradworks.umi.com/37/18/3718982.html>

Additional Literature

- [Counseling Children of Deployed Family Members](#)
- [When a Parent Gets Deployed: Helping Military Families Deal With Stress](#)
- [Helping Children Cope When a Loved One Is on Military Deployment](#)
- [Student-Identifier: Where are our military-connected kids attending school? And how are they doing?](#) (Also current bill in 2017 Legislative Session)
- [Opportunities for School Psychologists Working With Children of Military Families](#) (Includes additional links within the article.)
- [Building Better Schools for Troops' Kids](#) (Includes resources on book resources.)



March Webinars

- ***Taming the Social Media Monster** • March 22, 2017, 1:00 PM
[Register](#)
- ***College Advocates 2.0: The Program and the Improvements That Made a Good Program Better** • March 29, 2017, 11:30 AM
[Register](#)
- ***Increasing Diversity and Access in MOWR: Every Child Needs a Champion** • March 29, 2017, 1:00 PM [Register](#)

