

# Serving the children of those who serve us all



## Who Are We?

The Military Child Education Coalition is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization that solely exists to help the military child thrive in the face of transition and separation.

## Our Mission

MCEC is dedicated to ensuring inclusive, quality educational experiences for all military-connected children affected by mobility, family separation, and transition.

## Our Community

MCEC is a professional Coalition with a diverse community consisting of public school districts, private schools, colleges and universities, small businesses and corporations, non-profit organizations, military commands and installations, military families, and caring individuals from local communities across our Nation.



## Our Work

MCEC delivers programs, services, and professional development to meet the needs of military-connected students, parents, and professionals.

### Student Programs

MCEC believes that enabling students to thrive and succeed in our education system by providing them the tools necessary to become college, career, and life-ready, is of the highest importance. *Student 2 Student*® (S2S™) programs at the elementary (eS2S™), middle (JS2S™), and high school (S2S™) levels bring military and civilian kids together to welcome new students, support academic excellence, and ease transitions as students pass in or out of schools.



### Parent Programs

MCEC parent programs empower parents to become informed, proactive supporters, allowing them to make a positive impact in the needs of their children. *Parent to Parent*™ provides informative and interactive parent workshops to groups and organizations in the local community that address academic, social, and emotional issues associated with a military family lifestyle.



### Professional Development

MCEC believes in the importance of professionals possessing the knowledge necessary to identify and respond to complex needs of military and veteran-connected children. Across disciplines such as education, healthcare, childcare, and business, MCEC trains professionals to address the unique challenges facing our military children. All training is grounded in research and presented by highly skilled instructors.

### Military Student Transition Consultant

A highly specialized education professional embedded within the school district dedicated to supporting military connected students who works directly with children, parents, and school personnel. An expert "navigator" and advocate for military-connected students and their families, decreasing turbulence in family life and building resiliency in students.



# We believe our mission and what we stand for!



There are **over 4 million children and youth**

with parents serving in the Active Duty, National Guard and Reserve Forces, as well as those of post 9/11 Veterans.



Military kids move **6-9 times** during their K-12 education, and change schools **3x** more often than their civilian peers.

**Over 80%** attend public schools, **less than 8%** attend Department of Defense Schools.

Statistics from Department of Defense, 2012

## How we make an impact:

The educational needs of military and veteran-connected children are recognized at a local, state, and national level. MCEC pursues policies and initiatives to ensure that these communities are responsive in supporting our children during times of transition, family separation, or trauma.

### College & Career Readiness

MCEC places great importance on the need for students to be college and career-ready. MCEC, with support from foundation and corporate partners, produces resources that tackle learning and readiness. A series of videos and printed materials include discussions with students and interviews with educators at the high school and college levels.

### Military Student Data Identifier

MCEC advocates for the implementation of a military student data identifier to understand the academic health and educational outcomes of military-connected students.

### Operation Educate the Educators

Over 100 colleges and universities have agreed to a set of guiding principles, put forth by MCEC and the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education, that introduce the subject of military-connected children in the curriculum in hopes of helping educators identify and meet the needs of students. This initiative has impacted over 100,000 educators!

### Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)

ESSA reauthorizes the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) and includes a military student identifier that will enable military leaders, educators, and elected officials at all levels of government to understand how military-connected children are performing in school. For the first time in the history of our nation, the military-connected student is recognized in our education policy. ESSA applies to students with a parent who is a member of the Armed Forces on active duty.

**For more information about MCEC, visit: [www.MilitaryChild.org](http://www.MilitaryChild.org)**

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# Facts about Military-Connected Children

There are **almost 2 million** children of service members

in the Active Duty, National Guard, and Reserves - And an estimated 2 million children and youth of post 9/11 Veterans.



## Transitions, Deployment, Mobility

Military-connected children move **6-9 times** during their K-12 education.



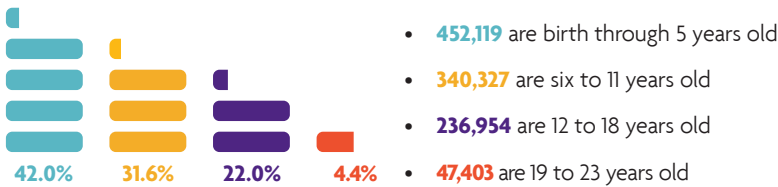
Military-connected children move and change schools **3x** more often than their civilian peers.

Statistics from Department of Defense, 2015

## Active Duty Forces

### Percentage of children of Active Duty Service Members by Age

0-5 years    6-11 years    12-18 years    19-22 years



## Children from Military Families

are about **2x** as likely as their civilian counterparts to serve in the Armed Forces as adults.

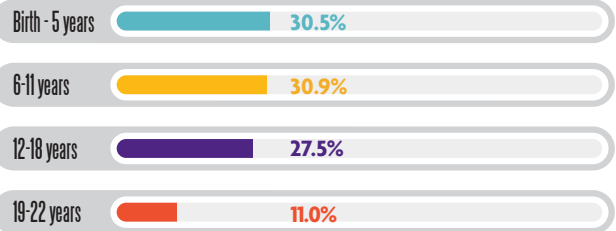
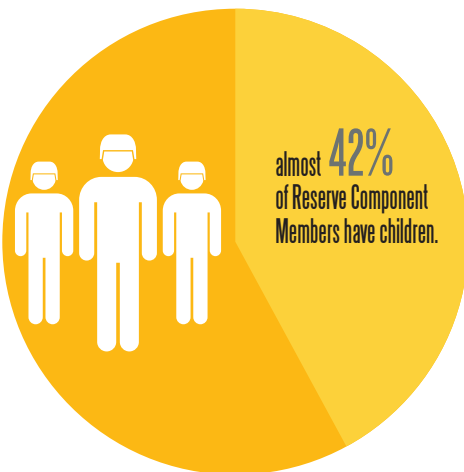


