

CHILDREN OF MILITARY FAMILIES

Policy: 4050

The Guilford County Board of Education (the “Board”) recognizes the unique circumstances faced by children of military families who are often required to transfer to a new school system because their parents or guardians have a new military assignment. The Board also recognizes that children whose immediate family members are deployed by the military may be at increased risk of emotional, psychological, or other harm. The Board is committed to supporting these children in the school system and undertaking to serve their unique needs.

A. Identification of Military-Connected Students

Each principal shall annually identify all military-connected students enrolled in the school and shall develop a means for serving their unique needs. For purposes of this section, a military-connected student is defined as a student who has a parent, step-parent, sibling, or any other person who resides in the same household serving in the active or reserve components of the [United States uniformed services Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, or National Guard](#).

The identification of military-connected students is not a public record subject to public records law.

B. Providing Educational Opportunity for Children of Military Families

The Board strives to promote flexibility and cooperation among the school system, parents and guardians, and children of military families, to promote the children’s well-being, and to assist these children in achieving educational success when transitioning to their new schools. To achieve these goals, the Board has adopted policies consistent with the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children (hereinafter “Compact”) and [G.S. 115C-407.12](#) to facilitate the enrollment of children of military families and to provide continuity in their educational services, including in the areas of education records, immunizations, age requirements for initial entry, course and education program placement, special education services, and extracurricular activities. The Superintendent shall adopt procedures necessary to implement the policies and to otherwise comply with the Compact and [G.S. 115C-407.12](#) and to educate employees about the unique needs of children of military families.

1. Enrollment support

A student who is not domiciled in the school system attendance area is permitted to enroll by remote means, including electronic means, prior to commencement of the student’s residency in the school system attendance area if all of the following apply.

- a. The student’s parent or legal guardian (a) is on active military duty and is transferred or pending transfer pursuant to an official military order to a military installation or reservation in North Carolina or (b) will be separating from active military duty within a 12-month period.

- b. Upon request by the school system, the parent or legal guardian provides a copy of (a) the official military order transferring to the military installation or reservation, (b) the official separation orders, or (c) an official military document showing the anticipated date of separation or date of projected permanent change of station.
- c. The parent or legal guardian completes and submits the school system's enrollment forms and documentation, other than proof of residency and documentation related to disciplinary actions required under policy 4115, Behavior Standards for Transfer Students.
- d. The parent or legal guardian submits to the school system the proof of residency and documentation related to the disciplinary actions upon the student commencing attendance. If the proof of residency has not yet become available because the parent or legal guardian and student are residing in temporary housing, the student will be permitted to enroll and begin attending school based on the anticipated domicile: (a) for a period up to one year the parent or legal guardian's reporting-for-duty date, separation date from active military duty, or anticipated separation date from active military duty, (b) through the end of the school year; or (c) through high school graduation for a student who is enrolling as a high school junior or senior.

The school system will make available to a student who registers to enroll pursuant to this section the same opportunities available to a domiciled student, such as requesting or applying for school assignment, registering for courses, and applying for any other programs that require additional request or application.

2. Resolution of Issues

The grievance procedure provided in policy 1740/4010, Student and Parent Grievance, may be used by parents or guardians who disagree with a decision pertaining to education records, enrollment or eligibility for enrollment, placement, attendance, extracurricular activities, or graduation of a child of a military family, or a rule, as defined in this policy.

In addition, parents or guardians may seek informal resolution of such decisions at any time by contacting the office of the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) Military Liaison or the North Carolina Commissioner of the North Carolina State Council for the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children.

13. Definitions

The following definitions apply to all policies and procedures adopted in compliance with the Compact and [G.S. 115C-407.12](#).

~~a.~~ a. Active Duty: Active duty is full-time duty status in the active uniformed service of the United States, including members of the National Guard and Reserve on active duty orders pursuant to [10 U.S.C. 12301](#) *et seq.* and [10 U.S.C. 12401](#) *et seq.*

~~b.~~

a. Children of Military Families: ~~Children of military families are s~~School-aged children, enrolled in kindergarten through twelfth grade, in the household of one of the following:

- 1) a member of the uniformed services on active duty;
- 2) a member or veteran of the uniformed services who is severely injured and is medically discharged or retired, for a period of one year after medical discharge or retirement;
- 3) a member of the uniformed services who died on active duty or as a result of injuries sustained on active duty, for a period of one year after death; and
- 4) an inactive member, **but only if** (1) the inactive member is required to move to perform military service-related responsibilities, (2) the move results in a transfer of school systems for the child, and (3) the inactive member presents a copy of the official military transfer order to the school from which services for the child are requested. If the move results in an interstate transfer of the child between the school system and another school system in a different state, the superintendent shall direct school officials to attempt to coordinate with the out-of-state school system on behalf of the child but cannot require the receiving school system to provide specific services.

