Ohio National Guard
Family Readiness & Warrior Support

EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES
FOR MILITARY CONNECTED YOUTH
CONTENTS

-PURPOSE ................................................................................................................................. 3

-IDENTIFICATION OF MILITARY YOUTH .................................................................................. 4

-HIGHER EDUCATION BENEFITS FOR MILITARY FAMILIES ..................................................... 5

-THE PURPLE STAR AWARD ....................................................................................................... 6

-MIC3 ............................................................................................................................................... 7

-MILITARY ONE SOURCE ............................................................................................................. 8

-OUR MILITARY KIDS ................................................................................................................... 10

-eKNOWLEDGE ........................................................................................................................... 11

-MARCH 2 SUCCESS ...................................................................................................................... 12

-TUTOR.COM ................................................................................................................................ 13

-SCHOOLQUEST’S SCHOLARSHIP FINDER ................................................................................... 14

-OHIO MILITARY KIDS .................................................................................................................. 15

-FAMILY READINESS & WARRIOR SUPPORT ............................................................................. 16

-CAREER CONNECTIONS .............................................................................................................. 17

-MILITARY KIDS CONNECT ........................................................................................................... 18
There are almost two million children who have a parent or guardian serving in the United States Armed Forces. Roughly three quarters of those military connected youth are 4-18 years of age. Military connected youth can be found in every school district in the country. With only one active duty base in Ohio (Wright Patterson Air Force Base), the importance of education/community outreach could not be greater when it comes to supporting the social, emotional and academic needs of these children.

The purpose of this brochure is to inform schools of the educational resources and programs available to a group of students that many had no idea existed. Military connected youth in Ohio have unique challenges in education, mainly dealing with deployment and extended periods of separation. Knowledge empowers educators to look for red flags during times of separation as well as ensuring educators have an understanding of the programs and resources available to support their students.

In addition to educational resources, we strive to provide our military families and youth with well-rounded programming! Our goal is to strengthen ties, create lifelong friends, and build leadership, resilience, and camaraderie with other military families.
IDENTIFICATION OF MILITARY YOUTH

“Military Connected Youth” are children, adolescents, or students with a close family member (parent, step parent, sibling, step-sibling, cousin) serving in any branch of the United States Armed Forces in any status Active Duty, Reserve, or National Guard.

There are roughly 30,000 Military Connected Youth in Ohio. Military youth are in every county and most likely in your school district. Identifying them can be tricky, but there are some ways this can be accomplished:

Veterans Day activities - Office enrollment forms - Newsletters - Web sites - Bulletin boards - Class meetings - Clubs and conferences - Announcements at all school events

In December 2015, the members of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives voted in favor of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The legislation, signed by the President on December 10, includes a military student identifier that will enable military leaders, educators, and elected officials (at all levels of government) to understand how military-connected children are performing in school.

MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

Did you know that April is the Month of the Military Child? Started in 1986 by the Defense Secretary Casper Weinberger, the Month of the Military Child recognizes and highlights the sacrifices and unique challenges children of service members overcome. From deployments to new schools, military children are faced with unique challenges that ordinary youth their age never experience. Their ability to adapt to present and future changes deserves our respect and admiration.
Post 9/11 GI Bill

The Post 9/11 GI Bill allows service members to transfer unused educational benefits to immediate dependent family members (spouse and children). Transferred benefits may be able to pay for college tuition, housing, books and supplies after High School graduation until the dependent child has turned 26 years old. The service member must transfer these benefits while still serving in the active or a reserve component of the Armed Forces. In addition to the Post 9/11 GI Bill benefits, service members (and their dependents) who qualify for the Post 9/11 GI Bill at the 100% level may also be eligible to receive additional tuition benefits under the Yellow Ribbon program to help pay for tuition costs to attend private institutions of higher education.

*Spouse and dependents can apply up to 36 months of benefits and may be able to receive money for tuition, housing, books and supplies.*

There are additional qualifiers to transferability and eligibility that can be found on the Veterans Administration website. Military youth should be encouraged to discuss this benefit with their veteran parents as well as the Military/Veteran program point of contact or the VA Certifying Official at the university or college to which they are applying for additional information on these programs.

