

Joint Base Charleston

South Carolina



School Information

Packet

Revised: August 2019

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NOTES:

School Liaison Office (SLO) Welcome

Welcome to Joint Base Charleston (JB CHS) and the Palmetto State. This electronic package contains information to help with you're the education transition of your school-age children. Most of the links in the packet are "live" so you can easily access the information you need using the Ctrl key and your mouse. Contact the School Liaison Office with questions/concerns as you transition to the installation/area schools.

The Charleston area has a plethora of educational choices/options for your children. I am here to help you navigate those options upon receipt of orders, ensuring you are armed with the best school information possible. The Tri-County is undergoing tremendous economic growth, housing activity, and of course more schools/traffic. See: http://www.mybaseguide.com/joint_bases/81/joint_base_charleston

Feedback on the information contained in the packet is always appreciated. The goal is to get accurate information to families more efficiently. Please "like" the Facebook Page to stay abreast of educational information. It automatically feeds to the Twitter account as well.

Additional installation information can be found on the Installation Page for Joint Base Charleston, accessed at: <http://www.militaryinstallations>. Click on the "Services Directory" for expanded base information.

I look forward to working with you. Welcome to Joint Base Charleston and the Palmetto State.

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Military Children's Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunities for Military Children www.mic3.net

- The Compact addresses key educational transition issues encountered by children of military families, including Enrollment, Placement/Attendance, graduation, and extra-curricular activities.
- The Compact is adopted by all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA).
- The Compact eases educational challenges encountered by military children
- Supports uniform treatment as they transfer between school districts in member states.
- Note: The Compact only applies to public schools

The Compact Covers – Children of:

- Active duty members of the uniformed services, including
- National Guard and Reserve on active duty orders (Title 10)
- Members or veterans who are medically discharged or retired for one year
- Members who die on active duty, for a period of one year after death
- Uniformed members of the Commissioned Corps of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA),
- and United States Public Health Services (USPHS)

The Compact "Does Not" Cover – Children of:

- Inactive members of the National Guard and Reserves (Not Title 10)
- Members now retired not covered above
- Veterans not covered above
- Other Department of Defense personnel not on active duty
- Members other than the uniformed personnel of NOAA and USPHS

General Information

Introduction

Children of military members attend school in the school district where they reside: Charleston, Dorchester II, or Berkeley. Districts provide a full range of K-12 educational programs, i.e., Career & Technical Education, traditional academic programs, athletics, classes for gifted students and students with special needs. There is also a wide array of magnet, charter, virtual, and private schools available in the area. School starts in mid-August and ends early June for most schools.

South Carolina Public Schools

Public schools are operated at the county level under the South Carolina Department of Education. Statewide test results, and overall school quality, can vary significantly from school to school within each district. It is recommended you look at the individual report cards at <http://ed.sc.gov/data/report-cards/>, and visit each campus, as you make your housing decision.

- Test Scores: <https://ed.sc.gov/data/test-scores/>
- School Report Cards & Comparison Tool: <https://screportcards.ed.sc.gov/>
- State Standards (Family Friendly): <http://www.scfriendlystandards.org/>

** New School Ratings were provided in 2018. This is a baseline year. **

Attendance Policies: According to state law, students attend assigned public schools within their district of residence. Joint Base has no provisions for military families to cross district boundaries, so make sure you know where your residence is assigned for schools. If in doubt, call the district or the School Liaison Office. There are a few charter schools (Pg. 10) that draw from all areas of the state regardless of residence.

Immunizations

The Medical Clinics will assist you with proper immunizations for South Carolina. Call: 843-963-6714 for the AB, or 843-794-6850 at the WS. They will complete DHEC Form 1125, required for enrollment in SC school system.

South Carolina High School Diploma Requirements

Visit the South Carolina Department of Education for diploma requirements: <http://ed.sc.gov/agency/programs-services/124/index.cfm>

Impact Aid

Since 1950, Congress has provided financial assistance to Local Education Agencies (LEA) through the Impact Aid Program. The purpose is to disburse payments to the LEAs that are financially burdened by Federal activities, including lost property tax revenue due to tax exempt federal property and the increased expenditures due to the enrollment of federally connected children in their district. (See Supplemental)

New Student Registration: Tips for Changing to a New School

Get an "unofficial" copy of transcripts/records to hand carry. This will help ensure proper placement at the new school, in case your official records are delayed. You are authorized

to carry this “unofficial” copy under terms of the Military Children’s Interstate Compact referenced on Page 5. Call the SLO if you have any trouble with this.

High school students should work with guidance at the receiving school as early as possible. Find out all you can about the courses you are going to sign up for at the new school. Bring a copy of your previous high school course syllabi, or a copy of your textbook’s Table of Contents. Algebra II may cover different material at your new school, don't wait for an unpleasant surprise.

Documentation

Bring the following documents to the school at the time of registration:

- Student’s Birth Certificate
- Completed S.C. Immunization Form (DHEC 1125: Can be provided by Medical)
- Proof of residence (normally two sources)
- Unofficial Copy of school records from previous school if available
- Current Special Education records (IEP/504) if applicable
- Proof of guardianship, if applicable
- Latest report card if possible

Enrollment (Age Requirements/Pre-K)

Children who will be five years old on or before 1 Sep must register for Kindergarten. Children who will be four years old on or before 1 Sep may be eligible for pre-school, but strict guidelines apply. Contact the school in your attendance zone for available slots and requirements for eligibility to attend. According to South Carolina Law, school-aged children must be transferred/enrolled in school within 10 days of arrival.

- Dorchester School District 2: <https://www.ddtwo.org/>
- Berkeley County Schools: <http://www.bcsdschools.net/Page/24397>
- Charleston County Schools: <http://choice.ccsdschools.com/site.php>

South Carolina High School Diploma Requirements

Visit the South Carolina Department of Education for diploma requirements:
<http://ed.sc.gov/agency/programs-services/124/index.cfm>

Special Education

Contact South Carolina’s Office of Exceptional Children at 1-866-628-0910 or visit [Office of Special Education Services](#). The Joint Base Charleston Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP) Coordinator can be reached at 843-963-4406 and can assist with the special educational needs of your children.

Charleston County School District (CCSD) (<http://www.ccsdschools.com>)

Home to the Air Base, CCSD serves more than 49,874 students in 84 schools, the second largest district in South Carolina.

