



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Education

April 5, 2013

TO: Division Superintendents

FROM: Patricia I. Wright, Superintendent of Public Instruction

SUBJECT: Military Child Month and New Web Resources for School Divisions

Governor Robert F. McDonnell has recognized April 2013 as Military Child Month in the Commonwealth of Virginia. The Governor's [proclamation](#) coincides with the Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission recognition of this special celebration to honor military children.

Given that Virginia is home to some of the nation's largest and most important military installations, it is not surprising that the Commonwealth's schools educate more military children than almost any other state. As of December 2012, the Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC) estimates that there are 75,403 school age military-associated children of active duty members in Virginia.

School divisions are encouraged to take time in April, and throughout the year, to recognize the service of military servicemen and servicewomen, their families and their children. Across the nation, Friday, April 12, 2013, will be the day to "Purple Up! For Military Kids." People are being encouraged to wear purple on April 12th to show support for our military kids and to thank them for their strength and sacrifices. For more ideas of how to celebrate military children in your school and division, please visit the "[Recognize & Celebrate Military Children](#)" page of the VDOE Web page.

Please take time to visit the new [military families' page](#) of the VDOE Web site which includes updated resources and tools for school divisions and military families. The resource pages include:

- [Virginia Council on the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children](#) - includes information on the Council's quarterly meetings and annual reports. The Virginia Council, created by the 2009 General Assembly, was formed to assist in easing the transition of the children of military families into school as a result of frequent moves and deployment of their parents.
- [Guidance Documents & Training Materials](#) - includes guidance documents on key issues like special education transfers, graduation requirements, enrollment, and implementation of the Compact. The guidance documents are designed to provide technical assistance for school officials, administrators and teachers in formulating local policies and decisions.
- [Virginia Laws](#) - provides links to pertinent sections of the *Code of Virginia* which address the education of military children.
- [School Liaison Officers](#) - provides contact information for local School Liaison Officers. Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps school liaison officers connect military families with educational opportunities and critical information about state and local school laws, policies and standards. They equip school division staff with resources and information about the challenges faced by military children while working in partnership with schools and community organizations to raise awareness about the needs of

these students. School liaison officers promote parental involvement and assist parents, teachers and administrators and commanders in troubleshooting and finding solutions to education-related problems.

- [Model Programs & Initiatives](#) - highlights school divisions, institutions of higher education, and nonprofit organizations that are leading the way with initiatives to help ease the transition for military children.
- [Military Family Resources](#) - provides links to organizations throughout the Commonwealth and nation offering resources to military families.

The military family education liaison, Melissa Luchau, is also available to answer questions about implementation of the Interstate Compact, connect you with your local school liaison officer, and provide training to your school or division. If you have an initiative to highlight which assists military-connected children in your school or division, please let us know so we can include it on the VDOE Web page for others. Please contact Melissa Luchau at Melissa.Luchau@doe.virginia.gov, or by telephone (804) 225-4849.

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