

Handbook for Parents of School-Age Children

2024 – 2025

Connecting Families, Schools, and Communities

Naval Support Activity Mechanicsburg

School Liaison

NSA Mechanicsburg and

NSA Philadelphia

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SCHOOL LIAISON

The School Liaison (SL) is the primary point of contact between the military installation, the local schools and districts, military families, and the community. The School Liaison program helps installation and regional commanders work with state agencies and local school districts to build awareness of the stresses on military families caused by frequent transitions and deployments. School Liaisons are located on most major installations. Parents, educators, and community members are encouraged to contact their local School Liaison, regardless of branch of service, with any questions.

Seven Core Functions of the School Liaison:

- School Transition Services (PCS)
- Deployment Support
- Special Education System Navigation
- Installation, School, Community Communications
- Partnerships in Education
- Home School Linkage, Support
- Post-Secondary Preparation

Primary Duties:

- Educating families and local education agencies.
- Providing resources and referrals.
- Advocating for military children.
- Fostering communication.



Specific Responsibilities:

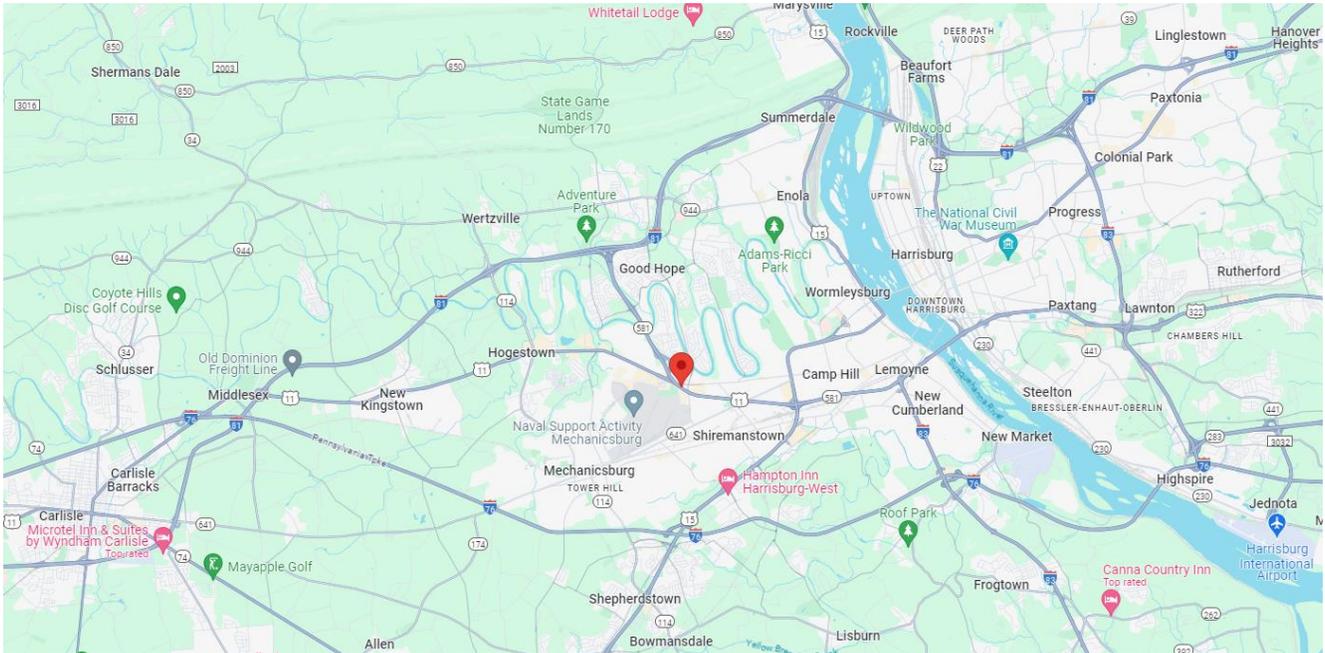
- Serve as the Installation Point of Contact for local Child and Youth Education Service matters.
- Facilitate communication between local school authorities and senior leadership.
- Advocate for the educational needs of military children.
- Provide information regarding K-12 schools in the area.
- Support the smooth transition of school-age inbound and outbound children.
- Maintain information on the Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP) and resources for students with special needs.
- Engage with families, local education agencies, and installation leaders on topics such as state testing and exit exams, financial aid, student transition, special education and gifted services, etc.
- Build partnerships amongst the installation, schools, families, and local organizations.
- Educate the community on unique issues impacting military students.
- Apply knowledge of federal, state, and local laws regarding military child education.

Go to <https://www.militaryonesource.mil/benefits/school-liaison-program/> to find the SL at your next duty assignment, no matter what branch of service. Don't have a SL at your next assignment? Reach out to a SL in your state or the closest SL to get support/connected.

WELCOME TO THE MECHANICSBURG AREA

Mission

The Naval Support Activity (NSA) Mechanicsburg mission is to provide an operationally ready, secure shore infrastructure committed to offering support services and teamwork, balanced quality of life to military and civilian members, and community collaboration through coordinated engagement, in a safe and healthful environment.



Area

NSA Mechanicsburg is located at 5450 Carlisle Pike, Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania 17050 in Cumberland County. Harrisburg, the state capital, is approximately 10 miles east and Carlisle Barracks is approximately 16 miles west of NSA Mechanicsburg.

Surrounding Communities

When deciding where to live, many factors can come into play depending on your family's situation: commute, cost, rent vs. buying, and schools. Many real estate apps will let you filter homes by commute distance and will also share the school rating for the zoned schools of that address. The Military One Source Neighborhood Navigator is a highly valuable tool to learn more about the area and compare multiple factors such as demographics, schools, local businesses, crime rates, and real estate trends. Of note, it is the policy of the state of Pennsylvania that where you reside (your physical address) determines the school your children will attend. School choice options are available.

IMPORTANT NOTE: June 2024- Cumberland Valley School District is updating their website. Links within this guide will be updated as well. Please inquire with any questions.

Registering Your Military Connected Student in a Pennsylvania Public School

Moving to Pennsylvania? You should be aware of the [PA Military Child Advance Enrollment Act](#) signed 6 November 2023. Basically, an active-duty member, including a reserve component, transferring into or within the Commonwealth on official military orders **has up to forty-five (45) days after the arrival date specified in the military orders to provide proof of residency**. When registering, a copy of orders and letter of intent are required. Please note, local schools and districts may not be aware of, or implementing, this new policy or their online registration may not be updated yet. If so, please reach out to their Student Services or Registration Department, share the School Liaison contact information, and/or share the updated [PA Dept of Education Enrollment Policy](#), revised 9 February 2024 to reflect School-Age Children of Military Personnel.

Living on Base/Post

NSA Mechanicsburg has limited base housing. For assistance with housing, talk with your sponsor, the [Military Housing Office on NSA Mechanicsburg](#), and utilize [Homes.mil](#). You can use the [Pennsylvania Department of Revenue's](#) website to determine the school district of a potential home based on the address.

NSA Mechanicsburg base housing students are zoned to attend the public schools in Cumberland Valley School District (CVSD).

[Cumberland Valley School District](#)

Registration is conducted online utilizing [Central Registration](#). Children registering for 1st Grade must turn six (6) years old on or before September 1st. For military family support regarding registration, contact the Director of Student Services listed on the [Military Connected Families](#) site if the Central Registration site is requesting advance proof of residency. See the Transition Checklist section for details.

NSA Mechanicsburg Zoned Schools

[Sporting Hill Elementary School](#) (K - 5th)

Phone: 717-761-5052

210 South Sporting Hill Road, Mechanicsburg, PA, 17050

This school is also supported by an on-site [Military and Family Life Counselor \(MFLC\)](#). The MFLC, who also holds group sessions (with parent permission), can be reached at 223-212-9647.

[Mountain View Middle School](#) (6th - 8th)

Phone: 717-761-1865

30 Bali Hai Road Mechanicsburg, PA 17050

[Cumberland Valley Ninth Grade Academy](#) (9th)

Phone: 717-506-3372

451 Skyport Road, Mechanicsburg, PA 17050

Cumberland Valley High School

10th - 12th

Phone: 717-506-3555

6746 Carlisle Pike, Mechanicsburg, PA 17050

Cumberland Valley School District Transportation

- Offers pick up locations on NSA Mechanicsburg base housing.
- Offers transportation to all students, **to include non-public school students**, residing within the geographic boundaries of CVSD who are attending non-public schools in the area. Transportation is provided to all schools that are within ten miles of CVSD school district boundaries.

