

Prince William County Schools

Guidance for



Military Families with Students in Special Education



Created in support of the VDOE Purple Star Program



This document was created in support of the Virginia Department of Education(VDOE) Purple Star Program Initiative. The Purple Star Program is designed to support military families who often face unique challenges due to frequent relocations. This program offers guidance to school divisions on how to address and alleviate these challenges, ensuring that military-connected students receive the support they need to succeed academically and socially.

PWCS is dedicated to the well-being of its military-connected students and their families. By participating in the Purple Star Program, PWCS demonstrates its commitment to creating a welcoming and supportive environment for these students, helping them to transition smoothly into new schools and communities. This includes providing resources and support systems tailored to the specific needs of military families, such as counseling services, academic assistance, and community-building activities.



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Virginia Codes

In accordance with § 22.1-360 of the Code, Virginia is a member of the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children (the Compact). The purpose of the Compact is to streamline the transfer of children of military families into Virginia public schools. Specifically, the Compact addresses the following: (1) education records and enrollment (Article IV), which contains provisions regarding record transfers, immunizations, and school entrance age; (2) placement and attendance (Article V), which contains provisions regarding course and program placement and special education services; (3) eligibility (Article VI), which addresses documentation requirements for enrollment; and (4) graduation (Article VII), which addresses how receiving school divisions will facilitate the on-time graduation of military transfer students.

VA Code

The Code includes provisions specific to the enrollment of military children in the interest of providing educational continuity.

➔ Tuition §§ 22.1-3(A)(2) and 22.1- 360, Art.VI

A child of a military family is deemed a resident of a school division and cannot be denied admission or charged tuition if the child lives with a noncustodial parent or other person standing in loco parentis, not solely for school purposes, pursuant to a Special Power of Attorney executed under Title 10, US Code, § 1044b by the custodial parent. Such children may continue to attend school in the school division they attended while residing with the custodial parent without paying tuition, or they may attend school in the school division in which the noncustodial parent or other person resides without paying tuition.

➔ Relocation to Military Housing within Virginia § 22.1- 3(B)(1)

A child who is attending a school free of charge in accordance with § 22.1-360 of the Code shall not be charged tuition by that school division upon such child's relocation to military housing located in another school division in the Commonwealth, pursuant to orders received by such child's parent to relocate to base housing. Such children shall be allowed to continue attending school in the school division they attended immediately prior to the relocation and shall not be charged tuition for attending such school.

➔ Relocation Outside of School Division § 22.1-3(B)(2)

Children of a person on active military duty may remain enrolled in a school division upon relocation outside of the school division, free of charge until the end of the school year, when their parents receive an order to relocate to a new duty station or be deployed.

➔ Enrollment without Proof of Residence § 22.1-3(B)(3)

Children of a person on active military duty may enroll in the school division of the child's intended residence, free of charge, once his parent is relocated pursuant to orders received. A permanent address must be established in the school division of the intended residence within 120 days, otherwise the school division may charge tuition. These students also may register, either remotely or in-person, for courses and other academic programs in the same manner and at the same time as the other students in the school division.

Parental Consent

In Virginia , giving permission, or written consent, is voluntary on the parent's part and may be withdrawn at any time.

Parent Consent is Required When:

- Conducts any evaluations which would be used to qualify the child for special education.
- Changes the identification of the child.
- Places the child for the first time in a program providing special education and related services.
- Changes the child's IEP or placement, including any partial or complete ending of special education or related services.
- Releases information from the child's school record to non-school personnel.
- Accesses the child's Medicaid or other insurance benefits.
- Invites someone to an IEP meeting from a participating agency that is likely to provide or pay for secondary transition services.

Parent Consent is NOT Required When:

- The review of existing data to be used as part of an evaluation or a reevaluation.
- The administration of a test or other evaluation that is administered to all children unless consent is required of parents of all children.
- The screening of the child to determine appropriate instructional strategies to use with the child.
- The administration of a test used to measure progress on the child's goals if included in the IEP.
- A teacher's or related service provider's observations or ongoing classroom evaluations.
- The graduation of the child with a standard or advanced studies diploma.
- A reevaluation if the parent fails to respond to a request for reevaluation and if the school can show that it has made reasonable attempts to get their consent.

Enrollment with an IEP

To enroll a child with an Individualized Education Program (IEP) in Prince William County Public Schools (PWCS);

- Complete the online registration application.
- Provide your child's current IEP to the base school.
- Schedule an in-person appointment at the child's base school upon your arrival to the area.

In compliance with the federal requirements of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), initially comparable services to a student with disabilities will be provided based on his/her current IEP.