Those Living in Air Base (AB) Housing

AB Housing is serviced by CCSD. Families may elect to attend [Lambs Elementary](#) or [Hunley Park Elementary](#) (K-5). Middle school students (6-8) are assigned to [Zucker Middle School](#), a science magnet school. [Stall High School](#) (9-12) is a state-of-the-art facility that is demonstrating strong improvement under new leadership.

CCSD Choice School Options

Charleston County's Resolution to Accommodate Military Families expands access to [K-12 School Options for Military Families](#) providing:

- Extended magnet school application periods for military families arriving outside the normal application deadlines.
- The Military Application provides inbound families an opportunity to apply to three schools they would like to attend. Transportation to a choice school varies, and assignment depends on space available.
- Applications are submitted directly to the CCSD office as noted on the application. A copy of your orders will be required as well.
- APPLY EARLY ONCE YOU HAVE ORDERS
- YOU MAY APPLY IN THE REGULAR LOTTERY SEASON JANUARY-FEBRUARY

DO NOT APPLY DIRECTLY TO ANY OF THE CHOICE SCHOOLS. Direct questions directly to the district representative as noted on the military application, or with the School Liaison Office.

CCSD Charter Schools operate their own lottery and wait lists. You can contact them directly for additional information.

Early College/Dual Credit

CCSD schools offer Advanced Placement and Dual Credit programs in the high schools, and the district offers an [Early College High School](#) campus. Students can earn college credits, and "potentially" an associate degree upon graduation from high school. Contact the high school or district offices for more specific information.

Berkeley County School District (BCSD)

<https://www.bcsdschools.net>

Berkeley County School district is located slightly north of the Air Base and is home to the JB Charleston Weapons Station. It provides K-12 education for more than 34,516 students

at 46 schools. The county is undergoing massive growth, and there is a wide range of housing and educational opportunities.

Those Living in Weapons Station (WS) Base Housing

WS housing is serviced by Berkeley County Schools. [Marrington Elementary School](#) serves grades Kindergarten to 5th grade. There is a full day 4-year-old program for families that meet the household income criteria. [Marrington Middle School of the Arts](#) is an arts-infused magnet school for grades 6-8. The school has been awarded the National Blue Ribbon Award and a Palmetto's Finest designation. [Goose Creek High School](#) and the [Berkeley Center for the Arts](#) provide comprehensive 9-12 curriculum.

Active Duty Residing in Berkeley County

A special provision allows "Active Duty" military families, attached to Joint Base Charleston and residing in Berkeley County, to enroll their school age children in the Marrington Schools on the Weapons Station. Transportation is ONLY provided for eligible base residents.

** Contact the School Liaison Office for more information**

Early College/Dual Credit

BCSD schools offer Advanced Placement and Dual Credit programs in the high schools. The district operates an Early College High School campus, [Berkeley Middle College High School](#). Students can earn college credits, and "potentially" an associate degree, upon graduation from high school. Contact the high school or district offices for more specific information.

Innovative Programs

Berkeley County School District offers innovative programs for students and families looking for a learning environment emphasizing a specific theme or goal. These offerings include the arts, school-within-a-school, small learning communities, highly-rigorous academics, and more. See more information: <https://www.bcsdschools.net/Page/27903>

Dorchester School District 2 (DD2) (<https://www.ddtwo.org>)

Dorchester School District 2 is located just north of JB Charleston Air Base. It is the smallest of the three local school districts, serving more than 25,354 students in 25 schools. The district is recognized as a school system of excellence, consistently ranked among the best in South Carolina.

[Rollings Middle School of the Arts](#) provides an arts infused magnet program for grades 6-12. Application and enrollment information is available from the district. There are no special provisions for military families currently.

Early College/Dual Credit

DD2 offers Advanced Placement and Dual Credit opportunities in the high schools. Early College high school programming is available within individual high schools. Students can earn college credits, and “potentially” an associate degree, upon graduation from high school. Contact the high school or district offices for more specific information.

Public Charter Schools

The South Public Charter School District (www.sccharter.org)

Provides a wide array of charter and virtual school options throughout the state/local area.

Palmetto Scholars Academy (<https://www.psaschool.org/>)

PSA is a state charter school grades 6-12. It is located on the Hunley Park side of the Air Base, with a curriculum is geared to high performing and gifted/talented students. Military families are encouraged to contact PSA or the School Liaison Officer for enrollment/application information. South Carolina charter school law provides a preference for active duty military children assigned to Joint Base Charleston. If you believe PSA might be a good fit for your child apply as soon as possible.

Mevers School of Excellence (<http://www.meversschoolofexcellence.org/>)

Mevers opened in 2017 and is sponsored through Charter USA. It is open to all residents of South Carolina, and currently provides education for grades K-8. Their campus is located near Joint Base Charleston Weapons Station, Goose Creek, SC.

Home School

South Carolina statutes provide parents or guardians with three different options for home schooling their children. The choice is left up to the parents or guardians to select the option that is best for their children. For detailed information on getting started with home schooling in South Carolina, refer to [Home Schooling](#) on the South Carolina State Department of Education Webpage.

See "Supplemental Materials" for the JB Charleston "Homeschool Fact Sheet."

The School Liaison Officer can provide additional information/resources upon request.

Private Schools

Private schools in the greater Charleston area are too numerous to list and the choice is a personal matter. It is suggested that the private schools be contacted directly to determine tuition/enrollment requirements. There may be additional fees for some programs. Here are a few popular Web links to private school information:

Charleston's Independent School Directory

<http://mountpleasantmagazine.com/read/schools/charleston-directory-2019/>

South Carolina Independent School Association – List of accredited schools by county:

<https://www.scisa.org/schools/member-listing-by-county.html>

South Carolina K12 Private Schools – by county:

<https://www.sciway.net/edu/k12/k12private.html>

Diocese of Charleston - <https://charlestdiocese.org/schools/charleston-catholic-schools>

Private School Review by County: <https://www.privateschoolreview.com/south-carolina/charleston>

Adult Education

The Base Education Center can provide information on Adult Education programs. It offers a wide range of educational services and programs to help people fulfill their educational goals. The local school districts also have Adult Education Programs for those living within their attendance zones.