Carlisle Barracks Zoned Schools

Carlisle Barracks students are zoned to attend the public schools of Carlisle Area School District. For information regarding the zoned school for your address, it is imperative that you seek the guidance of the School Liaison for Carlisle Barracks. See the website for additional details.

- School Assignments are made in early August with the Carlisle Barracks SL in attendance.
- Busses travel on and off post.
- Off-Post students attend the school assigned to their address.

NSA Mechanicsburg and Carlisle Barracks Area School Districts

Cumberland Valley School District or call 717-697-8261 (NSAM and CB)

Mechanicsburg Area School District or call 717-691-4500 (NSAM and CB)

Carlisle Area School District or call 717-240-6800 (NSAM and CB)

Camp Hill School District or call 717-901-2400 (NSAM)

West Shore School District or call 717-938-9577 (NSAM)

Harrisburg School District or call 717-703-4000 (NSAM)

Lebanon School District or call 717-273-9391 ext. 6603 or 6823 (NSAM)

Career & Technical Center: Cumberland Perry Area Career & Technical Center (CPACTC) Serving students from thirteen high schools in Cumberland, Perry, York, and Adams County, CPACTC offers comprehensive instruction in 22 career and technical programs. Students attend half day for technical training and social studies and attend their sending high school for English, math, physical education, and other graduation requirements. The application process is competitive.

SCHOOL CHOICE – DISCOVER YOUR OPTIONS

There are more than 1.6 million military kids in the United States. Of those, 933,000 are school-aged children, ages 6-18. Many of those children will change schools nine times between kindergarten and high school graduation. This is likely one of those transition times for your military student.

Making the right school-choice for your child is important to their long-term success. Many families choose where they live based on the school districts and neighborhood schools. Because state governments regulate education, available schooling options vary between states. Additionally, students can have differing learning styles and needs which can best be addressed at some schools or school settings more than others. Making an informed decision means gathering information and doing some research. The resources below will help in the decision-making process.

Military OneSource is a useful resource for obtaining information on installations, schools, and transition. Users may access services 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at 800-342-9647 or visit Military One Source at <http://www.militaryonesource.mil/for-children-and-youth> for information on a variety of education topics and issues.

[Great Schools](#) provides information regarding schools in a selected area as does [School Digger](#).

[Public School Review](#) has a school finder feature and provides public school data.

[The Nation's Report Card](#)

Compare state reports. The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) is a congressionally mandated project administered by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), within the U.S. Department of Education and the Institute of Education Sciences (IES).

School Types

District Schools are “neighborhood schools” because they are within the town/city where the student resides. They provide free, public education for all students who reside in the boundaries of the school district. District schools get their financing from local, state, and federal government funds. An elected board of education or school committee traditionally oversees the budget and policies of the district schools. In most cases, they must admit all students who live within the borders of their district.

- The [PA Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credit Program](#) enables students residing within the boundaries of a low-achieving school to apply for a scholarship to attend another public or nonpublic school. The Pennsylvania Department of Education posts the list of receiving schools and low achieving schools for the Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credit Program. Participating schools are required to submit the proper enrollment forms to the PA Department of Education. See their [FAQ's](#) for additional details.

Charter Schools are public schools that run independently of the local school district. These schools receive tax dollars as well as funds from private sponsoring groups. Charter schools must adhere to the basic curricular and teacher certification requirements set forth by the state but are free from many of the regulations that apply to conventional schools and the day-to-day scrutiny of school boards and government authorities. Charter schools may focus on an area of instruction such as specializing in teaching mathematics and science or working with students considered “at risk”. Charter schools are open to all students; however, the “Charter Document” may limit students to a specific geographic area. A lottery is generally used if there are more applicants than spaces available.

Online or Virtual Schools are essentially what is more commonly known as distance learning. It simply means the student learns in a virtual environment as opposed to visiting a brick and mortar campus or classroom on a daily basis. Online schools share some similarities with homeschooling because, in most cases, students learn from within their own homes. However, with virtual schools, parents provide support, but teachers do the instruction.

Magnet Schools are highly competitive, highly selective public schools renowned for their special programs and high academic standards/achievement. Magnet schools are operated by local school districts, regional centers, and/or an agreement between schools and districts who share policy and curriculum decisions for the school. Students generally choose to attend a magnet school because of an interest in the school’s academic focus or unique programs such as science, technology, math, performing arts, foreign language, or International Baccalaureate. All students are eligible to attend magnet schools. School districts usually limit the enrollment in magnet schools and use a lottery system or testing to select students if there are more applications than spaces available.

Fine Arts Schools Fine arts degrees are offered by many traditional colleges as well as most art and design schools. However, some schools specialize in fine arts and offer undergraduate or advanced degrees in this category. The curriculum can vary from institution to institution, but most include theory and criticism, art history, and liberal arts. They also usually let students choose a specific curriculum if they plan to specialize in one area, such as painting, animation, drawing, photography, and sculpture.

-You may be interested in the [Pennsylvania Arts Dashboard](#) if the above sounds like your student.

International Baccalaureate-IB-Schools IB students are responsible for their own learning, choosing topics and devising their own projects, while teachers act more as supervisors or mentors than sources of facts. IB emphasizes research and encourages students to learn from their peers, with students actively critiquing one another’s work. Technically, any school with an IB program is called an “IB school. It’s most straightforward at IB elementary schools, where IB is part of every class school-wide. But in middle school and high school that may not be the case. Some middle and high schools are 100 percent IB, but not all. For example, at many high schools there is an IB program that kids may opt into, much like attending a school within a school. If that’s the case, students may participate in IB at different levels, ranging from taking a single IB course to earning an IB diploma, which involves taking a full course load of IB classes and meeting a series of requirements. Given this range, it’s crucial to ask what your local school offers and allows.

Career and Technical Education Programs are programs for grade 9-12 students who have an interest in specific vocational or technological training. These schools offer specialized technical skills training while they also instruct students in all academic areas as well. Upon

graduating from a technical school, students are eligible to go on to a full range of post-secondary educational programs. Some technical programs are located in separate facilities from the district high school and some are within the comprehensive high school. Teachers must have state certification as well as special training/experience in the areas taught.

Special Education Schools Special education schools are customized to the needs of students with physical or mental disabilities. There is no standard curriculum. Rather, special education schools focus on assisting children in learning in spite of any hindrances stemming from handicaps. The curriculum is highly tailored. These schools focus on the individual child and provide the resources the child needs to learn successfully.

Religious Private Schools are private schools, which generally espouse a specific religious belief based on the denomination or faith established by the governing board. Often religious schools have open enrollment and do not require their student body to be of the same faith or denomination, although they do require that the students abide by the rules established by the school leadership. In addition to academic coursework, religious schools usually require coursework in religious studies. Students must apply to attend the school and entrance exams may be a requirement. Private religious schools can refuse admission to any student or dismiss a student after enrollment for an infraction of the rules. Teachers are not required to be certified by the state, though they may be required to be a member of a specific denomination. Teachers may hold a variety of degrees and certifications. Requirements vary from school to school. Tuition costs vary widely. Transportation may be included in the cost of tuition or be provided by the state.

Private Secular Schools are schools without religious affiliation. Many secular schools have a long history and tradition while others are relatively new. Some secular schools may offer a traditional education that centers on preparation for college while others focus on an educational philosophy or a specific approach to learning such as those that accommodate individuals with special needs, i.e., schools for the deaf or blind. Tuition costs vary widely. Transportation may be included in the price of tuition or be provided by the state. Teachers are not required to be state certified.

Montessori Schools A Montessori school is a type of learning institution in which a specific hands-on learning environment is created. The curriculum ultimately focuses on the topics and subjects the child is interested in. This completely contrasts conventional schools, where students of the same age are all taken through a scheduled, structured curriculum that does not vary much from one student to the next. Montessori schools view students as expeditioners with diversified interests and do not believe that all youngsters learn in the same manner or at the same pace.

Home Schooling or Home Education Parents may decide to homeschool their children for a number of reasons- religion, special needs, etc. Each state has specific mandatory requirements for parents who choose the homeschooling option. Parents may decide to perform the schooling themselves in their own home or a relative, neighbor, professional tutor, or homeschool cooperative may perform the service. Parents who are considering this option should inform themselves completely about time commitments, curricula, relevant state laws, outside resources and available support groups.

- In Pennsylvania, a [notarized affidavit](#) is required to be filed with the school district office where you reside.

There are a variety of other types of schools. Use this [tool](#) to help you discover some of the other school options which may be a good fit.