*For more information visit [www.benefits.va.gov/gibill](http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill)*

Ohio War Orphans Scholarship

The Ohio War Orphans Scholarship awards tuition assistance to children of fallen or severely disabled veterans who served during a period of declared conflict or war. Student must be enrolled in a full time undergraduate study and pursuing a bachelor or an associate degree at an eligible Ohio college or university and must be under the age of 25. Benefits cover a portion of instructional and general fees at a two or four-year public institution. Applications are made to the Ohio Department of Higher Education, State Grants and Scholarship Department.

*For more information visit [www.ohiohighered.org/ohio-war-orphans](http://www.ohiohighered.org/ohio-war-orphans)*

Fry Scholarship

The Fry Scholarship provides Post 9/11 GI benefits to children and spouses of fallen service members who died in the line of duty while on active duty after 9/10/2001. Beneficiaries may receive up to 36 months of benefits at 100%. Children are eligible as of their 18th birthday (unless they have already graduated from high school). A child may be over the age of 23 and be married, eligibility ends on their 33rd birthday.

*For more information visit [www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/fry_scholarship.asp](http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/fry_scholarship.asp)*
Education.ohio.gov (Search: Purple Star Award)

The Purple Star Award for military-friendly schools recognizes schools that show a major commitment to serving students and families connected to our nation's armed forces. Schools that earn the award receive a special Purple Star recognition to display in their buildings. The Purple Star Advisory Board, formed by the Ohio departments of Education, Higher Education, Veterans Services, and Adjutant General, helps decide a school's eligibility for the award.

How to Qualify
Schools must fulfill all the required activities, plus one optional activity, listed below. The school must upload evidence of completion into the Military Children in Ohio's Schools course in the Learning Management System for Ohio Education (accessed through the point of contact's SAFE account):

Required school activities
- The school must have a staff point of contact for military students and families. The point of contact serves as the primary liaison between them and the school. This contact could be a counselor, administrator, teacher, or another staff member;
- The liaison completes professional development on special considerations for military students and families under federal law. Each school district may choose its own professional development resource from a menu of options listed on the Ohio Department of Education's website;
- The liaison finds and informs teachers of the military-connected students in their classrooms and the special considerations military families and students should receive;
- The school keeps a dedicated page on its website featuring resources for military families.

Optional school activities
- The school provides professional development on federally identified special considerations for military students and families during a staff meeting or another event;
- The local school board passes a resolution publicizing the school's support for military children and families;
- The school hosts a military recognition event designed to demonstrate a military-friendly culture at the school.

How to Apply
Go to your school point of contact’s SAFE account and click on the Learning Management System (LMS) link. Once in the LMS, click on the Course Catalogue link near the top right side of the screen. The course titles and descriptions will appear in tiles. Click on the course titled Military Children in Ohio's Schools. This will enroll you in the course.

Once you are in the course, look for Content Browser on the right side of the screen. Under that tab, you will find six modules. Click on fifth module down, for schools applying for the Purple Star Award. You will see there are quizzes and drop-boxes that allow you to upload evidence of completed and optional requirements.
The Military Interstate Children’s Compact Commission (MIC3) began establishing itself around the country between 2007 and 2009. The MIC3’s sole purpose is to facilitate timely enrollment of K-12 students in school systems during any point in an academic year due to Active Duty assignments of the U.S. Armed Forces.

The MIC3 supports the transfer of school and student records, and seeks to remove barriers due to variations in local districts. This includes everything from entrance and age requirements to graduation, across the States and the District of Columbia.

The MIC3 allows for State MIC3 Commissioners (appointed by the Governor, State’s Superintendent, and/or the State Legislature) to organize between the sending and receiving States. The State’s MIC3 may also facilitate qualification for curricular and extra-curricular programs.

The MIC3 Commissioners, States, and local districts shall endeavor to do what is in the best interest and most appropriate for a “Military kid” and her/his family, ensuring that that “kid” stays on course for a successful K-12 education experience and a successful high school graduation.

What Children Are Eligible for Assistance Under the Compact?

Children of:
- Active duty members of the uniformed services, National Guard, and Reserve on active duty orders
- Members or veterans who are medically discharged or retired for (1) year
- Members who die on active duty

What Children Are Not Eligible for Assistance Under the Compact?