Berkeley County	843-899-8690
Dorchester County	843-873-2901
Charleston County	843-746-6500

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

District Policy Manuals (Online)

- BCSD Policy Manual: http://backup.microscribepub.com/cgi-bin/om_isapi.dll?clientID=736667160&depth=2&infobase=berkeley.nfo&record={1}&softpage=PL_frame#
- CCSD Policy Manual: http://backup.microscribepub.com/cgi-bin/om_isapi.dll?clientID=6238305&infobase=charles.nfo&softpage=PL_Frame
- DD2 Policy Manual: http://backup.microscribepub.com/cgi-bin/om_isapi.dll?clientID=2520015162&depth=2&infobase=dorchester.nfo&softpage=PL_frame

Military Child Performance in South Carolina 2019 (PDF on EOC Webpage)

https://eoc.sc.gov/sites/default/files/Documents/Military_connected/2019%20Annual%20Report%20on%20Educational%20Performance%20of%20Military-Connected%20Students.pdf

Program Handouts

- JB Charleston Youth Programs
- Child Care-School Age Care Resources
- Tutor.Com
- Check Lists for School Moves (2)
- Home School Fact Sheet
- K-12 School Options
- Military Family Life Counselors
- Impact Aid – What it is/What it isn't
- Military Interstate Children's Compact Flyer
- South Carolina Family Guide to Assessments – Student Success Tools

JB Charleston Youth Programs



The **School Age Program** offers care for *before school*, *After school*, and seasonal *camps* for youth ages 5-12 years old. The school age program provides age appropriate activities through the 4-H and Boys and Girls Club curriculum. Activities include field trips, a focus on building life skills, creative arts, physical activities, and various other activities. Breakfast, lunch and snack are reflected and provided on standardized menus.



Transportation:

- Air Base services selected schools in the North Charleston area.
- Weapons Station services selected schools in the Goose Creek Area.

Cost:

- \$5/Hour Drop-in Care
- Weekly Enrollment Fees are based on a Sliding Scale of Total Family Income.



BGCA and 4H Programming



Weekly 4H enrichment programming is offered at the JB Youth Programs. On these days, the youth experience hands on challenges to include but is not limited to building rockets, smart cars, learning about and constructing bridges, experimenting with trajectory and torque, and so much more.



The **Sports Program** provides a wide array of organized, instructional and recreational sports and fitness activities to the youth on the Weapons Station and Air Base. The overall goal is to help youth



develop sportsmanship and learn the fundamental skills for each sport. The sports programs cannot function without volunteer coaches.

This is a great opportunity for parents/active duty/dependents/retirees to pass on their knowledge and skills to the next generation.

Sports Programs offered: Soccer, Basketball, Volleyball, Baseball along with Sports Camps and Fitness events.

Instructional Programs



Current Programs

- Homeschool
- Martial Arts Lessons
- Specialty Programs during summer months
- Dance Classes

Classes offered through our center promote and enhance the development of our youth. Instructors are all highly certified. If you have a special interest in a class not currently being offered, please let us know.



The **Open Rec/Teen Program** caters to 9-18 year olds. For only \$35/Year, this program offers a variety of activities for preteens and teens.



Activities offered includes but is not limited to lock-ins, dances, health promoting programs, field trips, and various leadership/character building programs offered through the Boys and Girls Clubs of America.

Big Benefits Being a Member of...

For only

\$35/Year,



your youth has access to...

- *Discounts* on Instructional Programs
- *FREE/Discounts* on varied Special Programs and workshops
- *FREE/Discount* on varied Dances/Lock In's.

Contact Us...

[Weapons Station Youth Program](#)

[Air Base Youth Program](#)

843-794-7809

843-963-5684

**Joint Base Charleston Child and Youth Programs
Child Care and School-Age Care Resources**

MILITARY CONNECTED

REGISTER ONLINE BEFORE GOING TO THE CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTERS

MilitaryChildCare.com – website for military families seeking child care, Child & Youth/Open Recreation programs. <http://militarychildcare.com/>
855-696-2934

Joint Base Charleston Child Development Center (Air Base)
1654 East Jackson Street
Joint Base Charleston, SC 29404
843-963-4366
628fss.fsf.1@us.af.mil
Facebook: JB Charleston CDC

Joint Base Charleston Child Development Center (Weapons Station)
201 Von Steuben Street
Goose Creek, SC 29445
843-794-7408
628fss.fsf.1@us.af.mil
Facebook: JB Charleston CDC

Joint Base Charleston Family Child Care Program
2373 White Circle
Joint Base Charleston, SC 29404
843-963-2546
628fss.fsf@us.af.mil

Joint Base Charleston School-Age Care (Air Base)
2451 N. O'Neal Avenue
Joint Base Charleston, SC 29404
843-963-5684
628fss.fsf.2@us.af.mil
Facebook: JB Charleston Youth Programs

Joint Base Charleston School-Age Care (Weapons Station)
788 Chapel Drive
Goose Creek, SC 29445
843-794-7809
628fss.fsf.2@us.af.mil
Facebook: JB Charleston Youth Programs

Military Child Care in Your Neighborhood – Administered by Child Care Aware

<http://childcareaware.org>

800-424-2246

SCHOOL DISTRICTS

Berkeley County School District

228 East Main Street

Moncks Corner, SC 29461

842-899-8600

<http://www.bcsdschools.net>

Charleston County School District

3999 Bridge View Drive

North Charleston, SC 29405

843-529-2225

<http://www.ccsdschools.com>

Dorchester County School District 2

801 John McKissick Way

Summerville, SC 29483

http://www.edlinesites.net/pages/Dorchester_County_SD

Dorchester County School District 4

500 Ridge Street

St. George, SC 29477

843-563-4535

<http://www.dorchester4.K12.sc.us/?PN=Schools2>

SEARCH FOR CARE – SOME INCLUDE RATINGS

National Association for the Education of Young Children

<http://www.naeyc.org>

Council on Accreditation

<http://coanet.org/home/>

ABC Quality

<http://abcquality.org>

South Carolina Child Care Resource & Referral Network

1530 Wheat Street

Columbia, SC 29208

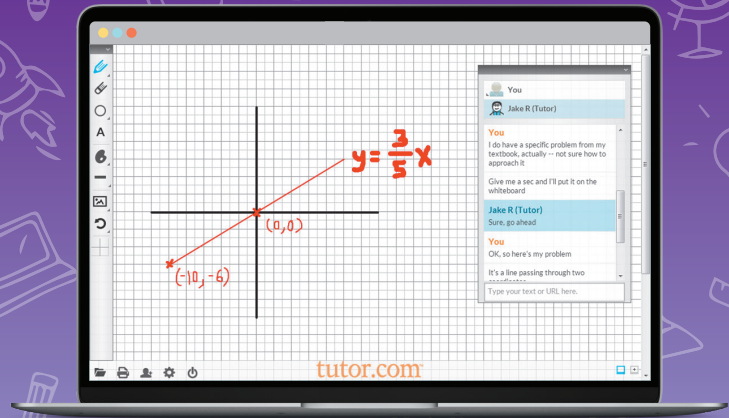
888-335-1002

[SC Child Care - Search](#)

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No Federal endorsement intended.

