



Awareness of the Initiatives and Accessibility of Information

Takeaway: Participants often reported a lack of family and school awareness of the initiatives. Accessibility of publicly available information about the initiatives is lacking and is one factor leading to the lack of awareness.

State-Level Information

53% of states have a general web page for military families on the state education department website.

80% of military-connected students live in a state with a state web page for military families.

School District and School-Level Information

Of the websites for **22 school districts** and **47 schools** that were located near the **12 military installations** where interviews were conducted:

77%

of school districts had a web page with information for military families.

28%

of schools had a web page with information for military families.

45%

of schools linked to the district page for military families instead of having a school-level page.

2 district websites provided information on **AE**.

11 district websites provided information on the **Compact**.

2 district websites provided information on the **MSI**.

8 district websites provided information on **PSSP**.

Participant Experiences as Discussed in the Qualitative Evaluation

AE

30% of parent participants were not aware of AE.

“Some [families] are not aware [of AE]...maybe 60% do know...it is confusing because how it is used depends on where you live. (School Liaison)

“Families are unaware that Advance Enrollment exists. (Parent)

“[One barrier is] getting communication and information to the family member, usually not the military member, who will enroll children. (School Liaison)

“Rural schools are not as familiar with Advance Enrollment. (School Liaison)

MSI

Almost all respondents reported being aware of the MSI. However, responses to other questions suggested that there was often confusion between the MSI and Impact Aid.

“I never knew this data was available. (Parent)

“Helping families understand how to complete it would be useful. (EFMP FS)

“Most schools are not reporting or showing the data. (Parent)

“Availability of data...finding data is hard. I go to the school liaison on base because the data is not readily available. (Parent)

“The greatest barrier is understanding the definition of what is a military family—not that grandpa was in WW2—not about an uncle who is military. (School Liaison)

“More transparency about what they use it for. Military families would be more comfortable about providing the information if they knew why they were providing it. (School Liaison)

Compact

39% of parent participants were not aware of the Compact.

26% of school administrator participants were not aware of the Compact.

“There is not a lot of knowledge among parents about what the Compact is. (Parent)

“Some families who know about the Compact think it can do more than it really can do. (School Liaison)

“The Compact is discussed...but as far as how it benefits families, the information is lacking. (Parent)

“As it became common place, when there are new administrators, new counselors—training is not up to what it was. (School Liaison)

“I do not think this is 100% common knowledge [among families]...Even if you are in the know, you are not completely in the know unless you need something. (Parent)

“When there is not a large military population...schools can struggle; a lack of military housing leads to families moving farther away; when there are issues, it is because the school is unaware. (MIC3 Representative)

PSSP

19% of parents who lived in a state with PSSP were not aware of PSSP.

“I believe parents are aware of the program but I'm not sure of if they know the exact intention. (Parent)

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/>