School Choice Resources

[Pennsylvania](#) offers K-12 students and their families several types of school choice, including two private school choice programs, charter schools, magnet schools, home schooling and inter-district or intra-district public school choice via an open enrollment policy. Contact the district where you reside, or plan to reside, to inquire if this is an option. Note: This site also contains a list of scholarships for private schools.

Homeschooling

- [Pennsylvania Homeschooling Information](#)
- [Homeschool Pennsylvania](#)
- [Homeschool Legal Defense Association](#)
- [Home School Central](#)

[Mechanicsburg Area School District Homeschooling Guidance](#)

Nonpublic/Private Schools

- [Pennsylvania Nonpublic/Private Schools](#)
- [National Center for Education Statistics Private School Search](#)
- [Private School Review](#)

There are currently 459 public, public charter, and private schools within a 15-mile radius of NSA Mechanicsburg.

[Pennsylvania Department of Education](#)

[Pennsylvania School District Map](#)

[Pennsylvania Curriculum](#)

[Pennsylvania State Standards](#) by subject for infant through grade 12

[Pennsylvania Report Card](#)

Visit the Future Ready PA Index. This dashboard highlights how Pennsylvania's schools are performing and making progress on multiple indicators.

[Pennsylvania Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credit Program](#) enables eligible students residing within the boundaries of a low-achieving school to apply for a scholarship to attend another public or nonpublic school.

[Pennsylvania K-12 Laws and Regulations](#)

SCHOOL TRANSITION CHECKLIST

It is imperative that you mention you are a military family when registering your student!

Parent/Guardian: * indicates items you should HAND-CARRY

- Student's Birth Certificate *
- Student's Social Security Number *
- Student's Shot Record *
- Legal Documents (as needed) (i.e. Guardianship/custody) *
- Proof of Residency *

- Moving to Pennsylvania? You should be aware of the [PA Military Child Advance Enrollment Act](#) signed 6 November 2023. Basically, an active-duty member, including a reserve component, transferring into or within the Commonwealth on official military orders has up to forty-five (45) days after the arrival date specified in the military orders to provide proof of residency. When registering, a copy of orders and letter of intent are required. Please note, local schools and districts may not be aware of this new policy or their online registration may not be updated yet. If so, please reach out to their student services, share the School Liaison contact information, and/or share the updated [PA Dept of Education Enrollment Policy](#), revised 9 February 2024 to reflect School-Age Children of Military Personnel.

Future School Information:

- Go to <https://installations.militaryonesource.mil/view-all> to locate the School Liaison at your new installation, no matter which branch of service
- Address, Phone Numbers and Other Contact Information
- School Profile/Handbook
- School Webpage
 - Registration
 - Transportation
 - School Calendars/Schedule
 - Staff
 - Course Offerings
 - Student Activities/Extra-Curricular
 - Military Families Page (if there is one)
- Go to <https://anchored4life.com/> to see if the school participates in Anchored4Life
- Other as needed: _____

Current School Information:

- Address, Phone Numbers and Other Contact Information
- Course Description Book and Grading Scale (for grade 6 and above)
- Copy of the cover of each textbook or the title page
- School Profile/Handbook
- School Webpage
- Other as needed: _____

School Records:

- Copy of Cumulative Folder (only the copy sent from school to school is considered official)
- Current Course Schedule
- Report Cards
- Transcript/Course History (with Grading System and Class Rank)
- Attendance and Tardy Records
- Standardized Testing Score Records
- Withdrawal Grades/Progress Reports
- Activity Records (extracurricular if available)
- ROTC Records (if applicable)
- Letters of Recommendations (especially for senior students)
- Writing Samples (if available)
- At-Risk or Action Plans for classroom modifications (if available)
- Portfolios (if available)
- Accelerated Reader Points (if applicable/available)
- Service Learning Hours (if applicable/available)
- Other: _____

***Special Programs: Record as Appropriate: * indicates items you should HAND-CARRY***

- Individual Education Plan (IEP)/Individual Accommodation 504 Plan *
- English as a Second Language (ESL) or Bilingual Education *
- At-Risk or other Action Plans for Classroom Modification *
- Other: _____

Other Documents and Examples:

- Community Service or Service Learning Verification
- Classwork or Performance Based Project Examples
- Academic Recognition and Competition Participation Verification

Additional Recommendations for School Transition**3-6 Months Before the Move**

- Research your new state, duty station, etc.
- Go to <https://installations.militaryonesource.mil/view-all> to locate and contact the School Liaison at your new installation, no matter which branch of service.
 - Note: Navy School Liaisons do not receive contact information prior to the family's arrival.
- Call your School Liaison to answer any questions you may have about moving from your current station to your next. Ask them to connect you with your new station's SL.
- Important: Become familiar with the Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission (MIC3) which addresses registration/enrollment, placement, extracurricular eligibility, kindergarten and graduation requirements, and more.

1-2 Months Before the Move

- Review the checklist and gather any missing documents
- If you know where you will be living, contact the School Liaison to connect with the local schools.
- Request a Youth Sponsor.
- Find out what the withdrawal process is at your current school and make a plan to withdraw your child from school in an appropriate manner.

Do this sooner if departing during the summer:

- Make a copy of the front cover of your child's textbooks.
- Copy course outlines or topics covered from the school Program of Study (esp. for High School).
- Know what to expect with the transfer of credits (call your SL for information). **This step could reduce a lot of stress!**

2 Weeks Before the Move

- Review checklists and make sure all documents are as current as possible
- Remind the school of the student's last day. Remember to ask your child's current school for a copy of the records to take with you when you depart.

IMMUNIZATIONS AND PHYSICALS

Immunizations: For a listing of immunizations, see the School Vaccination Requirement Fact Sheet in the link directly below. Children, unless exempted for medical or philosophical/religious reasons, must have required vaccinations when entering a school setting for the first time, seventh grade, and twelfth grade.

Physicals: The Pennsylvania Public School Code Section 1402. Health Services (e) requires that students upon original entry, sixth grade and 11th grade be given a "comprehensive appraisal" of their health. The physical is to be completed within 4 months prior to the start of the school year. In addition, Section 1402(c) requires the completion of medical questionnaires which are to become part of the student's health record.

If receiving this information via email from the School Liaison, the following are attached to the email as applicable.

1. PA Dental Form: required for initial entry into school (K-1st); 3rd; 7th grades
2. PA Physical Form: required for initial entry into school (K-1st); 6th; 11th grades

Sports Physicals: The Sports Physical form can either be found on the school district's athletics website or the [Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association \(PIAA\), Inc.](#) website. You can also use the [PIAA website](#) to find details regarding your school's athletics program.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES AND CLUBS

Extracurricular activities and clubs can help military children in many ways, including:

- Building confidence and a sense of normalcy.
- Connecting with peers and building friendships.
- Relieving stress.
- Gaining lifelong skills.
- Improving family wellness.
- Strengthening a shared sense of community and belonging.

However, military children can face challenges when transitioning to new schools, such as missing tryouts for clubs and teams. This can be emotionally draining and can affect their chances of being recruited for college programs and scholarships.

There are a few things you can do to help when transitioning.

- 1) Read, and become familiar with, the Interstate Compact for Educational Opportunity for Military Children. <https://mic3.net/> There is a section regarding extra-curriculars.
- 2) Take advantage of the Military Child Advance Enrollment Act and enroll your child once you know where you will be living. Ask the school about clubs and extra-curriculars they might offer. Once they are enrolled, sign them up for the extra-curricular activities, even if it's from afar.
 - a. Talk with the coach or club facilitator to ask about the schedule, any training, tryouts, or anything your family might need to know to help your child prepare.
 - b. If your child is going to miss out on tryouts or other deadlines, explain that you are a military family and ask if your child can try out using alternate means such as video and/or getting a letter of reference from their current team coach or club facilitator. Ask if some requirements can be waived while sharing with the decision-maker the reasons above.
 - c. If your child has missed the deadline or does not meet all of the requirements due to your military moves, ask if they can still tryout or join anyway or if they can still be a part of the team or club somehow.
- 3) If the school does not have a particular club or team, ask about starting one if you/your child are willing to lead or participate.

Mechanicsburg Parks and Recreation

- Sports for all ages
- Events
- Summer Camp

https://www.mbgisd.org/apps/pages/index.jsp?uREC_ID=841214&type=d&pREC_ID=1225539

Cumberland Valley School District: <https://hs.cvschools.org/o/cvhs/page/clubs-and-extracurricular-activities>

Mechanicsburg Area School District Middle and High School Athletics: <https://www.gomechanicsburg.com/> See individual schools for clubs.

West Shore School District Athletics: <https://www.wssd.k12.pa.us/Athletics.aspx> See individual schools for Clubs.