Set Your Sights on Academic Success



EXPERT TUTORS AVAILABLE AROUND-THE-CLOCK

Work with a live subject matter expert 24/7 from any internet-connected computer or mobile device.



40+ SUBJECTS, ALL SKILL LEVELS

From math and science to English and history, get tutored in more than 40 subjects, grades K-12 through college.



MORE THAN JUST THE BASICS

Improve writing skills, take practices quizzes, get help with AP® subjects, prep for tests, polish resumes and more.

Military life comes with many challenges—education should not be one of them.

Tutor.com/military is funded by the U.S. Department of Defense and Coast Guard Mutual Assistance to provide on-demand online tutoring at no cost to eligible students. Go to **tutor.com/military** to watch the “How it Works” video and create an account today.

TUTORING THAT WORKS FOR YOU

- **Expert help at no cost.** Active duty service members, their grades K-12 children and other eligible students can use this program for free.
- **Real-time help on demand.** A student can connect to a tutor within minutes. Students can also designate favorite tutors, store documents in their virtual “locker” and review previous sessions.
- **Personalized support.** Each tutoring session is between one student and one tutor who helps the student learn, complete homework assignments, improve writing skills, prep for tests and more.
- **Engaging learning environment.** The interactive online classroom features a whiteboard, easy-to-use tools, instant text messaging and file sharing.
- **Peace of mind.** A student and a highly vetted tutor work together anonymously in the secure online classroom.

Tutor.com for U.S. Military Families is funded by the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) MWR Library Program, the DoD Navy General Library Program and Coast Guard Mutual Assistance (CGMA). Access to Tutor.com/military for DoD Active Duty service members is a DoD Pilot Program of limited duration, funded by the DoD Voluntary Education Program. Those who fund the program determine eligibility for its use. Long-term availability of the program is not guaranteed. The appearance of U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) visual information does not imply or constitute DoD endorsement. AP is a trademark registered and owned by the College Board, which is not affiliated with and does not endorse this product.





A MILITARY FAMILY'S GUIDE TO SCHOOL TRANSITIONS



Moving to a new post can spark anxiety in military families over the quality of the schools in and around a military installation. But families with children in preschool through high school can take certain actions to mitigate these concerns and help their children transition effectively to a new school. This guide has been compiled by military spouses with decades of experience in an effort to help simplify that process.



ORGANIZE SCHOOL RECORDS

Have at least an unofficial copy of your child's school records as well as report cards. While the receiving school district will make the request for the transfer of your child's official records, unofficial copies will give you some material to work with when discussing your child's placements in the new school. Don't forget a copy of your child's birth certificate and immunization records.

Be sure to inform schools of your military-connected status when filling out enrollment forms!



COMPILE SCHOOL CONTACT INFORMATION

For older students, especially high school students, compile contact information for teachers and coaches at the previous school who might be future references for your child.



FAMILIARIZE YOURSELF WITH THE SCHOOL CURRICULUM

Each curriculum has its own focus, style, and methodology, so becoming familiar with the curriculum that your child has been involved with can prove helpful in making school choices. You can often make efficient comparisons with the new school's program knowing what reading, math, science, and social studies curricula were used. Write down the names of the books that your child used in his or her last school as a starting point.



KNOW YOUR CHILD'S INTERESTS

Have a list of your child's extracurricular activities and interests — including sports and level of participation, volunteer commitments, and hobbies. Be aware of new activities that your child might want to participate in, as well as athletics tryout eligibility requirements — especially if transferring mid-season. This information helps to round out the picture of your child that you present as a new member of this school community.



CONNECT WITH SCHOOL LIAISONS

School liaisons at the military installation serve as a clearinghouse for information about the schools on and near bases, and the services and programs offered in them. Meeting with them should be the first step for all transitioning parents, as they are the subject matter experts on education. It is their job to assist you in best understanding your new installation and the educational offerings it provides and supports — both inside and outside of the gates.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2





GET TO KNOW YOUR LOCAL SCHOOL BOARD

Follow local school board members in the region where you are moving. Use local newspapers and district websites to become aware of their objectives, student outcomes, and performance goals prior to your arrival. Know when they hold public meetings. Many school boards now include a military representative, who can be another great resource.



MEET WITH A SCHOOL'S SPECIAL NEEDS DIRECTOR

If you have a child with an active Individualized Education Program (IEP), consider communicating with the district's Special Education Director to identify where services that your child may use are provided. Even schools in close proximity to one another can vary significantly in the availability of special education services. District staff can provide the most complete picture of their offerings and locations. A copy of your child's current IEP provides the receiving district with facts about your child's current services and your expectations. This can expedite continued support for your child upon arrival, especially for mid-year transitions. Bases also offer supports through the Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP). Be sure to reach out to the EFMP Coordinator at your new base before moving to get connected.



GET FAMILIAR WITH THE INTERSTATE COMPACT

The Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children addresses key educational transition issues encountered by military families including enrollment, placement, attendance, eligibility, and graduation. While the compact "levels the playing field" for students, it's not intended to impact curriculum or local standards of education. To resolve compact-related concerns, families should first work with the school and military school liaison officer — or contact their state commissioner if additional assistance is needed. Visit www.mic3.net for more information.



TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE PLETHORA OF MILITARY PARENT RESOURCES

Several key organizations provide information and insight about transitioning from one post to another and how to mitigate the impact on your child's school experience, including Military Families for High Standards, Military Child Education Coalition, the Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission, National Military Family Association, and ZERO TO THREE. Visit their websites and read their publications for more information, and get in touch if you have questions.

Each child is as unique as each family's experience. But remember, you are not alone. Military spouses at the new installation or spouses who have recently lived at that particular base have learned the ins and outs of that location and are often happy to share their experiences.

