# Commonly Used Key Terms, Definitions and Acronyms for Educators Supporting Military-Connected Students and Families

This resource provides commonly used military key terms, definitions, and acronyms to assist education professionals in supporting military-connected students and families and military stakeholders. Having a shared understanding and common language helps to facilitate seamless transitions, enhance student engagement, and build strong, supportive school communities, and effective Purple Star Campuses.

Our goal is to empower schools with the knowledge and tools necessary to offer exceptional support, fostering an educational environment that effectively assists military families.

Additional **School Support Resources** for Military Families can be found on the TEA website.

## Glossary of Common Terms Used in Purple Star Rise

Below, you will find a list of key terms, definitions, and acronyms used throughout the *Purple Star Rise* modules.

**Campus-based military liaison (CBML):** A designated school staff member responsible for identifying and supporting military-connected students, coordinating professional development to staff on military culture, and maintaining a campus webpage for military families.

**Campus Transition Program (CTP):** An organized group that hosts newcomer social events throughout the school year to support military-connected students and families by providing an opportunity to learn about the campus culture, processes, and community. The CTP is led by the campus-based military liaison, a campus counselor, teacher, administrator, or other staff member who actively supports highly mobile military-connected students.

**Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA):** A federal law passed in 2015 that includes provisions to support military-connected students in public schools.

**Installation and/or military installation:** A base, camp, post, station, yard, center, or other activity under the jurisdiction operational control of the Secretary of Defense.

**Military-connected students (MCS):** Students who have a parent or guardian who is an active-duty member of the military, a veteran, or a member of the National Guard or Reserves.

**Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission (MIC3):** An interstate compact among states to address educational challenges faced by military-connected students, including eligibility, enrollment, placement, and graduation.

## Commonly Used Terms, Definitions and Acronyms for Educators (cont'd)

**Military family life counselor (MFLC):** Provides free, confidential, non-medical counseling to service members, their families, and survivors on or near installations. Trained to work with the military community, military and family life counselors deliver valuable counseling services, briefings, and presentations to the military community. Adult and child and youth behavioral MFLCs are assigned to units, schools, child development centers and other locations worldwide.

**Military Student Identifier (MSI):** A unique identifier assigned to military-connected students in the Public Education Information Management System (PEIMS) to help schools better track and support their academic progress and well-being.

**Public Education Information Management System (PEIMS):** The state education data collection system used to collect and manage student data, including the Military Student Identifier. See the **PEIMS Military-Connected Student Code (C197)** for details.

**Purple Star Campus Designation (PSCD):** A designation awarded by the TEA to schools that demonstrate a strong commitment to supporting military-connected students and their families, in alignment with the requirements of 19 TAC §**61.1063**.

**School liaison (SL) and/or school liaison officer (SLO):** SLs and SLOs are subject matter experts on K-12 grade education regarding the transition of military dependents attending public, private, and home schools. SLs and SLOs engage regularly with military commanders, educators, and parents, and work closely with state and local education authorities to support military-connected students.

MIC3 is the governing body of the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children or ICEOMC. Commission members include representatives from the 50 states, District of Columbia, and six ex-officio representatives – which include the U.S. Department of Defense (USDOD). In addition to the USDOD, the ICEOMC supports uniformed members of the federal Departments of Commerce, Homeland Security, and Health and Human Services. The collaborative's mission: Ease the educational transitions of school-aged, military and uniform-connected students attending public schools, to include Department of Defense Education Activity schools worldwide, and promulgate and enforce the compact rules.

**Texas Administrative Code (TAC):** The set of rules and regulations that implements the Texas Education Code, where agency rules are required.

**Texas Education Agency (TEA):** The state agency responsible for overseeing primary and secondary public education in Texas.

**Texas Education Code (TEC):** The set of laws and regulations that governs public education in Texas.

**Texas Student Data System (TSDS):** Is a new statewide system that modernizes and improves the quality of data collection, management and reporting in Texas. TSDS offers a way to collect and manage data and provide educators with timely, actionable, and historical student data. TSDS expands upon PEIMS.

