

# SCHOOL LIAISON PROGRAM

Command, Community, Connection

Look inside for information on  
the School Liaison Program!



Serving as a conduit between parents, educators  
and the Military Command

## WHAT WE DO

The School Liaison's primary role is to work with parents, schools, and the command to help military-connected children successfully transfer between schools.

It is typical for military children to change schools each time the family has a PCS (Permanent Change of Station). Military children can attend as many as nine schools between PreK and 12th grades.

When military families begin planning a PCS move, education options for the family's children is a major consideration. School Liaisons are available at each installation to help families locate, and connect to, the education options available to school-age children near their new duty station.

To be equipped to assist families with school moves, School Liaisons are subject matter experts in education policies, are connected with local education agencies and community resources.

School Liaisons also assist families leaving their areas. School transfers are most successful when the sending school and receiving school are able to seamlessly transition students. School Liaisons are available help families plan for a successful school move, whether the move be within the same state, to a different state, or to an overseas location.



### The School Liaisons can:

- Answer questions about school enrollment options
- Provide information about local schools and boundaries
- Assist with inbound/outbound school transfers
- Help you understand and navigate the special education process
- Provide resources for college readiness
- Assist with agency referrals ...And much more!

School Liaisons Officers are available to assist all service members and their families with school-related questions. Visit our Directory for contact information or for program updates and assistance.

<https://www.dodea.edu/partnership/schoolliaisonofficers.cfm>

### Why School Liaisons?

- Families move an average of every 2.9 years
- Children attend up to 9 different schools by graduation
- Families experience increased stress related to deployment





## 7 Core Services

- **School Transition Services (PCS Cycle):** School Liaisons assist families with school transfers and help “level the playing field” for military children and youth.
- **Deployment Support:** School Liaisons connect educators with the Navy deployment support system to inform them about the cycles of deployment and the tools available to assist educators in working with Navy children.
- **Command, School, Community Communications:** School Liaisons serve as subject-matter experts for installation commanders on K-12 issues, helping to connect command, school and community resources.
- **Home School Linkage and Support:** School Liaisons assist Navy families by gathering and sharing information on home schooling issues, policies and legislation from local school districts. They also help leverage Navy Child and Youth Programs resources to support these families.
- **Partnerships in Education (PIE):** PIE creates a volunteer network of resources to support installation and community members who have a vested interest in the success of all youth.
- **Post-Secondary Preparations:** School Liaisons leverage installation and school resources to provide graduating military students with access to post-secondary information and opportunities.
- **Special Needs System Navigation:** School Liaisons provide information about installation and community programs and services, make referrals to the Exceptional Family Member Program, and offer assistance in navigating the administrative systems within local education agencies.



## ACADEMIC ANCHOR

The [Academic Anchor](#) is Navy Region Southwest's bimonthly School Liaison Newsletter. It addresses educational issues that affect military children in our region and provides information about upcoming events.

### What is a School Liaison and how can they help me?

School Liaisons (SLs) help by providing you with educational information on your new area (based on residence) and link you up with a SL in your next duty station if you are leaving NRSW. School Liaisons also offer resources on deployment support, are the liaison between command, schools and military families, work with commands and schools on the Partnership in Education program, can help families navigate the special needs programs in districts, and offer information and support for Home School and Post Secondary preparation.

### How do I choose a school?

We know the importance of choosing a school that best meets the needs of each child. Even though School Liaisons are unable to make direct recommendations, we are available to help you research the schools, academic programs and extra-curricular within residential areas of consideration.

Public schools have residential boundaries, and, depending on the area, there may be options for students to apply for specialty programs within a neighborhood school, or to apply to specialty schools. School Liaisons are available to assist families navigate the schools options at their new duty station. Because many specialty programs and schools have application deadlines, as soon as you receive PCS orders, we recommend contacting your School Liaison.

If your family is considering private school, online public school, or homeschooling, School Liaisons are here to help you navigate your options.



### What is the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)?

- The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) was signed by President Obama on December 10, 2015, and represents good news for our nation's schools. This bipartisan measure reauthorizes the 50-year-old Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), the nation's national education law and longstanding commitment to equal opportunity for all students. The new law builds on key areas of progress in recent years, made possible by the efforts of educators, communities, parents, and students across the country. For more information, please visit: <https://www.ed.gov/ESSA>



## What are the health and immunization requirements?

Immunizations and health check-up requirements vary by state. Once you determine where you will live and what school your child will attend, you should check with your school to be sure there are no additional district requirements. State immunization and health check-up fact sheets can be found at the following links:

California: [www.cde.ca.gov/ls/he/hn/cefimmunization.asp](http://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/he/hn/cefimmunization.asp)

Nevada: <https://www.immunizenevada.org/NVschoolrequirements>

Under specific circumstances, the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children can afford military students some flexibility in the time they have to complete immunization requirements. [www.mic3.net](http://www.mic3.net)



## What are the school registration procedures?

Once you have identified the school your child will attend, check school district websites for registration policies and procedures. Some school districts have in-person registration, while others register all new students online and take remote registrations. The documents you should hand-carry for your new school are listed in the “[Checklist for School Transfers](#)”

## What do I do if I’m on a housing wait-list or am in temporary housing?

Most school districts within school boundaries of military housing are familiar with this situation. Depending on the district, parents may be asked to provide proof they are residing in temporary accommodation, a letter from housing stating the family is on the housing wait-list, or military orders. If you have questions or issues, please [contact your School Liaison](#).

