



MILITARY FAMILY SUPPORT COMMITTEE

SURVEY OF STATES SUMMARY

The Military Family Support Committee thanks all congress leaders who responded to the survey sent out by our committee in April. There were a total of 41 surveys started, and 35 of them were completed fully. Here are the results of the survey. At the end of this document is a summary of action planned by the committee to respond to your stated needs.

Question 1. Is your state considered to have a small, medium, or large military population?

- Small 30%
- Medium 37.5%
- Large 32.5%

Question 2. Are there any Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA/DDESS) operated schools in your state?

- Yes 16.7%
- No 83.3%

If yes, how many? Only 7 answered, 4 were unsure, 1-2, 1-17, and 1-82

Question 3. Does your state department of education have a liaison working with military services?

- Yes 39.3%
- No 60.7%

Question 4. Does your PTA state board include a position, committee, or specifically assigned task focused on military families?

- Yes 17.9%
- No 82.1%

If Yes, please provide addition details...1 has a Military Liaison Committee, 2 task Diversity Committee, 1 task Family Engagement Chair, and 3 are in planning stages.

Question 5. What membership efforts, if any, has your state made to specifically reach out to military families?

- 13 were either unsure or had nothing specific,
- 1 felt there was no need,
- 4 have used or are planning to use workshops,
- 5 work with schools or areas with high military concentration, and
- 2 were just starting.

Question 6. Describe any specific programs geared toward military families offered through your state PTA.

- 1 made it part of their parent involvement program,
- 2 had info available at their events,
- 1 held military summit each year, and
- 22 have none or are unsure.

Question 7. What types of information related to military families has your state included in publications or on your web site?

- 3 had a small amount or were working on this,
- 1 started a web site,
- 25 had none, and
- 1 asked what info should they should use.

Question 8. What special procedures, if any, does your state have in place to deal with issues arising from the loss of local unit leaders who suddenly deploy or relocate?

- 9 used a one on one approach,
- 1 had a work in progress , and
- 23 had none.

Question 9. Can you suggest ways National PTA can assist your state PTA in your work with military families?

Sample of answers:

- Tell us who and how to contact
- Programs and literature from National to help states and locals
- Sharing Best Practices on outreach, programming, unit chartering and maintenance
- Suggestions for how to help reserve
- Work with state DoE and with Dept. of Defense
- Define issues
- Develop workshop/webinar
- National to reach out to partners and to military, become more visible.

Question 10. Asked for contact info and any open comments. Significant issues:

- Want someone for convention
- States need to focus on this issue if they are not already doing so
- Concerns raised for reserves/guard
- Discovered resources in own DoE and working with DoE now.

SUMMARY OF ACTION by MILITARY FAMILY SUPPORT COMMITTEE

- Check out this new web page <http://www.pta.org/military>. This is a work in progress with our alliance partners and we will continue to update this page with more information and resources for parents and PTA leaders.
- We really want to hear from you. Please share your best practices with our committee. We know that some of you have events planned and programs started to address the needs of military families. Success stories and even letting us know what didn't work can help us all. Please address any ideas or suggestions to our staff liaison Deborah Walsh, dwalsh@pta.org.
- Workshops will be developed to be used by states during conventions and/or leadership training. Information will be sent out as soon as the workshops are complete.
- The Military Child Education Coalition has opened its trainings to PTA leaders. Look for more info to follow.
- Our committee has identified other key national committees with which to collaborate around these issues and provide you the info and support you need.
- Contact information is being gathered for School Liaison Officers (SLOs) on each base, regional SLOs and State's Department of Education Interstate Compact Contact Administrators. (Please note that the current listing on the Department of Defense website is outdated.) President Saylor is facilitating communication between the Department of Defense and the committee concerning this issue. We hope to have this contact information to states later this year.
- A survey similar to the one taken by PTA leaders will be sent to SLOs to determine how they view PTA and their ability to work with PTA. Once completed we will supply this information to state PTA leaders.
- The committee developed talking points for state PTA leaders about the Interstate Compact. By resolution passed at the 2010 national convention by delegates, PTA supports the adoption and implementation of the Interstate Compact by all states. The attached talking points document is designed to help state leaders understand the issue. Please note the committee found some confusion by state leaders about the difference between the Interstate Compact and Common Core Standards. They are not the same.
- The committee compiled a list of issues that impact mobile, military-affiliated students which is attached to this document. We hope that by addressing military-affiliated mobile students (defined as: military families which include Reserves, Guard, and deployed families) other mobile children will benefit from our efforts as well: foster families; migrant families; homeless families; any family forced to move because of job mobility. Many (though not all) of the same issues faced by military children are faced by other families. The attached talking points can be taken as a whole or used in parts in state publications or in committee work to promote awareness of the unique needs of mobile students.