

# FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



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## MEMORANDUM

**To:** District School Superintendents

**From:** Jim Warford

**Date:** October 23, 2003

**Subject:** **MILITARY EDUCATION**

The 2003 Legislature created a new section in the Florida Statutes that requires the Department of Education to assist in the transition of school-age dependents of military personnel by improving the timely transfer of student records, establishing procedures to lessen the adverse impact of moves from the end of the junior and senior year, and encouraging or enhancing partnerships between military bases and the school system. The legislation also requires the Department to identify efforts and strategies for assisting military-connected students in transitioning to the Florida school system and report the findings to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by October 1, 2003.

Many school districts have developed collaborative partnerships with the military bases located within or near the district to assist with the transition of K12 military students into their schools. Department staff reviewed national research to assist in identifying promising practices to provide a framework for local consideration and to enhance collaborative efforts to build and maintain partnerships between the school district and military base(s) located in or near the district. The survey questions developed for the Florida survey were based on the principles and best practices identified by the Military Child Education Coalition.

**JIM WARFORD**  
*K-12 Chancellor*

Forty-one of Florida's 67 counties, or 61.2 percent, responded to the survey and reported the following:

- 87.5% of the school districts with military installations and 90% of the contiguous districts provide names and contact information of primary and alternate school personnel for additional information pertaining to the transfer of records.
- 75% of the school districts with military installations and 40% of the contiguous districts monitor the support systems and practices that increase the likelihood that a quick assimilation will be made.
- 87.5% of the school districts with military installations include or plan to include senior level military representation from the supported military installation as an ex-officio member or an advisor to the district school board.
- 75% of the school districts with military installations collaborate or plan to collaborate with the military installation to provide a community orientation program for military families.
- 100% of the school districts with military installations and the contiguous districts publicize scholarships and grants available to all students and those uniquely designed for military-connected students.
- 100% of the school districts with military installations and 40% of the contiguous districts have developed or plan to develop and support joint professional development between the school district and military installation regarding strategies and resources to more effectively meet the needs of military-connected students.

The attached report provides an overview of the efforts and strategies for assisting school-age dependents of military personnel in transitioning into the Florida public school system. Additionally, the report highlights best practices and provides specific follow-up activities to be conducted by the Florida Department of Education on behalf of these students and their families.

If you have questions or need additional information regarding the Department's efforts to serve these students, please contact Mary Jo Butler, via email at [maryjo.butler@fldoe.org](mailto:maryjo.butler@fldoe.org) or by telephone at (850) 245-0479.

JW/mjbfo

Attachment

cc: Student Services Directors  
Guidance Supervisors