Learn more at militaryfamiliesforhighstandards.org



MCEC Quick Checklist for School Moves

FROM THE PARENT/GUARDIAN:

- Student's Birth Certificate
- Student's Social Security Number
- Student's Health Record (Immunization, etc.)
- Legal Documents as Needed
- Proof of Residency/Military Orders

SCHOOL INFORMATION:

- Address, Phone Numbers, Other Contact Information
- Course Description Book/Grading Scale (if available for 6th grade and above)
- Copy of the Cover of Each Textbook or the Title Page
- School Profile/Handbook
- School Web Page (URL)
- Other: _____

SCHOOL RECORDS:

- Copy of Cumulative Folder (only the copy mailed between schools is considered official)
- Current Schedule
- Report Cards
- Withdrawal Grades or Progress Reports
- Test Scores (Standardized or Special Program Testing, etc.)
- Other: _____

SPECIAL PROGRAMS RECORDS AS APPROPRIATE:

- Individual Education Plan (IEP)/Individual Accommodation Plan (504)/Gifted Program Description
- English as a Second Language (ESL) or Bilingual Education
- At-Risk or Other Action Plans for Classroom Modifications
- Other: _____

OTHER DOCUMENTS AND EXAMPLES:

- Writing Samples and Other Work Examples
- Activities Records (co/extracurricular)
 - Community Service or Service Learning
 - Other Work or Performance Examples
 - Academic Recognitions and Competition Participation
 - Other: _____





Homeschool Fact Sheet JB Charleston - July 2018

In 2016 there were 2.3 million, with a growth rate estimated at 2% to 8% annually.

It is important to note that home school rules and regulations vary from state to state. Below you will find the rules and regulations for home schooling in South Carolina. Additionally, there is a list of resources, books and internet sites, available to assist parents in making this important decision regarding their child's education. State Webpage: <http://ed.sc.gov/agency/programs-services/125/>

Compulsory School Age in South Carolina

"five years of age before September first until . . . seventeenth birthday or "graduation from high school; five-year-olds may be excused from kindergarten with submission of written notice to the school district"

South Carolina Legal Home Schooling Options: 1 2 3			
	Option: 1	Option: 2	Option: 3
Legal Option:	Establish and operate a home school as approved by the local school board	Establish and operate a home school under the membership auspices of the South Carolina Association of Independent Home Schools (SCAIHS)	Establish and operate a home school under the membership auspices of an association for home schools with no fewer than fifty members
Attendance:	180 days per year, 4½ hours per day	180 days per year	180 days per year
Subjects:	Reading, writing, math, science, and social studies; also composition and literature in grades 7-12	Reading, writing, math, science, and social studies; also composition and literature in grades 7-12	Reading, writing, math, science, and social studies; also composition and literature in grades 7-12
Qualifications:	High school diploma or GED or a baccalaureate degree	High school diploma or GED	High school diploma or GED
Notice:	None, if transferring from another state/country. If your child has been attending a SC school and you chose to home school you must notify the school district in writing.	None, if transferring from another state/country. If your child has been attending a SC school and you chose to home school you must notify the school district in writing.	None, if transferring from another state/country. If your child has been attending a SC school and you chose to home school you must notify the school district in writing.
Recordkeeping:	Maintain evidence of regular instruction including a record of subjects taught, activities in which the student and parent engage, a portfolio of the child's work, and a record of academic evaluations, with a semiannual progress report	None required by statute; SCAIHS requires some recordkeeping	Maintain evidence of regular instruction including a record of subjects taught, activities in which the student and parent engage, and a portfolio of the child's work, with a semiannual progress report
Testing:	Participate: statewide testing Basic Skills Assessment Prog	None required by statute; SCAIHS has requirements	None

Homeschool Fact Sheet (Cont'd)

Many parents who home school in South Carolina choose Option 3 because it allows more flexibility, particularly in the area of curriculum selection. Option 3 requires affiliation with an accountability association. An accountability association is an organization operated by home schoolers that provides a means of legal compliance for its members under SC home school statutes 59-65-45 (SCAIHS) and 59-65-47 (all others). Each organization has its own policies and membership fees. Here are a few that our families use:

- Grace Home School Association: <http://gracehomeschools.org/>
- Carolina Homeschooler: <http://www.carolinahomeschooler.com/>
- Homeward Education Association: <http://www.homewarded.com/>
- South Carolina Association of Independent Home Schools: <http://www.schomeschooling.com>
- At Home In The Lowcountry Association: <http://www.athomeinthelowcountry.com/>
- PACESC: www.pacesc.com
- Half Moon Homeschool Association: www.halfmoonhomeschool.com
- Alliance Homeschool Accountability Association: <http://alliancehomeschool.org/>

NOTE - You MUST be covered by a legal accountability association within 10 days of the beginning of school in your school district or your children will be considered truant.

Although not required, affiliation with a support group is a good idea, particularly for those new to home schooling. With over 400 members, a popular support group in the Tri-County area is the Lowcountry Christian Home Educators Association: <https://lchea.wildapricot.org/>. Parents can get lots of valuable home school information, resources and support.

Other informative websites are:

HSLDA - Offers a wide array of homeschool resources free & fee based

<http://www.homeschoolcentral.com>

<http://www.home-school.com/>

Home Education Learning Partnership - Courses offered to supplement your home school

Virtual Schools: An option for parents who want their children to be schooled at home but follow a predetermined curriculum. <http://www.sccharter.org/>

Joint Base Charleston School Information

School Information Packet: jbcharleston.jb.mil "Newcomers" "Charleston Area Schools"

School Liaison Facebook: [JB Charleston School Liaison Office](#)

Homeschool Group Facebook: [JB Charleston Homeschool Families](#)

Child and Youth Programs – Homeschool Classes Offered

PE/Enrichment classes are offered at the Child & Youth Program Centers during the regular school year. Call for more information.

Weapons Station: 843-794-7809 Air Base: 843-963-5684

For more information on home schooling please contact the School Liaison Officer, JB Charleston at 843- 963-4406

Joint Base School Liaison Officer (SLO)

The School Liaison Officer serves as a conduit of school information and is the primary point of contact for public and private school matters. Please contact the SLO to ensure you understand ALL of your school options, and have correct contact information.

General Information about School Options

- Three county school districts, two state charter schools, virtual and private schools provide a wide range of options for military families in the Charleston area.
- Children attend school in the district in which they reside
- School ratings: <https://screportcards.ed.sc.gov/>
- Districts establish enrollment processes for their individual schools
- Some specialized magnet/charter schools have lotteries as a path to enrollment
- There are some special provisions for military families, but these are not uniform across the districts
- The state charter schools are open to all SC residents

Military Interstate Children's Compact

- The Military Interstate Children's Compact provides some accommodations/protections for placement/enrollment for military children in all public schools.
- This includes "Comparable Placement" in the receiving district based on from previous school enrollments. Go to MIC3.net, or call the SLO, for more information.

DISCLAIMER

The information contained in this flyer is general information, and may not include all elements of each program. Web links are provided on the next page, and it is recommended you speak directly to the SLO, school, or school district to ensure you have the most accurate information. School choice can be complicated, and not every situation can be addressed in this flyer.

PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICTS

[Berkeley County School District](http://www.bcsdschools.net)
www.bcsdschools.net

[Charleston County School District](http://www.ccsdschools.com)
www.ccsdschools.com

[Dorchester School District Two](https://www.ddtwo.org/)
<https://www.ddtwo.org/>

[South Carolina Public Charter School District](http://www.sccharter.org/)
www.sccharter.org/

HELPFUL SITES:

[South Carolina Department of Education](https://ed.sc.gov/)
<https://ed.sc.gov/>

[Tutor.Com: Free tutoring 24/7/365](http://www.tutor.com/military)
www.tutor.com/military

SCHOOL LIAISON OFFICE (SLO)

104 E. Simpson St., Building 500
Airman & Family Readiness Center
Ph: 843-963-4410/4406
FB: JB Charleston School Liaison Office
Twitter: @jbcsl02011

SCHOOL INFORMATION PACKET

Available under "Newcomers" tab at:
<http://www.jbcharleston.jb.mil/>



K-12 SCHOOL OPTIONS



Joint Base Charleston (JB CHS)

2019-2020

Public Charter Schools

Palmetto Scholars Academy (PSA):

- Provides an accelerated curriculum grades 6-12
- Located on the Air Base side of Joint Base
- Open to all South Carolina residents
- Space may be limited by grade level
- Call the School Liaison: 843-963-4410
- PSA Phone: 843-300-4118 - Dr. Gott

Mevers School of Excellence:

- Charter school for grades K-8
- Applications available online
- Lottery if applications exceed seats available
- Applications from previous year do not roll over
- Phone: 843-806-5909

Dorchester School District 2 (DD2)

- DD2 is one a top rated SC school district
- District works special assignment considerations with military families on a case by case basis

Rollings Middle School of the Arts

- Arts Infused Magnet program grades 5-8
- Enrollment is through the 6th grade lottery
- Applications for vacancies are announced through DD2 media outlets
- Phone:843-873-3610

Early College

- Early College programming is part of the DD2 high school curriculum They are available to students once they pass a college entrance exam. Students may take college courses while completing their high school graduation requirements in regular high school classrooms.
- Contact your child's high school Guidance Office for more information

Berkeley County School District (BCSD)

Marrington Elementary School

- JB CHS Weapons Station (WS) housing residents attend Marrington ES
- It is open to active duty military "residents" of Berkeley County. Transportation is not provided
- Two Military Family Life Counselors are assigned
- Phone: 843- 572-3373

Marrington Middle School of the Arts

- Arts infused, County Wide, magnet school located on JB CHS Weapons Station
- WS residents are assigned to the school.
- A Military Family Life Counselor is assigned
- Phone: 843- 572-0313

Howe Hall AIMS Elementary School

- Grades K-5, open to residents of Berkeley County and BCSD employees
- Howe Hall accepts applications Feb - Mar with the lottery in May (watch Website for 2020 dates)
- Phone: 843-820-3899

Berkeley Center for the Arts (BCA)

- Located at Goose Creek HS, BCA is a secondary Fine Arts program open to 9th and 10 grade students through selection/audition
- The program is geared towards those seeking a career in the Fine Arts, including: Creative Writing, Dance, Wind/Percussion, Voice, Visual Arts, Strings, and Theater
- Applications are available January thru March, with auditions scheduled shortly thereafter.
- Military families arriving after normal lottery should contact the SLO if interested
- Phone: 843-553-5300

Berkeley Middle College

- Located at the Trident Technical College Berkeley Campus. Applications open in Dec., grades 11-12
- Potential to graduate high school with a two year degree
- Phone: 843-899-8111

Charleston County School District (CCSD)

Magnet/ Charter Schools

- Families relocating to Charleston after the School Choice application deadline are eligible to apply for enrollment for choice programs.
- It is strongly recommended you contact the SLO for details "BEFORE" applying
- **Active duty military families "already residing" in CCSD (>1 year)** may complete regular lottery applications online when available at:
<https://www.ccsdschools.com/families/students/choice>
- **Newly arriving active duty military families "relocating to CCSD (<1 year)** may have special provisions available at:
https://www.ccsdschools.com/families/students/choice/resources_for_military_families
- Assistance is available through the SLO, or the CCSD School Choice Office at: 843-937-6582

Transfer Requests

- CCSD had two transfer request windows this year, March and June.
- Application can be found on the CCSD Website under <Families/Students/Student Transfers>
- Special requests can be submitted to Constituent Districts, on a case by case basis, at other times of the year. SLO can assist

CCSD Early College High School

- Located downtown on the Trident Technical College Palmer Campus
- Applications for 9th grade are accepted at this time.
- Potential to graduate high school with a two year degree
- Website: <http://earlycollege.ccsdschools.com>
- Phone: 843-720-5701

MILITARY FAMILY LIFE COUNSELORS - ASSIGNED TO SELECT SCHOOLS

The Department of Defense (DOD) authorized the funding for seven full-time Military Family Life Counselors (MFLC's) to serve 5 elementary schools and two middle school in the Charleston Tri-County area.

SY 17-18	Berkeley County Marrington ES (2) Marrington MSOA (1)	Charleston County Lambs ES (.5) Hunley Park ES (.25)	Dorchester District 2 Oakbrook ES (.5) Fort Dorchester ES (1)
SY 18-19	Add: Cane Bay ES (1)	Add: Palmetto Scholars Academy (.25)	Add: Oakbrook MS (.5)

MFLC's offer short-term non-medical counseling services to children, parents, faculty, and staff. The MFLC's interface with military students in small group sessions as well as individual sessions. The MFLC counselors are at the schools to help and are available to talk to military students, facilitate group activities, outreach to parents and to process interactions and concerns, such as:

- Communication
- Self-esteem/self-confidence
- Resolving conflicts
- Behavioral management techniques
- Bullying
- Helping children deal with angry feelings
- Sibling/parental relationships
- Deployment and reintegration issues

The MFLC program utilizes professional, licensed and credentialed counselors. This DOD program is provided by Magellan Health Services. Contact the School Liaison Officer for more information



FAQ on Impact Aid For Parents

1. What is Impact Aid?

Impact Aid is a Federal education program that reimburses school districts for the lost revenue and additional costs associated with the presence of nontaxable Federal property, such as military installations; Indian Trust or Treaty lands; Federal low-rent housing facilities; and national laboratories, national parks and other Federal buildings or lands. There are more than 1,200 federally impacted school districts (those districts that receive Impact Aid) located across all 50 states. Together, they educate more than 10 million public school students.