Children of:
- Inactive members of the National Guard and Reserves
- Members now retired not covered above
- Veterans not covered above
- Dept of Defense personnel, federal agency civilians and contract employees not defined as active duty

How can schools get support to help in this process?

Member states each have a State Council designed to serve as an advisory body of state policy makers concerning operations and procedures of the compact. Individual states’ language may differ but all operate within the rules of the Interstate Compact.

For additional resources and assistance, please visit our website at: http://www.mic3.net
Military Interstate Children’s Compact Commission
2760 Research Park Drive, P.O. Box 11910, Lexington, KY 40578-1910
Military OneSource is a Department of Defense program that provides FREE services to all members of the military regardless of branch (Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force) or component (Active, National Guard, Reserves) and their family members. School professionals may create an account on the Military OneSource website to access the Morale Welfare Recreation (MWR) libraries. Some of the libraries that are available to students and school professionals are:

**Teacher Reference Center** is an EBSCO library with indexing and abstracts for more than 270 of the most popular teacher and administrator journals and magazines.

**Academic Search Libraries**—including periodicals, reference books, newspapers and a variety of other sources.

**Peterson’s Education Resource Center**—test prep for the PSAT, SAT, ASVAB and more, as well as quick quizzes, study tips, test information and deadlines and a scholarship finder.

**Peterson’s Online Academic Skills** course, designed to help you improve your math and verbal skills and advance your education with interactive exercises, practice sets and individualized help.

**Tumble Books**—animated picture books and spelling games to graphic novels and e-books with high-interest subjects for teens.

All of these and more may be found by visiting www.militaryonesource.mil or www.militaryonesourceeap.org
School professionals may set up an account with Military One Source and order materials and have them shipped at no cost. Items include books, videos, and more on a variety of topics to include on separation, family changes, mindfulness exercises and more.

Free services from Military OneSource include but are not limited to:

**Non-Medical Counseling** that is strictly confidential for eligible individuals occurs face to face, by telephone, or via secure online chat or video conference. Issues may include deployment and reintegration concerns, parenting, grief and loss, changes in family status, etc.

**Health & Wellness Coaching** is available at no-cost on a variety of issues such as time management, weight loss, fitness, nutrition, etc.

**Education Consultations** which include research and referrals for services or programs specific to service members’ educational needs. Specialists may provide members with referrals to in-home tutors and tutoring centers in the area, as well as public and private school information, college profiles based on desired degree and specific requests, financial assistance, and scholarship and grant program referrals.

**Special Needs Consultations** can assist families in addressing questions and concerns regarding the care and education of a family member with special needs — both children and adults. Whether they are concerned about the special education cycle or finding information about specialized doctors, Military OneSource consultants can assist them with any non-medical concern.

**Military OneSource**

All these services are available by calling 1-800-342-9647
Do you have families in your school experiencing an overseas deployment?

Do you have students who play sports?

Or do they take dance, music, or art classes?

Would they like to try something like karate or camp?

Could your students benefit from a tutor to stay at grade level?

If the answer is YES to any of these questions, Our Military Kids may be able to help. Our Military Kids pays for children ages 5 through the 12th grade of deployed National Guard and Reserve personnel to participate in youth sports, fine arts, and tutoring programs. This is a way of recognizing the sacrifices the entire family is making while the service member is deployed overseas.

*It is simple to apply to the program...*

Just fill out an Our Military kids application that can be downloaded from our website, www.ourmilitarykids.org. Send it in with the required documentation listed on the application, including deployment orders, proof of the child’s dependent status, and cost information for the activity of your choice. The grant will cover up to six months of instruction for the activity you select, with a maximum grant award of $250 per child. If everything is in order and funding is available, a check will be sent to the organization within two weeks. The child will be notified via mail with an award packet.
eKnowledge™ is a leading provider of interactive e learning products and services. Our on-line, CD, and DVD interactive learning programs range from SAT, ACT, LSAT, and other Test Prep courses, to highly effective diagnostic, teaching; and learning tools for business, education and other institutions.

