

# REPORT OF MILITARY-CONNECTED STUDENTS IN SC (PER ACT 289)

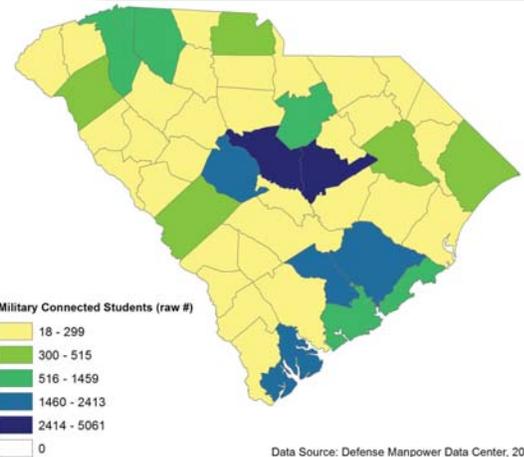
## Information for Parents and Families



Data about military-connected children are insufficient at the national and state level.

Federal-connected students are children “residing on Indian lands, military bases, low-rent housing properties, or other Federal properties and, to a lesser extent, concentrations of children who have parents in the uniformed services or employed on eligible Federal properties who do not live on Federal property.” Children who have at least one parent or guardian who is military connected represent a group within the broader category of federal-connected children.

The estimated number of school-age students in South Carolina with a parent in the military varies, with the highest recent count being 23,710 in 2012. However, school districts reported 7,853 in 2014.



School districts are eligible for additional Federal funding based on the number of Federally connected students (including military connected students) they educate, although the number of military-connected children is under-reported by S.C. school districts. In order to qualify for Federal Impact Aid monies, school districts must have at least 400 Federally-connected children, or such children must represent at least three percent of the district’s average daily attendance. By analyzing and reporting the number of military connected students, school districts can better understand their student population and develop services (such as counseling and support groups) that will address unique needs of military connected students. During FY 2012-13, twelve S.C. school districts received more than \$2.3 million in Federal Impact Aid dollars.



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Although absentee rates on average are higher, military connected students achieve **higher** levels on state assessments than their non-military peers. For the SC Palmetto Assessment of State Standards (PASS), given in grades 3-8, military connected students consistently have a higher percentage of students that score *Met* or *Exemplary*, in all grade levels and for all subjects. For Mathematics and Reading & Research the difference is typically near 15 percent, and for Science the difference is typically near 17 percent. On the end-of-course assessments, the average score for military connected students was typically six points **higher** than the average score for all South Carolina students, regardless of subject area or grade level.

**Percent Met or Exemplary on SC PASS 2014 Reading and Research and Math -- Military-Connected Students in SC and All Students in SC (Grades 3-8)**

Mathematics			Reading & Research		
# of Military Connected Students Tested -- Grades 3-8	% of Military Connected Students Scoring <i>Met</i> or <i>Exemplary</i>	% of ALL SC Students Scoring <i>Met</i> or <i>Exemplary</i>	# of Military Connected Students Tested -- Grades 3-8	% of Military Connected Students Scoring <i>Met</i> or <i>Exemplary</i>	% of ALL SC Students Scoring <i>Met</i> or <i>Exemplary</i>
<b>3,083</b>	<b>82.3%</b>	<b>66.7%</b>	<b>3,081</b>	<b>86.4%</b>	<b>71.1%</b>

This summary publication is based on a report of Military-Connected Kids in South Carolina, published by the SC Education Oversight Committee in March 2015. The report, available online at [www.eoc.sc.gov](http://www.eoc.sc.gov), is required by Act 289, passed by the SC General Assembly in 2014.



*Nationally, there are about 1.1 million school-age students with a parent in the military.*

## Resources for Parents and Families

To view each of these online resources, go to the EOC website at <http://www.eoc.sc.gov/reportsandpublications/Pages/SCMilitary.aspx>

**School Liaison Officers** serve as a primary point of contact for students and their families transitioning to new communities and schools. Users can view a list of school liaison officers by branch.

**Fort Jackson MWR School Liaisons** provide ongoing educational support for military connected schools. Their comprehensive website provides information about public and private schools, home-schooling, and local school districts.

**Military Impacted School Association (MISA)** is a national organization that supports school districts with a high concentration of military children by providing detailed, comprehensive information regarding impact aid and resources for families and schools.

**The Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission (MIC3)** provides consistent policy in every school district and in every state that voluntarily joins MIC3. MIC3 addresses key educational transition issues such as enrollment, placement, attendance, eligibility and graduation.

**South Carolina Operation: Military Kids (OMK)** is part of the National OMK initiative designated to provide support to the children and youth of families that are impacted by global contingency operations. This includes those served by Army installations, Air Force, Navy and Marine bases, and those families, children and youth who are geographically dispersed.

**The Military Child Education Coalition (MCEC)** focuses on ensuring quality educational opportunities for all military children affected by mobility, family separation, and transition. A world-wide organization, the MCEC performs research, develops resources, conducts professional institutes and conferences, and develops and publishes resources for all constituencies.

**Military OneSource** is a confidential Department of Defense-funded program providing comprehensive information on every aspect of military life at no cost to active duty, National Guard, and reserve members, and their families. Information includes, but is not limited to, deployment, reunion, relationships, grief, spouse employment and education, parenting and childhood services. It is a virtual extension to installation services. The program also provides free resources to schools, including books and videos with relevant topics that help students cope with divorce and deployment.

## South Carolina Programs

**The International Baccalaureate Program** helps students develop skills to create a better and peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect. For more information, including a list of South Carolina schools participating in the IB Program, go to <http://ed.sc.gov/agency/programs-services/127/>.

**Full and half-day four-year-old kindergarten** is available in the state and is offered in public schools and private child care centers. State-funded prekindergarten for four-year-olds serves children in the "most at-risk" category, where family income falls 185% below poverty level or the family is Medicaid-eligible. Families may also be eligible for other services such as Even Start, Head Start, state-funded family literacy programs, Social Security, food stamps, Medicaid or temporary assistance to needy families (TANF). Children also qualify in case of a documented developmental delay, an Individual Education Plan (IEP) requiring pre-kindergarten, incarceration of a parent, placement in a foster home, or a child who is homeless. Documentation of family or child "most at-risk" conditions must be kept on file for review. Children who participate in free and reduced meal programs at the center/school they attend may also qualify, if income eligibility is verified on each child and records are kept on file for review.