



STRATEGIES TO SUPPORT STUDENTS WITH A PARENT IN THE MILITARY

PRESENTED BY:

BRITTANY BOSTON, ILLINOIS CENTER FOR SPECIALIZED PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT



ILLINOIS CENTER FOR SPECIALIZED PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT



Illinois Center for Specialized Professional Support,
Illinois State University, College of Education

- creates, supports, and delivers professional development for career and technical education professionals across Illinois
- provides technical assistance, develops publications, and facilitates program improvement strategies for our partners
- strong focus on transition, recruitment, retention, and completion—encouraging achievement of special populations learners
- founded in 1977 at Illinois State University

AGENDA

Define

Challenges

Informing and Recruiting

Supports and Services

Discussion and Questions

Additional Resources

PERKINS V DEFINES MILITARY-CONNECTED STUDENTS AS YOUTH WITH A PARENT WHO –

-
- is a member of the armed forces (as defined in section 101(a)(4) of title 10, United States Code); and
 - is on active duty (as defined in section 101(d)(1) of the same title.)



POSSIBLE CHALLENGES

- high mobility rates
- separation from a parent or caregiver due to deployment
- academic and social challenges attributed to frequent school changes, deployment of a parent(s), return of a deployed parent, injury to or death of a parent, etc.
- difficulties qualifying for, receiving, or continuing special needs services due to differences in regulation interpretations, testing required to enroll in or receive special needs services, and resource availability in school districts
- understanding and interpreting new school regulations and policies
- risk for depression and anxiety due to relocation, deployment of a parent(s), etc.
- adjusting to curriculum and instructional methods or school climate/culture that may differ from school to school

INFORMING & RECRUITING

- Strengthen partnerships and collaboration with local area high schools and community colleges
 - Collaborate on “CTE Exploration Days”
- Academic and guidance counselors can promote the benefits of CTE programs
- Students can be informed of support services available on campus prior to enrollment



INFORMING & RECRUITING

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- Offer assistance with admission, registration, and financial aid for students who may have increased difficulty navigating the enrollment process
 - Ensure financial aid officers are informed on scholarship opportunities and financial assistance available to military connected youth
 - Review enrollment policies for students who enroll mid-year

SUPPORTS & SERVICES



- Create a support group for military connected students
- Reach out to administrators in neighboring districts to create a network and develop a support group that can communicate over email, engage in joint projects, start a club, or help educate other students
- Encourage students to become involved in extracurriculars and locally to strengthen a sense of community

SUPPORTS & SERVICES

- Academic and financial aid advisors need to stay abreast of benefits and supports available to all military connected students
 - If your college has an office for veteran services, all three should be in communication when supporting military connected students
- Connect with community organizations to provide students access to additional assistance
 - mental health services
 - childcare facilities
 - community action agencies
 - government benefit offices
 - housing departments
 - public health departments

SUPPORTS & SERVICES

- Document any changes in behavior or activity level to determine any developing patterns
- Encourage staff to maintain consistency, predictability, and structure in the school environment
- Offer professional development opportunities to staff to raise awareness and understanding of the unique challenges faced by military-connected students
- Include a section on parent contact forms where parents can indicate their preferred forms of communication
- Allow for flexibility with parent meetings

LET'S DISCUSS...

How is your institution currently supporting military-connected students?

Are you seeing gaps in services?



QUESTIONS

SPECIAL POPULATION WEBINAR SERIES

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- Foster Care Involved Students
 - Wednesday, December 2nd at 2:30 PM
 - <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2418104656496689934>
 - Economically Disadvantaged Students
 - Tuesday, December 15th at 2:30 PM
 - <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/3924680777642926862>

Special Populations Super Strategies:

<https://icsps.illinoisstate.edu/cte/special-populations/76-super-strategies>



Recruitment, Engagement, and Retention Webinar Series:

<https://icsps.illinoisstate.edu/adult-education>



Universal Design For Learning Webinar Series:

<https://icsps.illinoisstate.edu/cte/universal-design-learning/2-home/68-universal-design-learning-series>



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

CONTACT INFORMATION



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