Now ALL military students & families can receive
FREE $350 Semester-length, Interactive, Multimedia, Online Courses

"Thank you for this great opportunity. My oldest son used this program and improved his ACT score significantly." Merriann McKillip, Military.com

"Thank you for making this possible. As a single parent who just retired from the military, I did not have the financial resources at hand to spend thousands of dollars on ACT/SAT prep classes for my children. Both of my children are straight A students and they deserve the best opportunities for improving their chances to enter college. Thanks to your support, I can use my resources to make visits to college campuses and for college application fees instead. You have been a true blessing." Nancy Dubose, Military.com

About the PowerPrep: The SAT and ACT PowerPrep™ Programs are available online, all iOS/Android OS Devices or DVD. Semester-length programs • all instructors are professional educators, authors, JD, PhD or Masters • 11+ hours of video instruction • 100+ hours of student participation time • 3000+ files of supplemental multi-media prep material • thousands of interactive diagnostic tools • thousands of sample questions, practice tests.

Select the training you need and study at your own pace • The Freedom to Learn...Your Way!
March 2 Success is an interactive online test preparation system that is unsurpassed. The system provides a full array of subject specific assessments and remedial courses tailored to the student’s educational needs, as well as practice drills and tests. The March 2 Success system can enhance and refresh students knowledge and assist them in achieving their educational or career goals.

March 2 Success is an online, self-paced course designed to improve student performance on standardized tests while enhancing student math, science, English and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) Skills.

To have a strong future, the U.S. Army provides all its employees with a large selection of educational programs and benefits.

Now the Army is extending that commitment to young adults still in school.

March 2 Success is available 24 hours a day 7 days a week so students can log on at times that are convenient for them. March 2 Success is free. There is no obligation.

**CONTENT**

March 2 Success provides cutting-edge assessment software and world-class education content in an easy-to-use, self-paced format designed to accelerate the student learning curve for state assessment testing, SAT and ACT practice and preparation. This content was developed by Peterson’s, a Nelnet company.

Peterson’s has been a leading provider of solutions for the education community for more than 40 years. Its online and print resources help students increase test scores, find a college that fits their educational goals, maximize higher education affordability, and explore careers.

**THE COURSE**

Individuals will have the capability of selecting part or all sections of the courses offered within March2Success. Comprehensive course materials include study skills, language arts, math, science, and STEM preparation.

High school preparation (study skills, language arts, math, science) - High school flashcard decks (15 vocabulary and grammar, 10 math)

College Readiness Online Course (advanced level courses)
- College readiness flashcard decks (15 vocabulary and grammar, 10 math)

STEM areas include: - Social Science: 1,002 practice questions covering Macroeconomics, Microeconomics, Financial Accounting and Personal Finance - Nursing:
- Entrance exam practice tests include: PAX-RN, PSB Registered Nursing School Aptitude Examination (RN), Test of Essential Academic Skills (TEAS), and PSB Health Occupations Aptitude Examination - Technology: 1,200 practice questions covering Information Systems and Computer Applications, Introduction to Computing, Management Information Systems and Technical Writing - Pre-Engineering: 725 practice questions covering Pre-Calculus, Calculus, and Physics
10 THINGS EDUCATORS SHOULD KNOW ABOUT TUTOR.COM FOR MILITARY FAMILIES

1. Personalized On-Demand Student Support
   Every Tutor.com session is one-on-one between the tutor and student. Your students get help with their own specific questions or assignments — right when they need it.

2. Extends the Learning Day
   When students are struggling with homework after school, on the weekends, and at midnight, our tutors are available to help any time, any day.

3. Supports Student Achievement
   95% of students who use Tutor.com say it helps them complete their homework and improve their grades. That way, students come to class prepared and ready to learn.

4. Builds Confidence in Learners
   Students also report that Tutor.com helps them feel more confident with their schoolwork. In fact, 98% of students are more likely to take an AP course if they have Tutor.com.

5. Tutors You Can Trust
   All of our tutors — more than 3,000 of them — complete a rigorous application and qualification process that includes an extensive third-party background check.

6. 40+ Subjects
   Students can get help with all math, science, social studies, and English subjects, including algebra, chemistry, statistics, biology, and essay writing. World language help is also available for Spanish, German, and French.

