



Identifier for Military Children in Education Data Systems

Best Practices

Subject:

States can assign an identifier for military children in their education data systems, thus allowing tracking of data such as attendance, academic progress and graduation. Schools and districts will benefit by having access to data to help inform policy and program decisions for this unique student population. In addition, states can assist the Department of Defense in developing policy and military child education initiatives.

Principles:

States can support military child education through statute or regulation in the following ways:

- Create a data entry point that identifies children from military families
- Disaggregate data to identify children of active duty and children of National Guard and Reserve Components, as separate groups
- Use the cohort data as a report-only subgroup and not for school or local education agency rating purposes
- Define the categories of “military child” in a consistent manner with other states, allowing for an aggregation of data

Best practices example

- Nevada AB 224 (2013) created a student identifier to be included in their existing information system:
 - *Section 1. NRS 386.650 is hereby amended to read as follows: 386.650 1. The department shall establish and maintain an automated system of accountability information for Nevada. The system must: . . .*
 - *(3) . . . include, without limitation, a unique identifier for each pupil whose parent or guardian is a member of the U.S. Armed Forces, a Reserve Component thereof or the National Guard in a manner that will allow for the disaggregation of each category*

Military Student Identifier Definitions

- **Student connected to an active-duty military family** — a school-aged child, enrolled (or in process of enrolling) in kindergarten through Grade 12, whose parent or guardian is an active-duty member of the U.S. Armed Forces
- **Student connected to a National Guard or Reserve Component military family** — a school-aged child, enrolled (or in process of enrolling) in kindergarten through Grade 12, whose parent or guardian is a member of the National Guard or Reserve Component of the U.S. Armed Forces
- **Military-connected Student Identifier** — data collection employed by a state or local education authority to identify “Students connected to active-duty military families” and “Students connected to National Guard or Reserve Component military families” — Data must be collected in such a way as to enable separate reporting of both categories.
- **Active duty** — full-time duty status in the active U.S. Armed Forces
- **National Guard or Reserve Components** — members of the Reserve Component as defined in 10 U.S.C. Section 10101