YOUR TRANSIENT STUDENT

Military life is hard enough. School shouldn't have to be. Utilize the resources below to ensure your transient military student isn't lost in the shuffle and that their educational needs are met.

The [Every Student Succeeds Act \(ESSA\)](#) is the nation's educational law. The ESSA requires the inclusion of a military-connected student identifier in every Public School data system. How can the [Military Student Identifier \(MSI\)](#) information be utilized?

- To identify areas requiring attention or resources and detect students in need of specific academic assistance.
- To improve and personalize academic and social/emotional responses for the unique military student population.
- Schools can review their welcoming practices, transition planning, and need for enrichment or additional "catch-up" tutoring for mobile military-connected students.
- To consider programs that recognize contributions of the military to their community as they do for other groups.

The [Military Child Education Coalition \(MCEC\)](#) is a 501(c) (3) non-profit, worldwide organization that identifies the challenges of the highly mobile military child.

Important: Become familiar with this compact. The [Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission \(MIC3\)](#) The compact addresses the common issues listed below and applies to children of active-duty members of the uniformed services, National Guard and Reserve on active-duty orders, and children of members or veterans who are medically discharged or retired are eligible for assistance, for one year after leaving service.

Issues Addressed:

Enrollment

- Educational Records
- Immunizations
- Kindergarten & First Grade Entrance Age

Placement and Attendance

- Course & Educational Program Placement
- Special Education Services
- Placement Flexibility
- Absence Related to Deployment Activities

Eligibility

- Eligibility for Student Enrollment
- Eligibility for Extracurricular Participation

Graduation

- Waiving courses required for graduation if similar coursework has been completed
- Flexibility in accepting state exit or end-of-course exams, national achievement tests, or alternative testing in lieu of testing requirements for graduation in the receiving state
- Allowing a student to receive a diploma from the sending school instead of the receiving school



Q: Who do I contact in my state or school district to learn more about what is and is not covered in the Compact?

A: Your School Liaison is your first point of contact regarding the Compact, however, DODEA and every state and territory of the United States has a MIC3 State Commissioner.

Q: What happens if a member state does not comply with the Compact?

A: The Compact provides for a governance structure at state and national levels for enforcement and compliance but the School Liaison is the first line of support and can be very useful in clarifying the provisions of the Compact.

Helping Your Child Transition

Use the resources in the [School Liaison's Resource Tool](#) to help with the following:

- Moving can be exciting with new experiences and places to explore! Look in the “Get Active, Get Involved, Explore Your Area” to create a bucket list of fun things to do once you get settled.
- Moving means life will change. Look in the “School Transition Services (PCS Cycle)” for:
 - *My Life As I Move, A Journal*
 - **NEW!** I Move a Lot and That's Okay! and Post to Post, Coast to Coast, Mindful Coloring for kids (ages 7 - 10)
 - Sesame Street for Military Families: Learning and Growing Together (for your younger PCS'ers)
 - Books to Help Children with a PCS and Books About Moving for Kids
 - Children's PCS Checklist
 - Helping Children Adjust to a New School
 - Sesame Street's Big Moving Adventure app
- Moving means change for everyone in the family. Look in the Family and Youth Resilience section for:
 - Military One Source Parenting Webinars: “Changing Schools” and “Family Optimization”
 - Thrive Parent Modules
 - FOCUS Tools to Build Family Resilience Skills (Check out their section on family meetings)
 - Sesame Street: Getting Connected to Community
 - Bloom: Empowering Your Military Teen
 - Sesame Street Little Children Big Challenges: Resilience
 - Military One Source Child & Teen Counseling
 - Military One Source: *Connecting with Kids in a Disconnected World*
 - Anchored for Life E-Learning Series: Resiliency Skill Development for Youth
 - Mindfulness: relaxation Techniques, Coping Skills, and Journaling
 - Online Red Cross Workshops: Child and Teen Courses: Confident Coping, Roger That! Communication Counts, Family Courses: Connecting with Kids, Emotional Grit, Effective Communication, Stress Solutions

Youth Sponsorship/Programs

For our elementary, preteen, and teen community, the Youth Sponsorship Program adds in an element of social support. The School Liaison strives to make contact with youth before they move, so when they arrive, they can immediately be connected with peers who are already participating in the school or community programs. Connect through your School Liaison for School-Based Programs. When an installation does not have a Youth Program, as is the case for NSA Mechanicsburg, the School Based Program is utilized to provide the peer support through the Sponsorship Program. With a School Based Program, the School Liaison works with the school and current students to help create a smooth transition.

To apply for a Youth Sponsor, email the completed [application](#) to the School Liaison.

Anchored for Life Kits

If you are PCS'ing in or out of the area or your family is experiencing changes such as deployment, reintegration, divorce, or your family has lost a loved one, email lisa.a.lyford.naf@us.navy.mil to receive a kit to support your child (and family) through whatever change has come their way. All kits have a journal and a family guidebook. For a student who is new to the area, there are separate welcome kits for elementary, middle, and high schoolers. An elementary school welcome kit is shown below.



Welcome Kit

The Welcome Kit is handed out to youth who are new to a location.

The Welcome Kit Contains:

String Backpack

Folder & Welcome Letter

School Supplies

Family Guidebook

My Journal



Moving Kit

The Moving Kit is provided to youth before moving to a new location in another city, state, or country.

The Moving Kit Contains:

String Backpack

Cuzzie Jr.

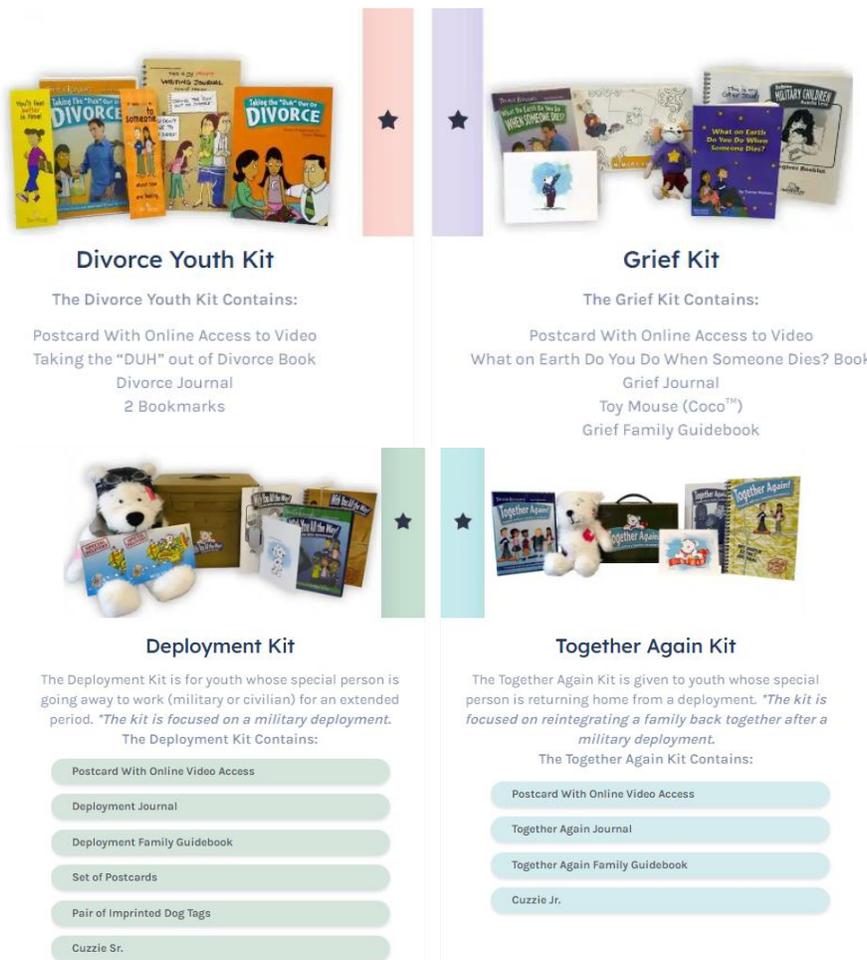
Family Guidebook

Focus Coin

Notes For Me

My Moving Journal

Postcard With Online Video Access



Divorce Youth Kit

The Divorce Youth Kit Contains:

- Postcard With Online Access to Video
- Taking the "DUH" out of Divorce Book
- Divorce Journal
- 2 Bookmarks

Grief Kit

The Grief Kit Contains:

- Postcard With Online Access to Video
- What on Earth Do You Do When Someone Dies? Book
- Grief Journal
- Toy Mouse (Coco™)
- Grief Family Guidebook

Deployment Kit

The Deployment Kit is for youth whose special person is going away to work (military or civilian) for an extended period. *The kit is focused on a military deployment.*

The Deployment Kit Contains:

- Postcard With Online Video Access
- Deployment Journal
- Deployment Family Guidebook
- Set of Postcards
- Pair of Imprinted Dog Tags
- Cuzzie Sr.