7. Test Prep, Too
   Tutors can help students prepare for the SAT, ACT, or other standardized tests.

8. Accessible From Anywhere
   Wherever your students have online access — at home, at school, and anywhere in between — they can connect to a tutor using any internet-enabled computer or mobile device.

9. Students Love It
   We get thousands of comments every day from students who tell us they "absolutely love Tutor.com" and the boost it gives their grades, confidence, and interest in schoolwork.

10. It's Easy to Use and Free for Military Families
    Students in military families sign up at tutor.com/military to connect with a tutor at no cost. All students need to do is choose a subject and ask a question. The tutor takes it from there.

"I absolutely love this site, especially being a military child, and moving around so much, and having different classes this helps so much!!!!"
~ 10th Grade, Army Student

Questions?
Students need help accessing the service?
Contact us at militarysupport@tutor.com
SchoolQuest@MilitaryChild.org

5 Reasons Why You Should Use SchoolQuest’s™ Scholarship Finder!

College is Expensive!
(If you Google “Student Debt Statistics” as suggested above, you’ll see just how much money can be involved.)

It’s FREE
It’s FREE to Military-Connected High-School Students and members of MCEC’s® Student 2 Student® program seeking undergraduate funding.

It has comprehensive Lists!
Searches result in a comprehensive list of reputable undergraduate scholarships.

It’s personalized!
Results are personalized to each student.

It’s Powered by Reference Service Press (RSP)!
The RSP service offers thousands of funding opportunities which represent billions of dollars!

Getting accepted into college isn’t the only hurdle that prospective higher-education students face. Paying for college is a growing concern. Google “Student Debt Statistics” and you’ll find some pretty alarming numbers! What if a student could attend a college or university without taking on a large amount of debt in the first place? This is where SchoolQuest™ comes in!

The Military Child Education Coalition’s® (MCEC’s®) SchoolQuest™ website initiative is here to help military-connected students clear this hurdle! Designed for college-bound high school students (and their parents) to search for undergraduate funding, SchoolQuest’s™ Scholarship Finder is ready and waiting.

As the saying goes, “There’s no time like the present”, so come on over to SchoolQuest™ to get started!

If you have questions, comments or corrections for the SchoolQuest™ web site we want to hear from you!

Please send an email to: SchoolQuest@MilitaryChild.org

Military Child Education Coalition
.. for the sake of the child.

14
Ohio Military Kids (OMK) is a partnership between the Ohio National Guard and The Ohio State University's 4-H youth development program.

The goal of OMK is to create community support networks for military youth when they experience a loved one's deployment.

OMK educates the public on the impact a deployment has on a service member's children, families, and communities through awareness building and educational trainings with schools and community organizations.

OMK delivers recreational, social, and educational programs for military youth in civilian communities geographically dispersed throughout the state.

OMK strives to provide military families and youth with well-rounded programming that strengthens ties, creates lifelong friendships, and builds leadership, resilience, and camaraderie.

Programs are intended to let military connected youth know they are not alone and provide them with the tools to help them cope with the stresses involved with being part of a military family.

Parents and children state that the opportunity to meet others who share the experience of being in a military family is what they like best about participating in OMK programs.

**Programs**

**Hero Camps:** One day camps for the whole family that provide exciting learning experiences while integrating key resiliency skills.

**Troop and Family Camps:** Weekend camps for the whole family to strengthen ties and build camaraderie with other military families.

**Youth and Teen Camps:** Ohio Military Kids (OMK) offers two residential camps, held concurrently at Kelleys Island in Lake Erie! Military Youth participate in service learning projects, build relationships with military peers, learn resiliency, develop habits for healthy living and instill pride in being a military kid.

**Parent Workshops:** Assist parents in improving home life, a child's academics, and family relationships.
Troop and Family Assistance Centers

Our Regional Troop & Family Assistance Specialists and Airmen & Family Readiness Program Managers are highly trained professionals who provide information, resources, referrals and assistance to all Service Members and Families before, during and after deployments, or whenever there is a need.