## What is the Interstate Compact and what can it do for my family?

The goal of the Compact is to replace the widely varying policies affecting transitioning military students. The Compact leverages consistency and addresses key educational transition issues encountered by military families including enrollment, placement, attendance, eligibility and graduation. More information can be found at: [www.mic3.net](http://www.mic3.net).

## What options are there for before and after school care?

The SLs recommend that you start looking for care early!! Requests for care through Navy Child and Youth Programs can be completed at [MilitaryChildCare.com](http://MilitaryChildCare.com).

Schools offering before and/or after school care are in demand. Reach out to your prospective schools or districts to ask if they offer on-site care, or if the school has connections to community provided care. If you are still having difficulty, [contact your School Liaison](#).





## What do I do if I'm moving with a child with special needs?

In the Navy, your School Liaisons can help you with the special needs navigation of the school or district that you are planning to send your child(ren). You should also contact the Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP) to ensure that you are enrolled and that you have all information and resources that they offer.

### How can School Liaisons support EFMP families?

- Offer assistance in navigating the administrative systems within local public schools.
  - Provide information about programs and services available on the installation and in the local community.
  - Make referrals to the appropriate special education or medical professionals.
  - Provide information concerning local policies and regulations pertaining to special education.
  - Can assist families with the required signatures for EFMP enrollment form DD 2792-1.
- \* School Liaison Officers are not authorized to serve in an advocacy role, recommend educational intervention services, or attend special education meetings as counsel for military families.



## Can School Liaison Programs advocate in an IEP for my child?

The Navy School Liaisons are not able to advocate on your behalf. In our program, we offer information, resources and help you find the right people to talk to at the school or district. If you ever have issues with your IEP or school, please call your School Liaison since we also have many community resources that can offer guidance and direct assistance.



## ORGANIZATIONS DEVOTED TO THE MILITARY FAMILY

<https://installations.militaryonesource.mil/>: Are you a service provider looking for a program or service across all installations? Simply select the program or service and then choose any installation or enter any zip code. A downloadable directory for all installations will be available on the results page.

**DoDEA:** The Department of Defense Educational Activity instructional program provides a comprehensive pre-kindergarten through 12th grade curriculum overseas and at select locations in the continental U.S.



**The Military Child Education Coalition** (MCEC): MCEC's work is focused on ensuring quality educational opportunities for all military children affected by mobility, family separation, and transition. MCEC School Quest is a school finder.

**National Military Family Association** Founded 43 years ago, the National Military Family Association is the leading non-profit organization focusing on issues important to military families.

**Fleet & Family Support Programs** Information on installations in Navy Region Southwest and the many services provided for military families.

**Military Impacted Schools Association** (MISA): A national organization of school superintendents. Our mission is to serve school districts with a high concentration of military children.

**Interstate Compact for Military Children** The Compact has been signed by all 50 states and the District of Columbia and addresses the key issues of Eligibility, Enrollment, Placement and Graduation encountered by military families. Contact your School Liaison for more information.

## **SPECIAL NEEDS RESOURCES**

Your child should be enrolled in the Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP) if he or she has special needs.



*\*This is a mandatory program for any family member who has special medical, educational, developmental, and/or emotional need or concern. For questions and enrollment information, please visit [Navy EFMP](#).*

**DirectSTEP® eCourses** explain legal requirements and best practices for behavior management, autism, IDEA eligibility, IEPs and more. They also teach parents and educators how to handle critical education issues to obtain positive outcomes while applying education laws to the day-to-day world of teaching and learning. These eCourses are available for use by all Sailors, parents, Military/DoD personnel assigned to Navy installations and K-12 educators serving military children. Go to <https://navycyp2019-ds.lrp.com/login/index.php> and self-register for eCourses. The following documents are available for download: Get Started with Direct Step | Direct Step Courses

**Navy EFMP:** Exceptional Family Member Program. For questions and enrollment information, please call the EFMP Lead at: 619-532-3195 or visit [https://www.cnic.navy.mil/ffr/family\\_readiness/fleet\\_and\\_family\\_support\\_program/work-and-family-life.html](https://www.cnic.navy.mil/ffr/family_readiness/fleet_and_family_support_program/work-and-family-life.html)

**Team of Advocates for Special Kids (TASK):** A nonprofit charitable organization whose mission is to enable individuals with disabilities to reach their maximum potential by providing them, their families and the professionals who serve them with training, support, information, resources and referrals, and by providing community awareness programs. \*TASK is available in select areas.