~~e.b.e.~~ e. Deployment: ~~Deployment is t~~The period one month prior to the service members' departure from their home station on military orders through six months after their return to their home station.

~~d.~~ Education Records: Those official records, files and data directly related to a student and maintained by the school or school system, including but not limited to records encompassing all the material kept in the student's cumulative folder, such as general identifying data, records of attendance and of academic work completed, records of achievement and results of evaluative tests, health data, disciplinary status, test protocols, and individualized education programs.

~~e.~~

~~f.~~ e. Extracurricular Activities: ~~Extracurricular activities are v~~Voluntary activities sponsored by the school or school system or an organization sanctioned by the school system. Extracurricular activities include, but are not limited to,

preparation for and involvement in public performances, contests, athletic competitions, demonstrations, displays, and club activities.

~~g.~~
c.

~~h.~~ ~~f.~~ Inactive Member: ~~An inactive member is a~~ member of the National Guard or Reserve of any branch of the uniformed services, who is inactive and not on active duty orders pursuant to [10 U.S.C. 12301](#) *et seq.* or [10 U.S.C. 12401](#) *et seq.*

d.

~~i.~~ ~~g.~~ Member State: ~~A member state is a~~ state that has enacted the Compact.

e.

~~j.~~ ~~h.~~ Non-Member State: ~~A non member state is a~~ state that has not enacted the Compact.

f.

~~k.~~ ~~i.~~ Receiving State: ~~The receiving state is t~~The state to which a child of a military family is sent, brought, or caused to be sent or brought.

g.

~~l.~~ ~~j.~~ Rule: ~~A rule is a~~ written statement by the Interstate Commission promulgated pursuant to Article XII of the Compact that is of general applicability, implements, interprets, or prescribes a policy or provision of the Compact, or an organizational, procedural, or practice requirement of the Interstate Commission, and has the force and effect of rules promulgated under the Administrative Procedures Act as found in [Chapter 150B of the North Carolina General Statutes](#), and includes the amendment, repeal, or suspension of an existing rule.

h.

~~m.~~ ~~k.~~ Sending State: ~~The sending state is t~~The state from which a child of a military family is sent, brought, or caused to be sent or brought.

i.

~~n.~~ ~~l.~~ Student: ~~The student is t~~The child of a military family for whom the school system receives public funding and who is formally enrolled in kindergarten through twelfth grade.

j.

~~o.~~ ~~m.~~ Transition: ~~The transition is~~ (1) ~~t~~The formal and physical process of transferring from school to school or (2) the period of time in which a student moves from one school in the sending state to another school in the receiving state.

k.

~~p.~~ ~~n.~~ Uniformed Services: ~~The uniformed services are t~~The Army, Navy, Air Force, Space Force, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard, as well as the Commissioned Corps of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the Public Health Services.

l.

~~q.~~ ~~o.~~ Veteran: ~~A veteran is a~~ person who served in the uniformed services and who was discharged or released therefrom under conditions other than dishonorable.

2. Resolution of Issues

~~The grievance procedure provided in policy 1740/4010, Student and Parent Grievance, may be utilized by parents or guardians who disagree with a decision pertaining to education records, enrollment or eligibility for enrollment, placement, attendance, extracurricular activities, or graduation of a child of a military family, or a rule, as defined in this policy. In addition, parents or guardians may seek informal resolution of such decisions at any time by contacting the office of the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) Military Liaison or the North Carolina Commissioner of the North Carolina State Council for the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children. Specific contact information may be found online at www.dpi.nc.gov/students-families/student-support/nc-supports-military-children or by calling NCDPI at (984) 236-2100.~~

Legal References: [G.S. 115C-12\(18\)\(f\)](#), [-288\(m\)](#), [-407.5](#), [-407.12](#)

Cross References: Student and Parent Grievance (policy 1740/4010), Student Promotion and Accountability (policy 3420), Graduation Requirements (policy 3460), Extracurricular Activities and Student Organizations (policy 3620), Age Requirements for Initial Entry (policy 4100), Immunization and Health Requirements for School Admission (policy 4110), ~~Domicile or Residence Requirements~~[School Admission](#) (policy 4120), ~~Assignment to Classes (policy 4155)~~, Attendance (policy 4400), Student Records (policy 4700)

Adopted: March 6, 2018

Revised: May 9, 2023; [\[date\]](#)