## Professional Development Resources

**Military Child Education Coalition® (MCEC®) - Professional Development Opportunities**

MCEC offers learning opportunities for professionals, including topics that enhance the understanding of the transition challenges for military and veteran-connected students and provides recommendations for support.

**Find Installation School Liaisons in Texas**

School liaisons can provide training and support to local education agencies (LEAs) impacted by military installations.

**Military Student Identifier FAQ**

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) requires that Texas identify students with a parent who is an active-duty member of the U.S. Armed Forces, National Guard, or Reserves. This Military Student Identifier allows educators and leaders to understand how military-connected children are performing in school.

**PEIMS Code Table C197**

The Texas Student Data System (TSDS) Web-Enabled Data Standards (TWEDS) provides a breakdown of the military-connected student indicator codes and their descriptions.

## Military Acronym Resources

**Military Acronyms & Abbreviations Military OneSource**

**Naval History and Heritage Command**

**Military-Connected Student Identifier Resource**

This one-page resource provides guidance for schools on collecting military-connected student information for PEIMS.

**Student Program and Special Population Reports**

Military Student Identifier total numbers by region, district, or campus can be easily accessed by the above link to the Student Program and Special Population Reports.

**PEIMS Data Standards**

Educators can reference the TSDS PEIMS Data Standards guide for Military Student Identifier information and procedures.

## Useful Military Terms and Acronyms for Educators

| Acronym/Term | Full Name (if applicable) | Description |
|---|---|---|
| **ASVAB** | Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery | The test recruits take that helps determine what their job will be in the service. |
| **CO** | Commanding Officer | n/a |
| **DEERS** | Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System | You must be enrolled in DEERS to be eligible for benefits. |
| **DOD** | Department of Defense | Provides the military forces needed to deter war and ensure our nation's security. |
| **DoDEA** | Department of Defense Education Activity | DoDEA is globally positioned, operating 160 accredited schools in 8 districts located in 11 foreign countries, 7 states, Guam, and Puerto Rico.) |
| **DEPLOYMENT** | n/a | Assignment of military personnel to temporary tours of duty for weeks, months, or years of separation |
| **EFMP** | Exceptional Family Member Program | Program for military dependents who have special physical and or mental needs |
| **MISSION** | n/a | The primary task of the military organization. |
| **MFLC** | Military Family Life Counselor | Provides non-medical, short-term, counseling on military installations throughout the U.S. and overseas. |
| **MOBILIZATION** | n/a | The assembling of forces in preparation for deployment. The act of the President of the United States to bring members/units of the Guard and Reserve to active duty for national emergencies. |
| **MWR** | Morale, Welfare, and Recreation | Comprehensive network of support and leisure services designed to enhance the lives of soldiers, their families, civilian employees, military retirees, and other eligible participants. |
| **NCO** | Non-Commissioned Officer | n/a |
| **OPSEC** | Operational Security | The process of identifying and protecting information about military operations. |
| **PCS** | Permanent Change of Station | Reassignment to a different military installation. Typically happens every two to three years. |
| **POC** | Point of Contact | n/a |

## Commonly Used Terms, Definitions and Acronyms for Educators (cont'd)

| Acronym/Term | Full Name (if applicable) | Description |
|---|---|---|
| **SL/SLO** | School Liaison/School Liaison Officer | The School Liaison Program offers many services and resources to support students, parents, installation leadership, schools, and the surrounding community. |
| **SPONSOR** | n/a | The active-duty military service member is the sponsor of a spouse and a parent, and/or guardian of dependent children. |
| **TDY** | Temporary Duty | Military members are temporarily assigned to a different duty station, which may or may not involve travel. |
| **UNACCOMPANIED/ REMOTE TOUR** | n/a | Permanent assignment of military personnel to a duty station without family members. |