



MARINE CORPS INSTALLATIONS WEST FACT SHEET

REMOTE ENROLLMENT AND REGISTRATION FOR MILITARY CHILDREN

Problem

Prior to 2016, military families transferring on official military Permanent Change of Station (PCS) orders to California and Arizona were not eligible to register in courses, enroll in specialized academic programs, or submit their children's names for consideration in random lotteries for charter or magnet school entry until they are physically located within district boundaries.

Solution

The Arizona and California legislatures have now passed legislation with respective Governor approval allowing for remote enrollment of military students.

- Arizona's policy which amended section 15-823.01 Title 15, chapter 8, article 2 of the Arizona Revised Statutes was approved and is effective 24 March 2017.
- California's revised policy amended section 48204.3 of California Education Code. It was approved on 11 September 2017. A previous effort in California yielded a policy that applied to only districts containing a military installation within its boundaries, thus affected only about one-third of the military children in the state. Effective 1 January 2018, all districts within the state will be required to accept remote enrollment of military children with a copy of orders sending them to an installation in the state.

Key Points

- Military service members are routinely reassigned to new duty stations on a three to four-year rotation, most often in the summer, due to mission and training requirements.
- When children of military families move as a result of their parents' service, they are often disadvantaged due to missed deadlines for course and program enrollment and/or registration, which commonly occur in the spring.
- Being precluded from timely registration results in missed course and program registration deadlines, shifting military children off of their planned courses of study, requiring them to take courses in summer school or even forcing them to graduate later than their peers.
- Families moving during this timeframe typically receive military orders, detailing their next destination and timeframe for arrival, in early to mid-spring.
- When military students know which school they will be attending and their class schedules in advance of arriving to school, they and their families are provided with a sense of comfort, relieving unneeded stress during their transition.
- Remote enrollment provides added benefit to school districts by reducing the need for districts to make projections regarding their student population.
- Specific guidelines not prescribed within the language of the policies are left up to districts for implementation.
- It would be maximally beneficial if all states considered implementation of similar provisions to level the educational playing field for military students.