



HB 1597 | Military Connected Students

Implementation Q&A | School Year 2019-2020

The 86th Texas Legislature passed HB 1597 (TEC § 25.001), establishing residency through military orders for the purposes of admission into public schools. The following questions and answers will guide educators and families on eligibility requirements and implementation.

1) *What requirements must be met for a military connected family to take advantage of HB 1597?*

The parent or guardian must be an active duty or guard/reserve member who receives military orders assigning the member to a military installation. A service member may elect to enroll the member's children in any district that is adjacent to the installation. Proof of residency in the district must be provided to the district by the member no later than 10 days after the arrival date specified in the military orders. Continuing enrollment is contingent on a service member residing in the district.

2) *If a student took advantage of HB 1597 prior to September 2019 and is enrolled in a district in which they do not reside, what happens?*

Students will be eligible to remain enrolled at their current district and campus for the remainder of the year. They will be required to enroll in their zoned district and campus for the next school year.

3) *If a service member's family has not established residency, will the family still be able to utilize HB 1597 to enroll in any district adjacent to the military installation in which the service member's military orders assign them?*

Yes, as long as the service member provides the member's military orders to the district in which the member enrolls a student no later than 10 days after the arrival date on the member's orders.

4) *Is enrollment under the stipulations provided by HB 1597 considered advanced enrollment?*

Yes, this is considered advanced enrollment.

5) *Can a military family who has received military orders to an installation in Texas, but has not yet physically moved here, utilize HB 1597 to apply for a magnet school program and be considered in the in-district applicant pool?*

Yes, HB 1597 can be used to apply to a magnet school program as an in-district student. This is because the bill's provisions provide the student with legal residency status for the district, subject to showing proof of physical residency in the district, once the student has moved into the district.

6) *Does the 10 days after arrival date start after the report no later than date (RNLT)?*

Yes, the 10 days begins after the RNLT date stated on the military orders.



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7) *What happens if the school is at capacity?*

HB 1597 allows the family and student to enroll in the adjacent district, not a campus of their choice. The local district will decide which campus the student will be enrolled.

Please submit any questions, concerns, and/or feedback to Abby Rodriguez abby.rodriguez@tea.texas.gov, State Coordinator for Military Connected Students. Feedback will assist TEA with technical assistance and planning.