Military Installation Supports

School Liaisons

Marines

Veronica Finney

Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall School Liaison Program
veronica.m.finney.civ@usmc.mil | 703-693-8378

Penny Rowley

MCB Quantico
penny.l.rowley.civ@usmc.mil | o703-784-4729, c703-789-3458

Lolita Gunter

Dahlgren Naval Support Facility
slo.nsasp.fcm@navy.mil | o 540-653-2070, c 540-413-7287

Army

Pharnice "Marie" Bailey

Fort Belvoir
pharnice.m.bailey.naf@army.mil | o: 703-805-3436, c: 703-649-8815

Ayesha Mahaffey

Fort Belvoir
ayesha.d.mahaffey.naf@army.mil | 703-805-3436

Allison Montalvo

Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall
allison.r.montalvo.naf@army.mil | 703-696-7620



Military Installation Supports

Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP)

Marines

2034 Barnett Ave
Suite 104
Quantico, VA 22134

Phone: (703) 784-9395

Email: QuanticoEfmpOffice@usmc.mil

Army

BLDG 1263
5965 6th St
Fort Belvoir, VA 22060

System Navigators:

571-231-7010 (Sponsor last name A-L)

571-231-7024 (Sponsor last name M-Z)



PWCS Contacts

**Benton Middle School
Special Ed Department Chair
Natalie Baker
Email: bakernk@pwcs.edu**

**PWCS Office of the Ombuds
Email: ombuds@pwcs.edu
Call: 703-791-8587**



PWCS Parent Resource Center (PRC)

The **PWCS Parent Resource Center** provides information, **lending library (PDF)**, and supports parents regarding the special education process in Prince William County, and will refer parents to appropriate resources in the division and the community. PRC staff may not serve as advocates for parents; in School Intervention, IEP, or Eligibility meetings or attend a Central Office Review, State Mediation, or Due Process Hearing.

- All PRC events and workshops are free.
- PRC provides bilingual support for parents.

Eleanor M. Contreras

Parent Resource Center and Family Engagement
Coordinator

PWCS Special Education Parent/Family Liaison

ContreEM@pwcs.edu

703-791-7935



Special Education Advisory Committee(SEAC)

The **Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)** is organized and functions following state and federal requirements. The Committee's functions include the following:

- Monthly meetings with the Directors of the Special Education Department
- Determining the needs of children with disabilities within the county
- Developing priorities and strategies for meeting identified needs of children with disabilities
- Prepare and submit an annual report to the Prince William County School Board

SEAC meetings are open to the public. You may contact any member to discuss your views on Special Education.



VDOE Support

Parent Ombudsman for Special Education

Toll Free: 800-422-2083

SpecialEducationOmbudsman@doe.virginia.gov

Key Functions of the Ombudsman for Special Education

Independence

The Ombudsman is independent of the formal dispute resolution options of mediation, state complaints, and due process hearings and serves a key function of reporting to leadership at the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) regarding the issues experienced by parties served.

Confidentiality

The Ombudsman does not disclose personal information, discussions, and interactions.

Neutrality

The Ombudsman does not take a side on the issues and serves as an advocate for a fair process.

Informality

There is no formal complaint form or documentation required to access the services of the Ombudsman.

[Guidance for Military Families PDF](#)



PEATC's Military Outreach Specialists assist active duty, reservists, and retirees in becoming effective advocates for their exceptional family members while navigating service in today's military.

Christina M. Escalante, M.Ed.

Military Outreach Specialist

403 Holiday Court, Suite 104

Warrenton, VA 20186

703-923-0010

703-439-1369

www.PEATC.org

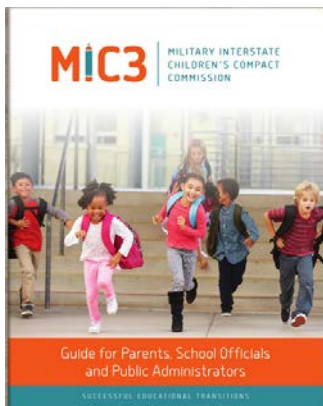
Digital Portfolio for Military Families
PDF

Military Interstate Compact (MIC3)

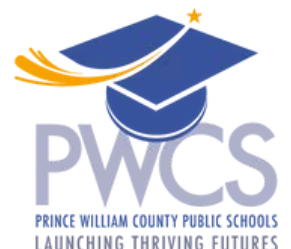
The Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission (MIC3) addresses several key areas to ensure a smooth educational transition for military children.

These areas include:

1. **Eligibility:** Ensures that military children can participate in extracurricular activities and special programs even if they miss application deadlines due to relocation.
2. **Enrollment:** Simplifies the enrollment process, allowing for immediate enrollment with unofficial records until official ones arrive.
3. **Placement:** Facilitates appropriate placement in academic courses and programs based on previous school records.
4. **Attendance:** Provides flexibility for excused absences related to military deployments.
5. **Graduation:** Coordinates graduation requirements to ensure military children can graduate on time despite frequent moves.



Virginia Commissioner
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p: 804-225-2157



Download Parent Guide



PWCS Military Achievement Specialist

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571.358.4928

Military-Connected Family Support