Together Again Kit

The Together Again Kit is given to youth whose special person is returning home from a deployment. *The kit is focused on reintegrating a family back together after a military deployment.*

The Together Again Kit Contains:

- Postcard With Online Video Access
- Together Again Journal
- Together Again Family Guidebook
- Cuzzie Jr.

Boys and Girls Clubs of America Mission: Youth Outreach Programs

Mission: Youth Outreach is a partnership between the Military Services and Boys & Girls Clubs of America providing children of National Guard, Reserve, and Active Duty families who do not live near, or have access to a military Youth Center (this is applicable for NSA Mechanicsburg), free annual membership (additional fees may apply) to their local Boys & Girls Club. Note: If the BGCA is not participating in the Mission: Youth Outreach Program yet, email MYO@BGCA.org to request their participation.

Carlisle Barracks Child and Youth Services and Events

Some youth events held on Carlisle Barracks require Child and Youth Services (CYS) membership while others are open to all with installation access.

CYS Membership Eligibility:

- Active-Duty Military
- DoD Civilians
- Contractors (fees are not subsidized for childcare)
- Retirees for School Age Center (SAC); Middle School & Teen (MST) Program; and Sports Programs ONLY.
- Retirees do not qualify for Moore Child Development Center (CDC).
- Disabled Veterans do NOT qualify for any CYS services.

Paperwork must be completed to become an MST member. Call Parent Central Services (PCS) at 717-245-3801 to request registration documentation.

[Child and Youth Behavioral \(CYB\) Military and Family Life Counselors \(MFLC\)](#) provide consultation and outreach, non-medical counseling, and coaching to eligible faculty, staff, parents, children, and youth. Parents of children 18 and under will need to complete the [MFLC Parent Authorization Form](#).

[Cumberland Valley School District Junior ROTC](#) Of note, Carlisle Area School District Superintendent has authorized Carlisle Area School District Students to attend Cumberland Valley School District ROTC even if the student is in the Carlisle Area School District catchment area.

Tips for Easing Your Child's Anxiety About the New School

Utilize the *My Life As I Move* journal in the School Transition Services section of the [SL Resource Tool](#) to aid in accomplishing some of the ideas below.

First, do a check-in with yourself. For parents, the start of a new school year in a new area can be stressful for parents too. As exciting as new things may be, even good stress is stress. Take advantage of support through Military One Source to gain some stress reduction techniques by calling 800-342-9647. Keep them in mind for support for youth as well.

Start new routines early such as bed and waking times and meal times. Over the course of several days you can ease your child into these routines. Do some test runs. Drive to the school along the bus route. Attend any opportunities to walk through the school to locate locations they will frequent. Stop by the office to ask a question or drop off any forms. This makes them feel more comfortable being there. If your child has a locker, have them practice opening locks. If they will be changing in the locker room, ask if they can see the locker rooms in advance to know what to expect. Any opportunity for exposure or repetition is going to help them do well with "coping ahead".

Value and support difference and diversity. Promote and support cultural awareness. Their new school may be very culturally different from what they are used to. Talk with them about valuing various cultural backgrounds and people with special needs.

Become familiar with your child's school before the first day. Give your child as many details as possible about the new school and the surrounding community. See the Get Active, Get Involved, Explore Your Area section of the [SL Resource Tool](#). Request a Youth Sponsor

Help your child establish ways to stay in touch with friends at their previous duty station; this gives them a sense of continuity as they acclimate to the new school environment and make new friends.

Encourage children to talk with their teachers. Getting to know their teachers makes it easier for them to ask for help. If you have a young child, make a point of meeting the new teacher in person. Talk with your child's teacher about your child's previous military moves for their awareness.

Talk to your children about their school experiences. Encouraging your child to talk about their challenges and positive experiences in their new learning environment provides them

with a healthy form of expression. For younger children, [FOCUS World](#) can help with communication and emotional regulation. For older children, explore [Roger That! Communication Counts](#) American Red Cross for Military online course for children/teens. Also utilize the activities in chapter 2 of the *Strengthening Families Program* and The Family Dinner Project listed in the Family and Youth Resilience section of the [SL Resource Tool](#) to improve communication skills within the family.

Encourage your child to join extracurricular activities such as clubs, sports, or school organizations. This is a positive, productive way to meet people with shared interests. Check out United Heroes League to purchase sports equipment. Check with the school to see if they have a Girls on the Run program, Anchored for Life, or Boys and Girls Clubs to name a few. If your child (ages 13 and older) would like to improve their health and wellness, they have free access to a [Health and Wellness Coach](#) through Military OneSource. Give them a call at 800-342-9647.

If schoolwork is challenging, talk with your child's teacher. Children should not wait until they are overwhelmed to voice their concerns. This is a good way to model positive interaction with the teacher. Utilize [Tutor.com](#) for free online tutoring to aid your child with one-on-one online tutoring in over 150 subjects.

Anxiety about school sometimes takes the form of stomachaches and headaches. If your child develops a pattern of these symptoms, it's important to get your child checked out by a pediatrician. If medical reasons have been ruled out and the child continues to complain about physical symptoms, it's important to investigate what might be causing anxiety as it could be symptoms of an anxiety disorder or problem at school. For instance:

Anxiety presents itself in many different ways...



Clipart by Kate Hadfield & Sarah Peonino

- A child who's been bullied may be afraid to go to school. Give Military One Source a call at 800-342-9647 to request [Bullying is a Pain in the Brain](#) which is a resource for both kids and adults that provides practical tips for coping with bullies and suggestions for how to become "Bully-Proof." See the [SL Resource Tool](#) for additional tips on bullying prevention.

- A child with separation anxiety might be afraid something will happen to their parent if they're apart.

- A child with an undiagnosed learning disorder might be avoiding shame and embarrassment.

Finally, do not hesitate to contact your School Liaison. We are ready and willing to help you with every phase of your school transition.

GOING TO KINDERGARTEN!



Language Skills

- Speaks in complete sentences
- Uses words to express needs and wants
- Understands two-step directions
- Makes comparisons and describes relationships between objects like big/little, under/over, and first/last

Reading Readiness Skills

- Enjoys listening to stories
- Knows how to find the first page of a book and which way to flip the pages
- Recognizes familiar logos and signs, like stop signs
- Recites the alphabet and identifies most of the letters
- Recognizes and tries to write their name
- Recognizes when two words rhyme (like cat and bat)
- Starts to connect letter sounds to letters
- Draws a picture to help express an idea

Math skills

- Counts from 1 to 10 without skipping numbers
- Matches a number to a group of five or fewer items ("I see three cats")
- Recognizes and names basic shapes
- Understands more than and less than
- Arranges three objects in the right order (like from smallest to biggest)
- Names or points to the colors in a box of eight crayons

Self-care skills

- Uses the bathroom and washes up on their own
- Gets dressed on their own (may still need help with buttons, zippers, and shoelaces)
- Knows and can say their first and last name and age

Social and emotional skills

- Separates from a parent or caregiver without getting overly upset
- Interacts with other kids
- Pays attention for at least five minutes to a task an adult is leading, like listening to directions for an activity or discussing the day's weather during circle time

Fine motor skills

- Uses a pencil or crayon with some control
- Uses scissors
- Copies basic shapes
- Makes distinct marks that look like letters and writes some actual letters, especially the ones in their name
- Puts together a simple puzzle

Gross motor skills

- Runs
- Jumps with feet together
- Hops on one foot
- Climbs stairs
- Bounces a ball and tries to catch it

Admission to Kindergarten

The local school board has the right and responsibility for establishing the age at which a child can begin the kindergarten program. The district's minimum entry age cannot be less than four years, 0 months, before the first day of the school term. The district's maximum entry age to kindergarten must be less than the district's entry age for beginners.

Attendance in Kindergarten

Kindergarten is not compulsory. Compulsory attendance begins at age six. A child enrolling in school for the first time may be placed in kindergarten, rather than first grade, if he or she is between the ages of four to six years old. Kindergarten for many children is the beginning of the school experience, however, a kindergarten child is not included in the definition of the term "beginner." A beginner is a child who enters a school district's lowest elementary school grade that is above kindergarten.

