

During this time with COVID-19, we encourage Local Education Agencies (LEAs), educators, and stakeholders to take the following into consideration as they navigate providing resources and supports to Military connected students and families.

NEW
4/2/2020

1. How can military connected students enroll (or withdraw) from an LEA for the 2019-2020 school year while there is “closed, instructing?”

LEAs should begin serving new students immediately through their educational continuity plan. For enrollment tracking purposes, LEAs should use the first day the student receives services and/or instructional materials for distance/at home learning as the enrollment date for the student who enrolled during the closure period. This should occur during the fifth six-weeks reporting period, or if it occurs after re-opening, would occur in the sixth six-weeks period.

For withdrawals, the LEA should use the next school day after the student last received services/support for online/distance learning as the withdrawal date for students who withdraw during the COVID-19 closure period.

2. What happens to a military family who was supposed to transition to another installation prior to districts closing?

The Department of Defense (DoD) has banned all domestic travel for personnel and families amid the Coronavirus crisis. This travel ban went into effect March 16, 2020. All DoD military personnel will stop movement until May 11, 2020. The new rules cover permanent change of station (PCS) moves and temporary duty (TDY) travel, but if the family has begun their PCS, they can complete their move. For more information please visit: [Department of Defense - Travel Restrictions FAQ](#)

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3. What challenges should LEA staff think through specific to their active duty military connected student population?

LEA staff should think through the following challenges and prioritize consistent, intentional communication with their military connected students and their families.

Family Dynamics

- Does the student have a deployed parent or guardian?
- Does the student have a parent or guardian on temporary duty assignment (TDY) and not allowed to return home?
- Is the student currently living with a temporary guardian while their parent is deployed?

- Was the family in the middle of a permanent change of station (PCS) move, and as a result of the stop movement order, dependents are now separated from the active duty service member for an extended period of time?
- Does the student come from a single parent household? If so, does the student have access to educational resources (low tech or high tech) at home while the mission essential parent or guardian is at work?

Resource

[The Military Child Education Coalition](#) provides digital resources for students, parents, and education professionals in multiple formats: videos, webinars, and downloadable documents free of charge. These resources address topics such as school transitions, deployments, and navigating change.

Basic Needs

- Does the student and their family have access to their home goods and belongings? Many families who were in transition when the stop movement order was issued might still have their household items and belongings packed and inaccessible.
- Is there a financial burden imposed upon stop movement orders such as lease expiring, sold house, or two mortgages? What resources are available during this time?

4. What challenges should LEA staff think through specific to students with a parent or guardian that are National Guard or Reserve connected?

The National Guard in Texas was deployed to help the state’s response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. LEA staff should think through the following challenges specific to students with a parent or guardian in the National Guard or Reserve as you prioritize consistent, intentional communication with your military connected students and their families.

The questions below would also apply to students with an active duty parent or guardian.

Family Dynamics

- Is the student separated from a parent or guardian due to the service member deploying?
- Is the student experience stress, anxiety, or any other mental health issues due to family separation?
- Is the family feeling isolated from other military connected families or geographically separated from a military installation?
- Will the family need resources and supports for reintegration?

Resource

[The Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program \(YRRP\)](#) is a Department of Defense (DoD) effort to promote the well-being of National Guard and Reserve members, their families, and communities by connecting them with resources throughout the deployment cycle.

Basic Needs

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- Family members may face additional stress to ensure continuity of care when switching from a civilian healthcare provider, to the healthcare provider available when a service member is on active duty (TRICARE).
- Family members may face financial stress due to switching from civilian employment to an active duty service member.

5. Is there anyone located on the military installations that military families can reach out to for additional questions or assistance?

School Liaison Officers (SLO’s) work in military installations across Texas to assist families with school transitions, navigating the school system, and accessing educational resources. SLO’s work with leaders of military installations, school and community partners to provide information and access to opportunities for military connected students. For a list of SLO’s across Texas, please visit the [TEA Military Family Resource Webpage](#).

6. Many active duty service members are considered mission essential employees and lean on youth centers located on military installations for childcare. How can LEAs partner with those youth centers to ensure students have access to and provide additional resources for their education (low tech or high tech)?

LEAs should partner with their local [School Liaison Officer](#) to assist with facilitating conversations with youth center directors on military installations to ensure students have access to their education (low tech or high tech). A list of School Liaison Officers can be found on the [TEA Military Family Webpage](#).

7. Are there non-medical counseling program supports for service members, their families, and survivors that LEAs, specifically counselors, can refer students and their family members?

Confidential non-medical counseling sessions are available through the Military and Family Life Counseling Program at [installations worldwide](#) and through [Military OneSource](#). These sessions provide service members and their loved ones with resources and support to address a variety of issues and build important skills to tackle life’s challenges. Learn more about [eligibility requirements](#) or call Military OneSource at 1-800-342-9647 to speak with a consultant 24 hours a day, seven days a week, from anywhere in the world.

8. Is there guidance available for military connected students who are included in other Special Populations, such as students receiving Special Education Services?

Yes. TEA created a [COVID-19 Special Populations Resources Webpage](#) for up-to-date guidance and information for Special Populations.

9. How can LEA staff support military connected students who enrolled in their campus during school closure?

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LEAs should begin serving new students immediately through their educational continuity plan. LEAs should provide proactive and ongoing communication with students and families who enrolled in their campus during the school closure period.

10. Are there resources available to support educators with addressing the needs of military connected students during this time?

Yes. [The Military Child Education Coalition](#) has created a series of online video modules that focus on:

- How to support families with providing at-home instruction during COVID-19 closures.
- Online video modules developed to assist parents with targeted issues.
- Practical strategies for success, sharing developmentally appropriate information, and guided practice through helpful exercises and tools.

All sessions are pre-recorded, free, with no registration required. To view, visit:

<https://www.militarychild.org/covid19>

11. How do military families, who live on military installations in Texas, locate districts that are serving meals?

Direct families to visit [TXSchools.gov](#) to find nearby locations of schools offering free school meals (both breakfast and lunch-for pick up) while school buildings are closed. Select “Meal Pick-Up Locations” and enter an address to find the closest location.

Listed below are additional resources to assist with locating food pantries and food banks in your area.

- [FOODPANTRIES.ORG](#)
- [Aunt Bertha | The Social Care Network](#)

12. Are there resources available to provide free broadband and internet services for military connected students while school buildings are closed?

TEA has compiled a list of cable providers who offer free broadband and internet services while schools are closed due to COVID-19. The list can be accessed through the following link: [Guidance to Districts on Providing Internet to Students.](#)

Please submit any questions, concerns, and/or feedback to:

disasterinfo@tea.texas.gov

Feedback will assist TEA with technical assistance and planning.