

Missoula County Public Schools

Students 3213

Children of Military Families

It is the intention of the District to remove barriers to educational success imposed on children of military families transitioning into and out of schools because of frequent moves and/or deployment of a parent on active duty in the regular Armed Forces, National Guard, or Reserves.

Educational Records and Enrollment

In the event that the official education records cannot be released prior to the transfer of a child of a military family to another school district, the District shall prepare and furnish to the parent a complete set of unofficial educational records, including but not limited to records encompassing all material maintained in the student's permanent and cumulative files (such as, general identifying data, records of attendance and academic work completed, records of achievement and results of evaluative tests, health data, disciplinary status) and special education records. The District shall process and furnish the official educational records to the school in which the child of a military family has transferred within 10 days.

In the event that a child of a military family seeks to enroll in the District, the District shall enroll and appropriately place the student as quickly as possible based upon information in the child's unofficial educational records pending receipt of the official records.

Tuition

The District shall not charge tuition in relation to a child of a military family transferring into the District who has been placed in the care of a noncustodial parent or other person through a special power of attorney.

Placement

The District will initially honor the placement of a child of a military family transferring into the District in the educational courses and educational programs in which the child was previously enrolled in the previous school or educational assessments of the previous school provided that the courses and programs are offered and space is available. Course placement includes, but is not limited to, honors, international baccalaureate, advanced placement, language immersion, vocational, technical, and career pathways courses. Educational programs include, but are not limited to, gifted and talented programs. If appropriate, the District may perform subsequent evaluations to ensure the child continues to be appropriately placed.

The Superintendent may waive course or program prerequisites or other preconditions for a child of a military family's placement in any courses or programs upon transfer into the District.

Extracurricular Activities

The District shall facilitate the opportunity for a child of a military family transferring into the District to participate in extracurricular activities, regardless of application deadlines, provided that the child is otherwise qualified to participate.

Graduation

The District may waive specific courses required for graduation of a child of a military family who has transferred into the District if similar coursework has been satisfactorily completed at the child's previous schools. If the District refuses a request for a waiver from a child of a military family who has transferred into the District regarding courses required for graduation, it shall provide a reasonable justification for the denial and shall provide an alternative means for the child to acquire the required coursework so that the child may graduate on time.

In the event that a child of a military family who transfers at the beginning of or during the child's senior year is ineligible to graduate from a school within the District despite alternative means being offered, the District shall coordinate with the school from which the child transferred for the child receive a diploma from that school.

Children of Military Families with Disabilities

The District shall initially provide comparable services to a child of a military family transferring into the District who is receiving special education and related services pursuant to an individual

education program under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. The District shall make appropriate accommodations and modifications to address the educational needs of children of military families transferring into the District who qualify for services under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, subject to any existing Section 504 plan. If appropriate, the District may perform subsequent evaluations to ensure the child continues to be appropriately placed.

Cross Reference:

Board Policy 2161	Special Education and Accommodations
Board Policy 2162P	Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973
Board Policy 2410	High School Graduation Requirements
Board Policy 3110	Entrance, Placement, and Transfer
Board Policy 3141	Non-Resident Students – Tuition
Board Policy 3330	Athletic Programs
Board Policy 3606	Transfer of Student Records

Legal Reference:

§ 20-1-230, MCA	Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children
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Policy History:

Policy presented to: Personnel Negotiations & Policy Committee on September 27, 2013 and posted for public comment.

Adopted on: November 12, 2013