2. How are federally impacted school districts different from other public school districts?

Most public school districts are funded in large part by local revenue – primarily a combination of local property taxes on homes and businesses or other local fees. School financing is limited for federally impacted school districts because Federal property – and housing, businesses, and other facilities located on Federal property – are tax exempt. This means that, unlike other types of property, the Federal government's land does not contribute to the costs of running a school district.

3. Who are federally connected students?

Federally connected students are those who have a parent or guardian on active duty in the military; live on Indian lands, in Federal low-income housing or other federally owned property; or live with a parent or guardian who works on Federal property. More than 80 percent of military-connected and American Indian students attend public schools. A school district can receive Impact Aid funding if it has at least 400 federally connected students in its Average Daily Attendance (ADA), or at least 3% of all children in its ADA are federally connected. The number and percentage of federally connected students in a district is a critical factor in determining how much Impact Aid funding that district receives.

4. Why is Impact Aid directed toward the school district and not individual families, schools or Tribes?

Impact Aid takes the place of revenue that a community would otherwise generate through property, income and sales taxes. Therefore, it goes into a school district's operating fund and is used to support *all* students in the district, just like other local tax revenue.

5. How do school districts use Impact Aid funds?

Impact Aid can be used for any general fund purpose, such as instructional materials, teacher salaries, transportation, technology, social-emotional supports or facilities. All decisions on how Impact Aid funds are spent are made locally. This flexibility and local control allows school district leaders to target funds supporting all students wherever the needs are greatest.

THE NAFIS FAMILY

MISA

Military Impacted
Schools Association

NIISA

National Indian Impacted
Schools Association

FLISA

Federal Lands Impacted
Schools Association

MTLLS

Mid-to-Low-LOT
Schools

6. What information does the school district need to collect from parents, and why?

For a school district to receive Impact Aid, the Federal government requires it to collect specific information to verify its federally connected students. For each student, this information includes both enrollment information (such as name, birth date and school) and residence and parent employment information (including, but not limited to, student address if on Federal property; name and address of the Federal property on which a parent is employed; and name, rank and branch of service of a parent who is a member of the uniformed services on active duty). The form must be signed and dated by the parent supplying the information.

7. How is this information shared and protected?

Information on the form is used only for purposes of submitting the Impact Aid application. It is subject to a school district's student privacy policy, as well as Federal and state laws protecting the privacy of students and families.

8. Why do I have to complete these forms every year?

Since enrollment changes from year to year, the Federal government requires school districts to count students every year before it allocates Impact Aid funding. It is critical that survey forms are filled out completely and signed, or the student may not be recognized as federally connected (which means less money for the school district!).

9. Does my school district receive all the Impact Aid funding it is due?

No. Funding must be approved annually by Congress. Because of limited Federal funding and competing interests, Impact Aid has not been fully funded since 1969. On average, school districts receive about 55% of what they're due.

10. How much of my school district's budget is made up of Impact Aid?

It depends on your community and its level of impaction. Impact Aid funding can range from a fraction of a percent to more than 50 percent of a school district's budget, as some federally impacted school districts are located entirely on Federal property or have as few as three taxpayers.

11. What can I do to support Impact Aid?

Be sure to complete all Impact Aid survey forms in their entirety to ensure it gets the funding it deserves. If you hear other parents questioning why they need to fill out the forms, let them know how important it is to their local school.

To learn more about Impact Aid and how to advocate for the program, visit the NAFIS website at www.nafisdc.org.



WHAT IS THE COMPACT?

Developed in 2006, the Military Interstate Children's Compact was adopted by all 50 states, the District of Columbia and the Department of Defense Education Activity. The Compact eases the educational challenges that military children encounter, and supports uniform treatment as they transfer between school districts in member states. Note: The Compact only applies to public schools.

STUDENTS COVERED

Children of the following:

- Active duty members of the uniformed services, including members of the National Guard and Reserve on active duty orders (Title 10)
- Members or veterans who are medically discharged or retired for one year
- Members who die on active duty, for a period of one year after death
- Uniformed members of the Commissioned Corps of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and United States Public Health Services (USPHS)

STUDENTS NOT COVERED

Children of the following:

- Inactive members of the National Guard and Reserves (Not Title 10)
- Members now retired not covered above
- Veterans not covered above
- Other Department of Defense personnel, federal agency civilians and contract employees not defined as active duty
- Members other than the uniformed personnel of NOAA and USPHS

SOME OF THE ISSUES COVERED

Enrollment

- Educational Records
- Immunizations
- Kindergarten & First Grade

Entrance Age

Placement & Attendance

- Course & Educational Program Placement
- Special Education Services
- Placement Flexibility
- Absence Related to Deployment Activities

Graduation

- Waiving courses required for graduation if similar course work has been completed
- Flexibility in accepting state exit or end-of-course exams, national achievement tests, or alternative testing in lieu of testing requirements for graduation in the receiving state
- Allowing a student to receive a diploma from the sending school instead of the receiving school

MISSION

Through the Interstate Compact, MIC3 addresses key educational transition issues encountered by children of military families.

CONTACT US AT

1776 Avenue of the States | Lexington, KY 40511
859.244.8133 | www.mic3.net | mic3info@csg.org



2016-17 FAMILY GUIDE TO ASSESSMENTS: STUDENT SUCCESS TOOLS



Understanding the Purpose of Assessments

The goal of any assessment is to improve teaching and learning. Depending upon the type of assessment administered, an assessment should answer one or more of the following questions:

- Are students learning and understanding what is being taught?
- Are students being taught what they need to learn?
- Are students growing as learners?
- What did students learn?
- Are students prepared for the next level of learning or for college and careers?
- How do students compare to their peers, students in other states or students in other nations?
- Into which level or intervention should the student be placed to succeed academically?

Understanding Types of Assessments

There are many types of assessments designed by classroom teachers, testing companies, state departments of education, and school districts. Some assessments are required by state or federal law while others are determined by district or school administrators. Below are descriptions and definitions of various types of assessments, along with examples of assessments used in South Carolina and in other states. Note that some assessments are given at the discretion of local schools, districts, or course requirements while others are required by state or federal law.

Formative Assessments

Definition: Formative assessments provide **immediate** feedback to students and teachers so that they can modify future instruction and learning.

Some students may need more assistance and others may need accelerated learning opportunities. The assessment, often given multiple times during the school year, is used to inform teaching and learning decisions. Formative assessments are often used as interim measures, allowing teachers to determine if a child is on track to be successful at the end of the school year.