**Over 80%** of military-connected kids are in US public schools

**Less than 8%** of our students attend Department of Defense schools

## National Guard and Reserve Forces

There are **1,064,795** family members associated with the Reserve Components



- There are **209,894** children birth through 5 years old
- There are **212,634** children 6 through 11 years old
- There are **189,395** children 12 through 18 years old
- There are **75,973** children 19 through 22 years old

# Parent Programs

## Empowering Parents to be their Child's Strongest Advocate

MCEC Parent Programs provide informative and interactive parent workshops to groups and organizations in the local community. Through parent trainer teams, consisting of primarily military spouses, *Parent to Parent*® serves communities and installations that are most affected by transition. Their goal is to empower the best "guidance counselors" (the parents) to be informed, positive, and proactive transition specialists at home by understanding the academic, social, and emotional implications of school moves.



“The team provides **different perspectives** and ideas to help better our children. Having an outside source, especially those that have experiences of their own, helps me to understand that **I am not the only one** dealing with certain problems/situations.”  
Kelly N.

### Parent Education Seminars for communities without a local Parent to Parent Team

#### One-Day Seminars for Parents of All Ages

Includes 3-5 individual workshops covering topics targeting local parent concerns. Military-connected spouses with professional training bring their knowledge and expertise to share ideas and resources designed to help all parents develop the skills and tools necessary to empower them in supporting their children throughout their academic career.

#### Popular topics include (but are not limited to):

- Kindergarten Readiness
- Keys to Success in Middle School
- Grief, Trauma and Loss in Children
- Parent-Teacher Conferences
- Resiliency and Bully-Proofing
- College Application Process

For a list of available workshops or to arrange for a Parent Education Seminar in your community contact **Judy Glennon, Parent Programs Manager** at [Judy.Glennon@MilitaryChild.org](mailto:Judy.Glennon@MilitaryChild.org).

#### Family Literacy Events - MCEC *Tell Me A Story*® Program

*Tell Me A Story*® brings parents and children together to listen to a featured book built around a theme. Each story is followed by engaging discussion, activities and supplemental materials, and peer-to-peer interaction encouraging literacy. Each event focuses on a book carefully selected for its content, literary value and illustrations. All selections concentrate on two main themes of Positive Psychology: resilience and optimism.

**The Military Child Education Coalition (MCEC)** is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, worldwide organization founded in 1998 to ensure quality educational opportunities for America's military-connected children. Mobility, family separation, and transition impact the children of our nation's service members and veterans. MCEC supports them by conducting research and developing resources to meet their needs.



# Professional Development

*for Youth-Serving Professionals, Educators, and Parents*

MCEC® believes it's important for professionals to know how to identify and respond to the complex needs of military and veteran-connected children and youth. Across disciplines such as education, healthcare, childcare, and business, MCEC trains professionals to address the unique challenges facing our military children.

All training is grounded in research and presented by highly skilled instructors.

## Supporting Veterans' Children Through Transitions™



*Supporting Veterans' Children through Transitions™* focuses on transition issues military-connected children face when their parents separate from the military.



## Helping Children Discover Their S.P.A.R.C.: Strength, Potential, Aspirations, Resourcefulness, and Confidence™

*Helping Military Children Discover Their S.P.A.R.C.: Strength, Potential, Aspirations, Resourcefulness, and Confidence™* allows professionals to learn how military children can develop skills and mindsets that contribute to hardiness and growth. Identifying military children's sparks and interests allows them to meet personal and academic goals. \*Also offered online.

## The Journey from "Welcome Home" to Now: Reunion, Reconnecting, Routine™



*The Journey from "Welcome Home" to Now: Reunion, Reconnecting, Routine™* teaches the challenges and joys that military-connected children face during at time of reintegration following a family member's return after an extended absence. \*Also offered online.

## Supporting Military Children through School Transitions™ : Foundations



*Supporting Military Children through School Transitions™: Foundations* focuses on the military-connected child's experience with academic transitions and creates an environment for professionals to have access to networks, technologies, resources, and support systems.

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## Supporting Military Children through School Transitions™: Social/Emotional

*Supporting Military Children through School Transitions™: Social/Emotional* focuses on the social and emotional implications of transition for the military-connected child where professionals design methods to ease the challenges of transition.

## Living in the New Normal Institute™



*Living in the New Normal Institute™* explores how professionals can support military-connected children through good and challenging times; with focus on trauma, grief and loss.



## Living in the New Normal Practicum™

*Living in the New Normal Practicum™* teaches professionals strategies and practical application skills to increase resilience in military-connected children.

## Responding to Military Children with Exceptional Needs™



*Responding to Military Children with Exceptional Needs™* addresses the challenges military-connected children with exceptional needs may face as they transition from school to school.

MCEC offers Continuing Education Units and Graduate Credit options. MCEC has been approved by the American Psychological Association (APA), the National Board of Certified Counselors (NBCC), and accredited by the International Association for Continuing Education (IACET). Non-degreed graduate credit is available for select courses through Texas A&M University. For more information, visit:

[www.militarychild.org/professionals/programs/continuing-education-graduate-credit](http://www.militarychild.org/professionals/programs/continuing-education-graduate-credit)



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