To reach the Troop and Family Assistance Center Specialist in your region call:

1-800-589-9914

24 Hour Joint Operations Center 888-637-9053

Region 1: North Canton (Prompt 1)
Region 2: Chillicothe/McConnelsville (Prompt 2)
Region 3: Cincinnati/Woodlawn (Prompt 3)
Region 4: Dayton/Kettering (Prompt 4)
Region 5: Toledo/Bowling Green/Mansfield (Prompt 5)
Region 6: Columbus (Prompt 6)

Airmen & Family Readiness Program Locations:
Mansfield - 179th AW - (800) 642-8365 x7
Toledo - 180th FW - (800) 495-4250 x8684550
Springfield - 178th FW - (800) 851-4503 x2583
Columbus - 121st ARW - (800)377-5570 x5
ONG.Ohio.gov/FRG/FRG_employment.html

The Ohio National Guard Employment Enhancement Program (NGEEP) has employment support specialists throughout Ohio who DEVELOP RELATIONSHIPS with EMPLOYERS, APPRENTICESHIPS, and BUSINESSES seeking to train and hire from within the military and veteran community – TO INCLUDE MILITARY FAMILIES (AND YOUTH).

ENTERING THE WORKFORCE? We work with employers throughout Ohio that provide competitive salaries and in demand jobs. If you are unsure of which career or education path to pursue, we can assist you in finding temporary, part-time, or full-time employment.

HEADED TO COLLEGE? Through partnerships with state and local employment programs we can assist you in determining which industries, careers, and emerging job opportunities are available throughout Ohio and require specific degrees or training.

LOOKING FOR A SKILL? Apprenticeship programs and skilled trades are one of the most sought after professions in Ohio. Through partnerships with state and local apprentice programs we can assist you in determining which industries meet your interests and needs.

**EMLOYMENT SUPPORT REGIONAL CONTACTS**

EMAIL: NG.OH.OHARNG.mbx.nggep@mail.mil

Region 1: SCOTT LIM

Region 2: LEEANN RAHE

Region 3: SARAH MEEDS

Region 4: PATRICK NOWAK, (USAF, Ret.)
Office: 614-336-4994 Mobile: 614-400-8718

Region 5: CHERYL HAGAN (USA, Ret.)
Office: 614-336-6589 Mobile: 614-400-8845

Region 6: JOE GABRIEL (USA, Ret.)
Military Kids Connect is an online community where kids, tweens and teens can de-stress and connect with other military kids their age. Compliant with the Children’s Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA), the website helps military youth to develop coping skills and build psychological health and resilience.

Military Kids Connect features three age-based sections:
Kids (ages 6 to 8), Tweens (ages 9-12) and Teens (ages 13-17).

- **Making Connections**: Post questions and comments, and see how others respond
- **Learning How to Cope**: Learn the clues to stress and how to manage it.
- **Dealing with Deployment**: Features an extensive deployment library of materials.
- **Taking Time to Chill**: Relax and play a few Military Kids Connect games.

**Resources for Parents, Caregivers & Teachers**
Military Kids Connect is helpful for parents and caregivers supporting children through military-associated transitions, and educators looking to better understand and support military youth at school.

- **Ideas for Helping Children Cope**: Tips and suggestions for helping children cope with various transitions associated with deployment.
- **Lesson Plans**: Downloadable military-related lesson plans, which use materials from the website, for elementary, middle and high school level teachers.
- **Military Culture**: Information and videos to help educators work with military-connected children.
- **Resource Guide**: Extensive list of military support services, websites, videos and more...

The Ohio National Guard Youth Program organizes a full calendar of events for military youth and families. These events would not be possible without the generous support of volunteers.

_Volunteers fill a variety of roles including, but not limited to:*

*administrative, social media, marketing,*

*hands on support at youth events, logistical support.*

If you have students or organizations within your school looking for service hours, they can reach out to Youth Programs to inquire about upcoming volunteer opportunities by calling (614) 336-7274 or (614) 336-4214.
CONTACT US:

Ohio National Guard
Family Readiness and Warrior Support
ATTN: NGOH-PEW-FR (YOUTH PROGRAMS)
2825 West Dublin Granville Road
Columbus, OH 43235

Find us on Facebook: Search: Ohio National Guard Strong Families or Ohio Operation: Military Kids
You can also access program information at: ong.ohio.gov/fg/FRG_youthprograms.html

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