Examples: School/Class – homework, observations, questions, quizzes, reading logs, etc.

The S.C. Board of Education has identified the following formative assessments school districts may choose to use and receive state funding for administration: Measures of Academic Progress (MAP); Blended Assessment with Instruction Program (BAIP-Math); or STAR Reading and STAR Mathematics.

TIPS FOR STUDENT TESTING SUCCESS FOR PARENTS & FAMILIES

1. Know what tests are given and when tests are scheduled. Inquire about results.
2. Avoid scheduling appointments, trips or other activities during testing.
3. Set a daily study time and limit interruptions.
4. Discuss homework with your child. Stress responsibility for doing the work and check to see that assignments are completed.
5. Keep track of your child's progress throughout the year. Praise success. Talk with your child's teacher about any areas of concern.
6. Encourage your child to ask questions at home or in class.
7. Read to your child, read with your child, and read yourself.
8. Encourage your child to review beforehand and to do his/her best on testing days.
9. Remind your child of the importance of reading directions carefully and not rushing through a test.
10. Review test results with your child. Praise success and talk about what can be done for areas in need of improvement.
11. Remind your child to do their best because some test scores can have an impact on his or her future.
12. Look for ways to make learning a part of everyday conversations and activities.

Formative assessments like MAP and STAR are often administered at different intervals throughout the year to determine student knowledge and skills relative to specific academic goals. Results are used to inform instruction and guide decision making at the classroom, school and district level, as well as be used to measure student growth over time.

Summative Assessments

Definition: Summative assessments determine the level of student performance at the conclusion of a defined instructional period.

A summative assessment can be at the end of a quarter, unit, course, semester, program, or at the end of the school year. In statewide accountability, summative assessments refer to end-of-grade testing in grades 3 through 8 and in high school. These assessments are designed to measure students' knowledge and skills in relation to state standards. Schools and districts in South Carolina are held accountable for educating all children, and the results of summative assessments help ensure that happens. Some summative assessments may be used to compare achievement of students in one state to the achievement of students in other states.

Examples: School/Class – Final exams, EOCs, Advanced Placement (AP), and International Baccalaureate Exams (*at the discretion of the school or district*)

State: SC READY in English Language Arts (ELA) and mathematics in grades 3-8, SC Palmetto Assessment of State Standards (SCPASS) in Science and Social Studies in grades 4-8, End-of-Course Assessments in high school courses: Algebra I, English 1, Biology, and U.S. History and the Constitution (*assessments required by state and federal law*)

Alternate Assessments

Definition: Alternate assessments evaluate the performance of students who are unable to participate in regular state assessments even with accommodations. Students who qualify to take these assessments typically have significant cognitive disabilities, and therefore, are assessed using alternate achievement standards.

Examples: SC-ALT in Science and Social Studies and National Center and State Collaborative (NCSC) Alternate Assessment in English Language Arts and Mathematics (*assessments required by state and federal law*)

Authentic & Performance Assessments

Definition: Authentic and Performance assessments use tasks typical of how the skills are used in “real world” settings. Such assessments follow “authentic learning” in which teachers facilitate learning through connecting the skills and content knowledge students are taught in school to real-world issues, problems, and applications. Teachers determine what students need to be able to do to show mastery of knowledge and skills and then develop learning activities to measure whether students have mastered essential knowledge, skills, and understanding. Rubrics of project's criteria are explained to students before beginning the work.

Examples: English language arts – Create a poem, ballad or story, write an obituary for a famous person.

Math – Determine how much paint or carpet would be needed to re-decorate a room, develop a budget for getting your first apartment.

Science - Develop a recycling campaign, prepare and participate in a global warming debate

Social Studies - Analyze a political cartoon, create a map using road directions (*all at the discretion of the school or district*)

Standardized tests

Definition: “Standardized” refers to the “conditions of administration” of a test, so the test is administered in the same way each time it is administered and scored using the same procedures for all examinees. Some of the most common standardized tests are aptitude tests, college admission tests, International comparison tests, Psychological tests, and job skills assessments.

WHAT IS HIGH-STAKES TESTING?

The public often hears about “high-stakes testing,” which means that decisions are made about a student, teacher, or school based on the results of certain tests. Most tests are **not** designed to be high-stakes but rather, are used to inform teachers about how students are progressing academically so that they can better address the learning needs of students.

Examples:

1. State - Gifted and Talented placement tests, Iowa Assessment (IA) and Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT) (*assessments required by state and federal law*)
2. College Readiness Exam (*ACT will be administered to 11th grade students.*)
3. Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) and Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS)
4. IQ tests
5. ACT WorkKeys (*assessment required by state law*)

Kindergarten Readiness Assessments

Definition: Early readiness assessments determine the developmental skills a child should have upon beginning kindergarten. It is meant to answer the question: Is my child ready for kindergarten? The readiness assessments often include social & emotional, mathematical thinking, health, and early literacy.

The early readiness assessment is not used as criteria for entry into Kindergarten but instead, the results are used to provide teachers with a better understanding of each student's strengths and educational needs. The assessment includes teacher observations, student responses to questions, and other activities to measure where a child is cognitively.

Examples: State – This year, school districts have a choice in 4K to administer one of the following three assessments: Individual Growth Development Indicators (IGDIs), Teaching Strategies GOLD; and PALS: Pre-K.

Students entering 5K will be administered the Diagnostic Reading Assessment (DRA).

Placement Tests

Definition: Placement tests are used to determine which level or class a student should be enrolled in and what level of intervention is needed.

Examples: ACCESS (Assessing Comprehension and Communication in English State-to-State for English Language Learners) for English language learners and Alternate ACCESS for English language learners with significant cognitive disabilities. (*assessments required by federal law*)

National Assessments

Definition: These assessments represent progress toward what America's students know and are able to do in Reading, Mathematics and Science. The tests are given to randomly selected students in each state every two years.

Example: National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)

**IDEAS FOR PARENTS & FAMILIES -- ASK THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:**

1. Which tests are given at your child's school? Who determines which types of tests are given? What do these tests measure? What you can do at home to help your child prepare for tests?
2. Discuss with your child the importance of developing all of their academic skills and personal attributes. Give examples of your child's strengths in different areas and let them know about situations in your own professional and personal life that require a variety of skills.
3. Consider organizing a "testing information" night for parents at your child's school about upcoming tests and/or how to interpret the results of tests. The SIC or PTO could sponsor an evening event featuring presentations, as well as, a question-and-answer session.