Source: <https://www.education.pa.gov/Policy-Funding/BECS/Purdons/Pages/AdmissionKindergartenBeginners.aspx>

Cumberland Valley School District Kindergarten
(Registration for the 2024 - 2025 School Year)

Age: Children registering for Kindergarten must turn five (5) years old on or before September 1st.

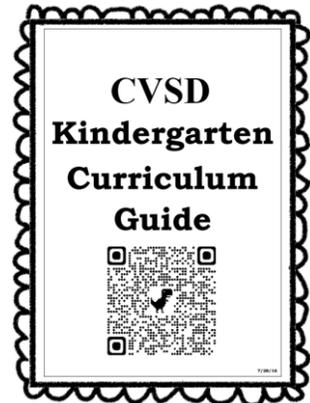
Kindergarten Schedules: CVSD offers half-day (AM or PM), and extended day kindergarten. Extended day kindergarten is offered to students in need of additional assistance.

Kindergarten Transportation: See the website for full details regarding transportation to and from kindergarten.

Kindergarten Registration: New to CVSD? Create a [Skyward account](#). Sign in (skyward.cvschools.org) and submit the 2023-24 New Student Registration forms as directed.

Questions regarding registration: 717-506-3399

Registration Note: Per the [PA Military Child Advance Enrollment Act](#), if you are active duty, Guard, or Reserve and do not have the proof of residency documentation, contact Doris Hagemann, Director of Student Services, for assistance at 717-506-3320 or dhagemann@cvschools.org.



Mechanicsburg Area School District Kindergarten Academy

(Registration for the 2024 - 2025 School Year)

Kindergarten Schedule: MASD offers full day kindergarten with doors opening at 0730. The kindergarten schedule is from 0745 to 1410. See their website for additional details.

Age: Children registering for kindergarten must turn 5 years old on or before September 1st.

Kindergarten Transportation: To view the bus route for your area, under Transportation, select "Bus Routes" and "Kindergarten Academy".

Kindergarten Registration: Pre-register your child following the directions on the site. Once pre-registered, you will receive an email from the District Registrar, Angie Weber, for further guidance.

Registration Note: Per the [PA Military Child Advance Enrollment Act](#), if you are active duty, Guard, or Reserve and do not have the proof of residency documentation, contact Angie Weber at 717-691-3431 or aweber@mbgsd.org.

Half-Day Kindergarten

If childcare before or after school is a need, the [YMCA Half Day Kindergarten](#) programs might be the solution for your family.

For additional resources, please see the Childcare, Pre-K, and Youth Programs section of the [SL Resource Tool](#).

[PA Kindergarten Readiness and Enrollment](#)



[Kindergarten Here I Come](#) This activity guide helps families prepare their child for kindergarten. It provides monthly learning activities, resources and information aligned with Pennsylvania curriculum to help their preschool-age child. Sign up to receive the Kindergarten, Here I Come newsletter. Each month, receive tips and information to help your preschooler prepare for kindergarten.

Additional Resources for Early Childhood/Kindergarten Readiness

[Starfall](#) activities are research-based and align with state learning objectives for English language arts and mathematics. Its emphasis on phonemic awareness, systematic sequential phonics, and common sight words in conjunction with audiovisual interactivity is especially effective for teaching emergent readers, children of all ages with special needs or learning difficulties, as well as ELL (ESL) students.

[DoD MWR Digital Libraries](#) Miss Humblebee's Academy offers award-winning curriculum that prepares children ages 3 to 6 for kindergarten proficiency. You just need your DoD ID number and your date of birth to be verified to access this site through the Department of Defense. Be sure to explore than many other learning resources for children.

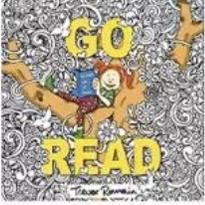
[Reach Out and Read](#) intended for pediatric practitioners, the Resources sections boasts a wealth of information for children and caregivers alike regarding literacy, health, and wellness.

[Sesame Street for Military Families](#) has developed social-emotional support with the military child in mind. Use this site to access the multi-media resources.

[FOCUS World](#) is an interactive, online educational tool that helps military families become stronger in the face of challenges by providing both parents and kids a fun place to learn and practice important skills, such as:

- Emotional Regulation - understanding and managing feelings
- Goal Setting - working together as a family to achieve something important to you
- Communication - listening and responding to each other's concerns, including those related to deployment and reintegration

Be sure to also explore the Family Skills section for tools you can use.



Go Read from Military One Source is a children's book that helps kids learn the alphabet in a fun-filled way. Create your free M1S account to have the book shipped at no cost to you.

United Through Reading using the free app or by visiting a story station, military service members have the opportunity to record and save storytime moments for their families to enjoy, no matter the distance. Each recording comes with a free copy of the book for your family to read along with your storytime recording. They also provide reading resources with tips and tricks to start a daily reading routine at home.

Ready for School, Ready to Succeed United Way has partnered with the Capital Area Intermediate Unit and local schools on an initiative for children ages 3 to 5 (and their families). Through this initiative, free virtual and in-person workshops are offered throughout the area to help prepare children for kindergarten.

Check with your local library to see if they offer a kindergarten readiness class.

If you are concerned about your birth to age 5 child's development please seek assistance through Pennsylvania's Early Intervention Services. Pennsylvania's Early Intervention program provides coaching support and services to families with children, from birth to age five, with developmental delays and disabilities. Services are provided at no cost to families. Call 800-692-7288 or email help@connectpa.net. Explore this Developmental Checklist or speak with your child's pediatrician.

H.S. GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

[Pennsylvania High School Graduation Requirements](#)
22 Pa. Code § 57.31

There are five pathways to graduation, offering several alternative ways to graduate without using the federally mandated standardized tests that follow certain courses. Course and credit requirements still exist at schools at the local level, as local education agencies are allowed to add supplementary requirements.

[Pennsylvania Pathways to Graduation & Other Diploma Options Infographic](#)

[Yes/No Decision Tree Graduation Trail \(A Student's Journey\)](#)

The Keystone Proficiency and Keystone Composite Pathways rely on student performance in three academic areas (Algebra I, Biology, and Literature), proven to be predictive of postsecondary success; whereas the Career & Technical Education (CTE) Concentrator, Alternative Assessment, and Evidence-Based Pathways were designed to more fully illustrate students' college, career, and community readiness through other student artifacts and experiences.

[Cumberland Valley School District Graduation Requirements](#)

Under Course Selection Resources, select the CV 10-12 2024-2025 Program of Studies document. The Scheduling & Program of Studies section also covers information about: dual enrollment, college in the high school, internships, cooperative work experience, JROTC, early college admission, etc.

[Mechanicsburg Area School District Graduation Requirements](#)

Additional Resources for SAT/ACT Prep

[Tutor.com](#) offers no-cost online one-to-one tutoring and homework help 24/7 for U.S. military & their families. SAT/ACT prep is included.

[Khan Academy](#) covers a wide variety of topics from pre-K to college.

[e-Knowledge SAT/ACT Prep Programs](#)

Post-Secondary Preparations

There are numerous pathways following graduation from high school. See the Post-Secondary Preparations Section in the [SL Resource Tool](#) for numerous resources to help your child determine their future career, schools and accreditation, college application process, internships, funding, and more.

STATE TESTING

The annual Pennsylvania System School Assessment (PSSA) is a standards-based, criterion-referenced assessment which provides students, parents, educators and citizens with an understanding of student and school performance related to the attainment of proficiency of the academic standards. These standards in English Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science and Technology identify what a student should know and be able to do at varying grade levels. School districts possess the freedom to design curriculum and instruction to ensure that students meet or exceed the standards' expectations.

Every student in grades 3 through 8 is assessed in English Language Arts and Math. Every student in grades 4 and 8 is assessed in science.

Keystone Exams

The Keystone exams meet the federal accountability criteria of ESSA for the high school level. Students must take the Keystone Exams for purposes of federal accountability. Failure to do so will affect a Local Education Agency (LEA) and school's participation rate.

The Keystone exams were created to replace the Grade 11 PSSA and serve as one component of Pennsylvania's statewide high school graduation requirement. Keystone Exams will help school districts guide students toward meeting state standards. The exams are end-of-course assessments designed to assess proficiency in the subject areas of Algebra I, Literature, and Biology.

K-12 SPECIAL NEEDS

If your child has special needs, an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or 504 is needed for special education services. **Contact the School Liaison prior to arrival.** Guidance for transfer of records and connection with proper school personnel can be facilitated to make the transition as smooth as possible.

