

How to make your next PCS a Positive Change of Schools for your child!

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The mission of the School Liaison Program is to identify and coordinate community resources to reduce the impact of the mobile military lifestyle on military school-aged children and families; to implement predictable support services that assist children/youth with relocations, life transitions and achieving academic success; and to provide a wide range of resources to facilitate school transitions to parents, students, schools, commanders, and communities.

Top 10 Tips for Transitions

1. Start talking about the upcoming move with your child as soon as you receive your orders. Talk about the positive aspects of moving and experiencing new areas.
2. Help your child to explore the local area before the move using technology. All schools and districts now maintain websites, and many heavily impacted school districts have pages dedicated to military families.
3. If your orders require that your family relocate before the end of the current school year, make sure to notify your child's current school as soon as possible.
4. Make copies of your child's current textbook cover, table of contents and the course syllabi to bring to your new school.
5. Contact your child's current school to arrange for unofficial copies of the all necessary school records that you can hand-carry with you during the move and provide to the receiving school upon arrival.
6. Bring samples of current school work your child has produced.
7. If you will be arriving after tryouts have occurred for a favorite extra-curricular activity, create a short video introducing your child and highlighting his or her skills in action; it might help reserve a spot on the team.
8. Find out if the new school requires testing and/or prerequisites in order to place students at the appropriate level for their skills. It might be possible to arrange for those tests before you arrive, so you are good to go when you register your child.
9. Be sure to pay any outstanding fees at your current school, return library books and any other items belonging to the school. If those items are not cleared, there could be delays with transcripts.
10. Last but not least, make sure to contact your School Liaison right when you get orders. School Liaisons are subject matter experts on K-12 education and local school communities, and can help ease the transition for everyone involved.