

Choosing the right school for your military child involves several considerations. Here are some key factors to keep in mind:

- ✓ **Zoning/Location:** Before you settle on a house, make sure it's zoned for the schools and system that you prefer. Use district school locator links to identify boundary schools. Identify and research Purple Star designated schools as they are committed to addressing the educational and social-emotional challenges faced by military connected students during transitions.
- ✓ **Academic Programs:** Look for schools that offer unique learning opportunities such as STEM programs, dual enrollment, honors courses, academically gifted programs, and college counseling. Consider your child's long-term education and career aspirations when evaluating curriculums. Consider the total package: programs, opportunities, test scores and options.
- ✓ **Familiarize Yourself with The School Curriculum:** Each curriculum has its own focus, style, and methodology, so becoming familiar with the curriculum that your child has been involved with can prove helpful in making school choices.
- ✓ **Extracurriculars:** Explore sports, clubs, welcome practices for new students, and other activities offered by the school. These programs contribute to personal growth and friendships. Ask about non-traditional credit options and general course information.
- ✓ **Values:** Review the school's core values to ensure they align with your ideals and the principles you want your child to learn.
- ✓ **Get To Know Your Local School Board:** Follow local school board members in the region where you are moving. Use local newspapers and district websites to become aware of their objectives, student outcomes, and performance goals prior to your arrival. Know when they hold public meetings.
- ✓ **Homeschooling Options:** Inquire about homeschool options and state mandate guidelines in your area.
- ✓ **Families with Special Needs Children:** If you have a child with an active Individualized Education Program (IEP), consider communicating with the district's Special Education Director to identify where services that your child may use are provided. Stay in touch with your EFMP case manager.
- ✓ **Get Familiar with The Interstate Compact:** The Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children addresses key educational transition issues encountered by military families including enrollment, placement, attendance, eligibility, and graduation. While the compact "levels the playing field" for students, it's not intended to impact curriculum or local standards of education.
- ✓ **Know your Child's Interests:** If you have a list of your child's extracurricular activities, you can help make connections and determine how your child can get involved at their new school.
- ✓ **Connect with School Liaisons:** School Liaisons are a great way to ease your families transitions to a new school as they are subject matters experts in their respective AOR's.