If you are concerned about your birth to age 5 child's development please seek assistance through [Pennsylvania's Early Intervention Services](#). Pennsylvania's Early Intervention program provides coaching support and services to families with children, from birth to age five, with developmental delays and disabilities. Services are provided at no cost to families. Call 800-692-7288 or email help@connectpa.net.

Explore this [Developmental Checklist](#) or speak with your child's pediatrician.
[Early Intervention Services FAQ's](#)

Under Federal Law, local school departments provide Special Education services and programming for students with disabilities between the ages of 3 and 22. Contact your local school district's Special Education office (or Pupil Personnel Service/Office of Student Services) for specific details.

[Pennsylvania Department of Education Special Education](#)

[Exceptional Family Member Program](#)

Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP) identifies long-term medical and educational issues including physical and emotional and/or special education needs of military family members. EFMP Liaisons provide information and referral to help EFM families identify and access appropriate military, national and community resources. They assist in the navigation of EFMP related programs and systems and are responsible for:

- Provision of information, referral and systems navigation to special needs families
- Linking families with available military, national and local community resources
- Non-medical case management
- Development and maintenance of Individualized Service Plans (ISP)
- Partner with Military Treatment Facility (MTF) Coordinators to provide information, education and marketing

EFMP enrollment is mandatory to enable manpower to consider a family member's special needs requirements during the assignment process and to pinpoint the assignment to a location with the necessary resources to address those special needs.

Navy EFMP Case Liaison (PA, NJ, and NY)
claire.m.hodges.naf@us.navy.mil
518-886-0200 Ext. 149

Army EFMP at Carlisle Barracks
<https://carlisle.armymwr.com/programs/acs/efmp>
717-245-4720/4357

Marine Corps- Eastern Recruiting Region
Not a part of ERR? They can connect you with your EFMP.

<https://southcarolina.usmc-mccs.org/marine-family-support/military-family-life/exceptional-family-member-program>
843-228-3367

Air Force EFMP Family Support Coordinator at Joint Base McGuire, Dix, Lakehurst
<https://mcguiredixlakehurst.tricare.mil/Patient-Resources/Exceptional-Family-Member-Program-EFMP>
609-754-3154

IMPORTANT: If enrolling in EFMP, please note that not all schools or doctor's offices are familiar with the enrollment forms. Contact your EFMP coordinator or SL for explanatory forms for the personnel completing the documentation.

Department of Defense Form 2792-1: EFMP Enrollment- Early Intervention/Special Education Summary This form, required if dependent children ages 3-18 (23 if enrolled in full time school) years of age has an active IEP/ISFP, is used to document the special education needs of a child with a disability, birth through age 21, and for enrollment in the Exceptional Family Member Program. This information will assist military assignment personnel in matching the child's special education needs against the availability of educational services at the projected duty station.

Department of Defense Form 2792: EFMP Enrollment- Family Member Medical Summary This form is used to document a family member's special medical needs and for enrollment in the Exceptional Family Member Program. This information assists military assignment personnel in matching the family member's special medical needs against the availability of medical services at the projected duty station.

Check out the [Navy's Exceptional Family Member Program app](#).

NEW This can help to provide continuity of care...[TRICARE Telemedicine Speech, Occupational, and Physical Therapies](#)
Occupational Therapy and Physical Therapy can be provided via telemedicine (virtual) for continuity of care. Speech Therapy is approved via telemedicine for new and continuity of care. The care must meet TRICARE telemedicine requirements.

Virtual Speech Therapy: Expressable: Humana Military Beneficiaries, partner with an experienced speech therapist for 1-on-1 online sessions from home – with weekly practice activities and support to reach your goals faster.

Special Ed Connection



This free web-based resource provides resources and tools that enable families to better understand special education requirements and available services. Contact the School Liaison for login access.

Military OneSource Special Needs assists with special education, financial planning, childcare, and more. Also see [EFMP and Me](#).

Specialized Training for Military Parents (STOMP)

Center for Parent Information and Resources (CPIR). CPIR serves as a central resource of information and products to the community of Parent Training Information (PTI) Centers and Community Parent Resource Centers, so they can focus their efforts on serving Families of children with disabilities.

Navy EFMP Special Education Case Liaison (Navy Families)

The Navy EFMP Special Education Case Liaison pilot program which started in 2021 is now fully operational. The Navy EFMP Special Education Case Liaison:

- Can review IEP's and 504's
- Can attend IEP meetings virtually to assist in facilitation
- Empowers and educates parents to advocate
- Offers trainings for families and schools/districts

How to access this support: If needed, a referral will come either through the School Liaison or the EFMP Case Liaison if elevated support is needed due to the caseload of support being provided. See below for similar support.

Navy EFMP Family Support Case Liaison for PA: 518-886-0200 (ext. 149)

Partners in Promise 1:1 Special Education Parent Mentorship Program (Active duty families (from any branch) with a special needs child, can take veteran families on a space available basis)

Two-hour 1:1 Special Education Parent Mentorship Program

Specially trained mentors in special education law and the process are available to meet with families. Together, they can identify positive steps to get families moving toward a desired or helpful solution.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

For local Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) or Partnerships in Education (PIE) information or requests, contact the local School Liaison or visit <https://www.onr.navy.mil/en/work-with-us>.

[Navy Relocation Assistance](#)

[My Navy Portal \(PCS Support\)](#)

[School Quest](#) serves as a virtual hub where middle and high school parents and students can find helpful information, tools, and resources centralized on a single platform to prepare military-connected children for the frequent school moves and other unique stressors of a military lifestyle.

[DoD School Liaisons](#) Reach out to the School Liaison at your next installation for K-12 support. If you are not moving to an installation/area with a School Liaison, reach out to a School Liaison in the state.

[Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission \(MIC3\)](#) addresses education transition issues such as enrollment, placement & attendance, eligibility (student enrollment and extracurricular participation), and graduation.

[Anchored for Life \(A4L\) for Youth](#): The club provides opportunities for peers to enhance social skills, learn leadership skills, build character, improve self-esteem, and integrate into their community. Youth will learn these change and resiliency skills using the Club features. Check out the "View Locations PDF" to see locations. At this time, there are not locations in the Mechanicsburg area, in this instance, the site also offers an E-Learning Series.

[Boys and Girls Clubs of America](#)

[Thrive](#) focuses on evidence-informed practices and strategies that help to nurture the parent-child relationship and foster positive child development outcomes.

[Tutor.com](#) offers no-cost online one-to-one tutoring and homework help 24/7 for U.S. military & their families. SAT/ACT prep is included.

[DoD MWR Digital Libraries: Children's Corner](#) boasts numerous digital library resources for children ages 3 to teen.

[Khan Academy](#) covers a wide variety of topics from pre-K to college.

[Military One Source](#) Visit the site or call 800-342-9647.

[The Military Child Education Coalition \(MCEC\)](#) offers programs, initiatives and resources to both military families and educators.

[National Military Family Association](#) advocates for military families and directly supports military families through Operation Purple® Camps and military spouse scholarships.

Military and Family Life Counselor Lookup Tool Type in the state then select the installation. The listing will include MFLC's in the CDC's as well as the names of the schools for School Child and Youth Behavioral MFLC's along with their phone numbers. Utilize this resource to help your child transition.

Childcare: For childcare resources, see the Childcare, Pre-K, and Youth Program section of the SL Resource Tool. Of note, there is a new program which can offer travel reimbursement for a care-taker to provide childcare if the installation CDC is full. See the Padlet for details.

WEBSITE LISTING

If you are unable to click on links throughout the document, copy and paste them from this section.

