

General Description:

TEA recognizes the unique needs of military-connected students and families and works to support successful school moves for service member families, as they transition in and out of Texas schools. TEA provides dedicated support to military-connected students and families, local schools, and related stakeholders through the Highly Mobile and At-Risk Student Programs Division. TEA endeavors to support Texas schools by increasing awareness about statutory requirements and available resources, identifying best practices, and implementing effective strategies to support military-connected students and families.

Authority:

Federal:

- Every Students Succeeds Act (ESSA), 2015 - Requires all public schools to collect data on active-duty military school age children K-12th; also, known as the *military student identifier*.

State:

- Texas Education Code (TEC §25.006) - Transition Assistance for Military Dependents
 - Assists transition of military dependents from one school to another
 - Defines “military-connected student”
- Texas Education Code (TEC §162) – Military Interstate Compact (MIC3) on Educational Opportunity for Military Children (*Compact Commissioner Designee– Shelly Ramos; shelly.ramos@tea.texas.gov*)
 - Decrease transition challenges and barriers encountered by military-connected students when moving from state-to-state.
- Texas Education Code (TEC §162.006) – State Advisory Council on Educational Opportunity for Military Children
 - Provides for coordination among state agencies, school districts, and military installations concerning the state's participation in and compliance with the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children
- Texas Education Code (TEC §33.909) – Purple Star Campus Designation
 - Recognizes campuses for demonstrating support and commitment to meeting the unique needs of military-connected students and their families.

Objectives:

- **Increase capacity** to address the unique needs of military-connected students in Texas public schools.
- **Create technical assistance** resources and information to support educators, military, community, students, and parents with mitigating barriers to school transitions, including implementation of the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children (MIC3).
- **Provide professional development** and training to LEAs, ESCs, and military stakeholders to support the educational success of military connected students.
- **Lead Purple Star Campus Designation** implementation and all related components such as developing the designation criteria, managing the application and review process and supporting increasing number of Texas campuses in earning the Purple Star Designation.
- **Support collaboration and coordination** among military personnel, local education agencies and military-connected families.
- **Purple Star Rise Grant, (2022-2024), - \$500,000:** Awarded to Military Children’s Education Coalition (MCEC) to support the implementation of the Purple Star Campus program. MCEC will also assist in the development of training, resources, and tools for LEAs and TEA to best serve and support military connected students. (Grant ID #22128201)

About our Military-Connected Students:

- Texas is home to 15 military installations that represent all branches of the Armed Forces (Army, Air Force, Navy, Marines, Coast Guard, National Guard, and Reserve).
- Texas has over 176,000 military-connected students, ranking 2nd in the nation.*
- Military-connected students move 6-9 times during their K-12th grade educational experience or three times more than their civilian peers. ^
- Data indicates that Texas military-connected students demonstrate adaptability and resiliency resulting in higher graduation rates and lower dropout rates.*
- SY 2022-23 Purple Star applications surged 298% (vs SY 2021-22) with 179 schools earning the designation.

Sources:

- ^ [Revolving Doors: The Impact of Multiple School Transitions on Military Children](#)
- * [Texas Education Agency. \(2022\). Enrollment in Texas public schools, 2021-22. \(Document No. GE22 601 05\). Austin TX: Author.](#)