



Temporary Waiver of Residency Requirement for School Enrollment

Most military children are not allowed to pre-enroll for school; consequently, many course offerings are full by the time military students can apply.

KEY MESSAGE: Allow military children, with documentation of a pending military relocation to the state, access to preliminary registration, enrollment, or application to a school district at the time that the process is open to the general student population. Proof of residency requirements are temporarily waived until the student begins school. At that time, the student has a certain number of days to provide proof of residency in the school district.



DISCUSSION POINTS:

- Military families transferring on official military Permanent Change of Station (PCS) orders are not eligible to register in courses, enroll in specialized academic programs, or submit their children's names for consideration in random lotteries for charter or magnet school entry until they are physically located within district boundaries.
- Military service members are routinely reassigned to new duty stations on a three to four-year rotation, most often in the summer, due to mission and training requirements. Families moving during this timeframe typically receive military orders, detailing their next destination and timeframe for arrival, in early to mid-spring.
- When children of military families move as a result of their parents' service, they are often disadvantaged due to missed deadlines for course and program enrollment and/or registration, which commonly occur in the spring.
- When military students know which school they will be attending and their class schedules in advance of arriving to school, they and their families are provided with a sense of comfort, relieving unneeded stress during their transition between locations.
 - Advance enrollment is intended to help ease some of the challenges faced by military pupils, not offer an advantage or priority over other students.
- No new online systems are required, and there is added benefit to school districts by reducing the need for districts to make projections regarding their student population.

About 185 thousand military children move between schools annually, and as a result, may potentially miss their registration date. As a result, they may have to shift their planned courses of study, which may require them to take courses in summer school, or even force them to graduate later than their peers.