General Resources

Resource	Website
Boys and Girls Club of America Mission Youth Outreach Program	https://www.bgca.org/about-us/military/
Bullying Is A Pain In The Brain	https://www.militaryonesource.mil/products/bullying-is-a-pain-in-the-brain-1/
Developmental Checklist	https://papromiseforchildren.com/developmental-milestones-checklist/
DoD MWR Digital Libraries Children's Corner	https://www.dodmwrlibraries.org/childrens-corner
EFMP and Me	https://efmpandme.militaryonesource.mil/
e-Knowledge SAT/ACT Prep	https://eknowledge.com/NewLookAff/Home.php?coupon=3A8E9CEFCE
Every Student Succeeds Act	https://www.ed.gov/essa?src=rn
Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP)	https://installations.militaryonesource.mil/military-installation/naval-weapons-station-earle/exceptional-family-member-program/exceptional-family-member-program
Federal Student Aid	https://studentaid.gov/
FOCUS World	https://focusproject.org/focus-world
Go Read	https://www.militaryonesource.mil/products/go-read-784/
Great Schools	https://www.greatschools.org/
Homes.mil	https://www.homes.mil/homes/DispatchServlet/HomesEntry
Homeschooling: Home School Central	https://homeschoolcentral.com/
Homeschooling: Homeschool Legal Defense Association	https://hsllda.org/
Installation Finder	https://installations.militaryonesource.mil/view-all
Khan Academy	https://www.khanacademy.org/
Military and Family Life Counselor Lookup Tool	https://www.militaryonesource.mil/resources/tools/mflc-locator/#categoryPage
Military Child Education Coalition	https://www.militarychild.org/about/mission-vision
Military Child Education Coalition (MCEC)	https://www.militarychild.org/
Military Housing Office on NSA Mechanicsburg	https://www.navylifema.com/programs/50de9737-6ec6-47e8-95d7-dd9f1536ed59
Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission (MIC3)	https://mic3.net/
Military One Source Neighborhood Navigator	https://navigator.attomdata.com/1114-593ab68e03e/
Military One Source Special Needs	https://www.militaryonesource.mil/special-needs/
Military OneSource	http://www.militaryonesource.mil/for-children-and-youth
Military Student Identifier	https://www.militarychild.org/upload/files/resources/FAQs_on_MSI.pdf
My Navy Portal (PCS Support)	https://my.navy.mil/
National Center for Education Statistics Private School Search	https://nces.ed.gov/surveys/pss/privateschoolsearch/
National Military Family Association	https://www.militaryfamily.org/
Navy Exceptional Family Member Program App	https://www.applocker.navy.mil/#!/apps/17B6E14B-2502-438C-880B-4D98B4512038
Navy MWR Philadelphia	https://www.navymwrphiladelphia.com/programs/2c0494d7-edfc-46a3-ba06-ff4864e3afab
Public School Review	https://www.publicschoolreview.com/
Reach Out and Read	https://reachoutandread.org/
Relocation Assistance Programs	https://installations.militaryonesource.mil/search?program-service=9/view-by=ALL
Roger That! Communication Counts Online Training	https://www.redcross.org/get-help/military-families/deployment-services/register-reconnection-workshops.html
School Choice: K - 12 Quiz	https://www.niche.com/about/k12-quiz/

School Digger	https://www.schooldigger.com/
School Liaison Locator	https://installations.militaryonesource.mil/search?program-service=12/view-by=ALL
School Liaison Resource Tool	https://padlet.com/lisaalyford/school-liaison-nsa-mechanicsburg-and-nsa-philadelphia-v7ly974he8vhv38/wish/2867211775
School Quest	https://schoolquest.militarychild.org/
Sesame Street Reach Out and Read	https://sesamestreetformilitaryfamilies.org/
Special Ed Connection (ask the SL for the access code)	https://www.specialedconnection.com/
Specialized Training for Military Parents (STOMP)	https://wapave.org/tag/military-families/
Starfall	https://www.starfall.com/h/
The Nation's Report Card	https://www.nationsreportcard.gov/
Thrive	https://thrive.psu.edu/
Tutor.com	https://www.tutor.com/military
United Through Reading	https://unitedthroughreading.org/
Youth Sponsorship Application	https://padlet.com/lisaalyford/school-liaison-nsa-mechanicsburg-and-nsa-philadelphia-v7ly974he8vhv38/wish/2867211775

Pennsylvania-Specific and Local Information

Resource	Website
Carlisle Barracks Child and Youth Services and Events	https://carlisle.armymwr.com/categories/cys-services
Curriculum: PA	https://www.education.pa.gov/Teachers%20-%20Administrators/Curriculum/Pages/default.aspx
Department of Education: PA	https://www.education.pa.gov/Pages/default.aspx
Early Intervention Services	https://www.dhs.pa.gov/Services/Children/Pages/Early-Intervention-Services.aspx
Early Intervention FAQ's	https://pafamiliesinc.org/understanding-systems/early-intervention/early-intervention-in-pennsylvania-faq
Graduation Requirements: CVSD	https://hs.cvschools.org/program_of_studies
Graduation Requirements: MASD	https://highschool.mbgdsd.org/apps/pages/index.jsp?uREC_ID=839081&type=d&pREC_ID=2280263
Graduation Trail (A Student's Journey)	https://files5.pdesas.org/075037066081222003163006029253058109070197043219/Download.ashx?hash=2.2
High School Graduation Requirements	https://pdesas.org/Page/Viewer/ViewPage/56?SectionPageItemId=12190
Homeschooling	https://www.education.pa.gov/K-12/Home%20Education%20and%20Private%20Tutoring/Pages/default.aspx
Homeschooling: MASD	https://www.mbgdsd.org/apps/pages/Homeschooling
Homeschooling: PA Department of Education	https://www.education.pa.gov/K-12/Home%20Education%20and%20Private%20Tutoring/Pages/default.aspx
Homeschooling: PA Support	https://homeschoolpennsylvania.org/
Immunizations	https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/programs/immunizations/Pages/School.aspx
JROTC: CVSD	https://www.cvschools.org/academics/j_r_o_t_c
K-12 Laws and Regulations	https://pdesas.org/Page/Viewer/ViewPage/56?SectionPageItemId=12190
Keystone Exams	https://www.education.pa.gov/K-12/Assessment%20and%20Accountability/Keystones/Pages/default.aspx
Kindergarten Admission	https://www.education.pa.gov/Policy-Funding/BECS/Purdons/Pages/AdmissionKindergartenBeginners.aspx
Kindergarten Curriculum: CVSD	https://www.cvschools.org/academics/curriculum_and_instruction___elementary_/kindergarten
Kindergarten Here I Come	https://papromiseforchildren.com/kindergarten-here-i-come/
Kindergarten Readiness	https://papromiseforchildren.com/help-them-learn/prepare-for-kindergarten/
Kindergarten Registration: CVSD	https://www.cvschools.org/about_us/central_registration
Kindergarten Registration: MASD	https://www.mbgdsd.org/apps/pages/Online_Registration
Kindergarten Schedules: CVSD	https://www.cvschools.org/support_operations/transportation/kindergarten_students/kindergarten_schedules
Kindergarten Transportation	https://www.cvschools.org/support_operations/transportation/kindergarten_students

Kindergarten Transportation: MASD	https://www.mbgdsd.org/apps/pages/Transportation
Kindergarten: YMCA Half Day	https://ymcaharrisburg.org/childcare/half-day-kindergarten/
Military and Family Life Counselor (MFLC): About	https://www.militaryonesource.mil/resources/tools/mflc-locator/#categoryPage
Military And Family Life Counselor Parent Authorization Form	https://s3.amazonaws.com/elib-prod/files/pubs/MFLC%20Parent%20Acknowledgement%20Form.pdf
Military Child Advance Enrollment: PA	https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/li/uconsCheck.cfm?yr=2023&sessInd=0&act=24
Military Child Advance Enrollment: PA Department of Education Enrollment Policy	https://www.education.pa.gov/Policy-Funding/BECS/Purdons/Pages/EnrollmentStudents.aspx
Nonpublic/Private Schools	https://www.education.pa.gov/K-12/Private%20Schools/Pages/default.aspx
PA Arts Dashboard	https://www.education.pa.gov/Teachers%20-%20Administrators/Curriculum/ArtsHumanities/Pages/default.aspx
PA Department of Education Special Education	https://www.education.pa.gov/K-12/Special%20Education/Pages/default.aspx
PA Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credit Program	https://www.education.pa.gov/K-12/Opportunity%20Scholarship%20Tax%20Credit%20Program/Pages/default.aspx
PA Report Card	https://futurereadypa.org/
Pennsylvania Pathways to Graduation & Other Diploma Options Infographic	https://files5.pdesas.org/057062151213056128110021171103179097224151133154/DDownload.ashx?hash=2.2
Required Physical Exams	https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/school/Pages/Physical-Exams.aspx#:~:text=For%20Students,start%20of%20the%20school%20year
School Assessment	https://www.education.pa.gov/K-12/Assessment%20and%20Accountability/PSSA/Pages/default.aspx
School Choice: PA	https://www.edchoice.org/school-choice/state/pennsylvania/
School District Map: PA	https://www.google.com/maps/d/viewer?mid=1yOH0r4snzYbpqCDlpRwp7ZDkcIP67hFX&ll=40.981382119365215%2c-77.64700604999996&z=8
Sports Physicals	https://www.education.pa.gov/Policy-Funding/BECS/Purdons/Pages/HealthRecordSports.aspx
State Standards: PA	https://www.pdesas.org/Standard/View

For additional information contact the School Liaison at lisa.a.lyford.naf@us.navy.mil or call 717-713-6607.

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