**PACER:** With over 30 different projects, the Parent Advocacy Coalition for Educational Rights provides individual assistance, workshops, publications, and other resources to help families make decisions about education and other services for their child or young adult with disabilities.

**LD On-line:** The world's leading website on learning disabilities and ADHD, serving more than 200,000 parents, teachers, and other professionals each month.

**Center for Parent Information and Resources** National Dissemination Center for Children with Disabilities serves the nation as a central source of information on disabilities in infants, toddlers, children, and youth.

**Military Homefront Special Needs/EFMP:** This site includes all enrollment information, a toolbox of resources, and a worldwide directory.

**Military One Source: ROC:** The EFMP ROC is a ready, one-source access point to the Resources, Options and Consultations available to military families with special needs through Military OneSource.

#### **Regional Centers:**

Directory of all regional centers in California  
<https://www.dds.ca.gov/rc/>

Nevada Regional Centers around Fallon, NV  
[http://adsd.nv.gov/Contact/Contact\\_DevServices/](http://adsd.nv.gov/Contact/Contact_DevServices/)



## **POST SECONDARY SUPPORT**

- **CollegeBoard.org:** Offers students free grade, activities and test score specific profiles and information on hundreds of colleges.
- **StudentAid.gov:** Provides student financial assistance resources.
- **GIBill.va.gov:** VA website for Post 9/11 GI Bill, transferability and Yellow Ribbon.
- **fastweb.com:** Find schools and ways to pay on FastWEB.
- **finaid.org:** The smart student guide to financial aid.

## **ACADEMY AND ROTC**

- **defense.gov:** Military Academy Links for West Point , Navy, AF, CG, Merchant Marine.
- **todaysmilitary.com:** ROTC links for Army, Navy and Air Force.

## **MILITARY SCHOLARSHIP RESOURCES**

- **Federal Student Aid** Military scholarship search.
- **deca.org/scholarships:** DECA scholarships for military children.



- [fra.org](http://fra.org): Fleet Reserve Association.
- [vfw.org](http://vfw.org): Veterans of Foreign Wars.
- [anchorscholarship.com](http://anchorscholarship.com): Anchor Scholarships Foundation.

## ADDITIONAL SCHOLARSHIP RESOURCES

- [bigfuture.collegeboard.org](http://bigfuture.collegeboard.org): College board scholarship search.
- [finaid.org](http://finaid.org): College Net Scholarship database.
- [nationalmerit.org](http://nationalmerit.org): National Merit Scholarships.
- [petersons.com](http://petersons.com): Peterson's Undergraduate Scholarship Search.
- [princetonreview.com](http://princetonreview.com): Princeton Review Scholarships and Aid.
- [scholarships.com](http://scholarships.com)
- [www.wingsoveramerica.us](http://www.wingsoveramerica.us)

## YOUTH SPONSORSHIP

Youth Sponsorship (grades 3-12) provides access to positive peer groups and social activities, helping military children feel connected at their new duty station. If interested in connecting your child with a local youth sponsor, complete the fields below. Once received, you will be contacted by a School Liaison Program/Youth Center Manager.

For Youth Sponsorship with School Age Care or Youth Programs, participants must be enrolled or a registered user.

### Select your family's new duty station to get started:

- [Naval Base San Diego](#)
- [Naval Base Point Loma](#)
- [Naval Base Ventura County](#)
- [Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake](#)
- [Naval Air Facility El Centro](#)
- [Naval Base Coronado](#)
- [Naval Air Station Lemoore](#)
- [Naval Support Activity Monterey](#)
- [Naval Air Station Fallon](#)

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

**Tutor.com:** for U.S. Military Families, funded by the U.S. Department of Defense and Coast Guard Mutual Assistance, is a free program that allows eligible college and grades K-12 students in U.S. military families to connect to a live tutor online at any time for one-to-one help with homework, studying, test prep, proofreading and more. The service is available at no charge to all grades K-12 students and service members—regardless of whether the service member is serving full-time or part-time—plus some adult dependents on active duty.

**National Parent Teacher Association:** An organization dedicated to making a difference in the education, health, and safety of America's children and youth.

**The Education Trust:** Promotes high academic achievement for all students at all levels—pre-kindergarten through college.

**Todaysmilitary.com:** Provides overview of joining the military- resources for parents and educators.

**Visit us online at: [www.navylifsw.com/slo](http://www.navylifsw.com/slo)**

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LIFE**  
SOUTHWEST