



School News

Peterson AFB

Peterson AFB School Liaison Services

Volume 1 Issue 1

Quarterly News
Sept—Oct 2009

Inside this Issue

Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children 2 & 3

Question and Answer Section 3

Colorado High School Graduation Requirements 4

Federal Impact Aid Funding 4

Peterson School Liaison services are available to assist military and civilian families with issues or questions concerning public and charter schools. The program was created to work with local school districts and parents to successfully navigate the school transition process for military students. The main goals of the School Liaison are to identify barriers to academic success and develop solutions, provide parents the tools they need to overcome educational obstacles, and develop a partnership with the local school districts servicing military and civilian students.

Many families relocate and face several challenges to a smooth school enrollment. The school liaison would like to ensure that the transition is a

smooth process. Please contact during a move. The Military Child Education Coordinator is located in the Airman & Family Readiness Center, Bldg #350, room 1203. The number is 556-6141 or email lisa.ballard@peterson.af.mil.

Workshop for Parents: Coping Skills: Teaching Resiliency in Children

When: 29 Sept 09

Time: 1000-1100

Where: Airman & Family Readiness Center

Call 556-6141 to sign up

What's Happening

Open House at McCauliffe Elementary

When: 17 Sept 09

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Mitchell High School Planetarium: Storytelling Under the Stars

When: 23 Sept 09

Time: 6:00- 7:30 p.m.

Out of State College Fair

Where: Phil Long Expo Center
1515 Auto Mall Loop

When: Oct 5th

Time: 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Over 150 out of State Colleges will have info and this is a free event sponsored by D11.

Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity For Military Children

Military families move between postings on a regular basis. While reassignments can often be a boon for career personnel, they usually play havoc with the children of military families: losing and making new friends, adjusting to new cities and bases and changing schools. While the armed services has taken great leaps to ease the transition of personnel, their spouses and most importantly children, much remains to be done at the state and local levels to ensure that the children of military families are afforded that same opportunities for educational success as other children and are not penalized or delayed in achieving their educational goals by inflexible administrative and bureaucratic practices.

The average military student faces transition challenges more than twice during high school and most military children will have six to nine different school systems in their lives from kindergarten to 12th grade. With more than half of all military personnel supporting families, the impacts of reassignment and long deployments are a key consideration when making long-term life choices.

Specific impacts on military children include:

- **Transfer of Records** - Official transcripts for military-affiliated children often come from other states or overseas schools. Children are placed incorrectly because some schools refuse to accept hand-carried copies until the official version arrives. Because of the possible time lapse between entry into school and the arrival of school records, this process jeopardizes proper placement for all students and, in particular, those involved in Special Education, Gifted Education, English as a Second Language, and Advanced Placement Courses.
- **Course Sequencing** - States have varying prerequisite course requirements that can result in thwarting students' academic advancement, repeating content or eliminating students from Honors or Advanced Placement courses.
- **Graduation Requirements** - Graduation requirements vary from state to state. In some states, specific courses are required for graduation. The graduation of military students who transfer during their junior or senior year may be jeopardized if they are unable, due to state or local policies or scheduling constraints, to enroll in the necessary coursework.
- **Exclusion from Extra-Curricular Activities** - Students who enroll in school after auditions, tryouts, elections and membership recruitments are often eliminated from activities that promote socialization and connectedness to their new school community. Often their skills and talents are not recognized or developed or are that can eliminate students even when they have been members in their previous school.

- **Redundant or Missed Entrance/Exit Testing** - Children who move frequently can be penalized for missing state mandated tests required to enter or exit various levels of the educational system. Tests are often specific to the state and therefore, entrance/exit tests taken in another state, are not recognized.
- **Kindergarten and First Grade Entrance Age Variances** - Children enrolled in Kindergarten in one state may not qualify by age when transferred during the year to another state. Children who have completed Kindergarten in another state are sometimes denied entry into first grade if they do not meet the age requirement.
- **Power of Custodial Parents While Parents are Deployed** - Due to circumstances created by military deployment, there are times when children are placed in the care of designated guardians. Legislation is needed to protect the children of these families so that they may continue to attend their school or relocate to the neighborhood school of their newly appointed guardian.

The new Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children addresses these issues as well as compact enforcement, administration, finances, communications, data sharing and training. The new compact establishes an independent compact operating authority, the Interstate Commission, which will be positioned to address future interstate problems and issues as they arise.

The development of interstate and intrastate solutions to these issues is of paramount importance to military families. While armed services personnel are serving our country, their children may, more often than not, be adversely affected by these and other educational policies. While many states and communities have responded on an ad hoc basis to ease the shift of military children, no comprehensive policy approach exists to improve the long-term educational transitions and outcomes of this constituency.

For more information regarding this compact agreement please visit their website at:

<http://www.csg.org/programs/ncic/InterstateCommissiononEducationalOpportunityforMilitaryChildren.aspx>

Question and Answer Section

This section is for any questions parents might have regarding education that I can answer. This is to provide a forum for all the parents out there who might have the same questions.

Please email me your questions and I will post them in the next newsletter. Email: lisa.ballard@peterson.af.mil

Colorado High School Graduation Requirements

Colorado requires that all high school students meet certain requirements to graduate. These requirements vary slightly per district. The following is for District 11:

- 8 credits in English
- 6 credits in Math
- 6 credits in Science
- 6 credits in Social Studies

- 1 credit in Health
- 3 credits in physical education
- 1 credit in Computer Education
- 1 credit in Economics
- 2 credit in Humanities
- 1 credit in Practical Arts
- 11 credits in electives
- 46 Total credits

- These changes are as of 2008

For more information about graduation requirements and required standardized tests please visit District 11 website at www.d11.org.

For other school districts visit their website.

District 20: www.asd20.org

District 49: www.d49.org

Peterson Air Force Base

Airman and Family Readiness Center
School Liaison Services
Bldg# 350, 135 Dover Street
Room 1203
Peterson AFB, Colorado 80914

Phone: 719-556-6141

Fax: 719-556-0909

Email: lisa.ballard@peterson.af.mil or
21fss.fsfr.distro@peterson.af.mil



Federal Impact Aid Funding

The Impact Aid program distributes Federal money to school districts that are impacted by military students. The purpose of the program is to fulfill the Federal responsibility to assist with provision of educational services to federally connected children.

In order for schools districts to receive impact aid funding, they must have at least 400 or 3% federal students in their Average Daily Attendance. During the beginning of each school year, schools and districts conduct a first count student survey to identify the number of federally connected students enrolled. School districts must then submit an application directly to the U.S. Department of Education by January 31 containing the results of the first count.

Parents can help school districts receive the funding by completing the first count form and returning it to the appropriate school. More information on Impact Aid Funding can be located at

<http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/oese/impactaid/index.html>