



Recommendations

The following recommendations are a result of a three-phase effort to investigate programs, policies, and supports for military-connected students in kindergarten through 12th grade.



Recommendation 1

To address the inconsistency in data collection, data reporting, and definitions of “military-connected students” across initiatives and states, **advocate for standardization of data collection** related to military-connected students, to include operationalization (i.e., how “military-connected student” is defined), data collection, and data reporting.



Recommendation 2

To address awareness challenges related to the initiatives, support the development, implementation, and sharing of evidence-informed practices for **strategic communication of the initiatives** to parents and school personnel.



Recommendation 3

Given the inconsistencies in implementation across states and school districts, **advocate for information transparency and expectation management** related to the specific ways the initiatives are implemented in each state and school district.



Recommendation 4

In order to take advantage of modern technology that could be used to enhance support of military families and promote consistency in initiative implementation, **encourage states to leverage technology** to directly support military families and to support effective implementation of the initiatives.



Recommendation 5

In light of findings related to inconsistencies in implementation, a lack of enforcement, and varying perceptions of impact, **support standardization, enforcement, and evaluation** of the initiatives.



Recommendation 6

To address findings related to (1) persistent challenges with IEP transfers and (2) variability experienced by students in gifted programs, consider ways to increase **IEP transportability** and **standardization of gifted qualifications and programming**.



Recommendation 7

To address challenges related to parent and school personnel awareness, consider the ways in which **increasing the capacity of the School Liaison Program and standardizing school liaison duties** may improve parent and school personnel awareness of the initiatives.



Recommendation 8

Based on the variability across states in how the MIC3 state commissioner duties are executed, consider how the **selection and implementation of the MIC3 state commissioner position** (e.g., whether it is a paid position or additional duty, the location of the commissioner within the education system) may impact the execution of MIC3 commissioner duties.



Recommendation 9

To address concerns that lack of funding affects implementation, **advocate for states to fully fund the initiatives** and support the use of existing and potential funding mechanisms to improve the implementation of the four initiatives and to **implement other programming that is evidence informed or evidence based**.



Recommendation 10

Given the lack of quantitative research around military-connected students' transitions to new schools and the lack of evidence regarding the effectiveness of programs and initiatives for military-connected students, **support research to understand the scope of successes or difficulties** during transitions to new schools and **evaluations to ensure evidence-informed and evidence-based practices are used** to support students during those transitions.



Initiative Descriptions



Advance Enrollment (AE) is an initiative that allows parents to enroll their children in a public school based on military orders as opposed to traditional means of establishing residency (e.g., lease, mortgage statement).



Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children (Compact) is intended to reduce some of the challenges that students can encounter when they transfer to a new school. Specifically, the Compact is designed to address challenges that are related to enrollment, transferring records, immunizations, program placement, deployment-related absences, extra-curricular activities, and graduation.



Military Student Identifier (MSI) is a federally required data point that requires schools to ask about students' military affiliation, similar to how race, ethnicity, gender, and economic disadvantage data must be collected.



Purple Star Schools Program (PSSP) is a state-sponsored recognition program for schools that have taken specific steps to be military friendly.

View the Full Reports

- <https://militaryfamilies.psu.edu/resources/view/mil-students-ed-success/>
- <https://militaryfamilies.psu.edu/resources/view/four-initiatives-military-students/>
- <https://militaryfamilies.psu.edu/resources/view/four-initiatives-evaluation/>