

Joint Base Charleston South Carolina



School Information Packet

Revised: 6 February 2017

School Liaison Office Joint Base Charleston



Welcome to Joint Base Charleston (JB CHS). This electronic package contains school information to help you during your transition. The links in the packet are "live" so you can easily access the information you need by using the Ctrl key and your mouse. Contact the School Liaison Office with questions/concerns as you transition to the installation. Recommendations for improving this packet are encouraged so it is current for the next family. This packet includes:

- School Liaison Officer (SLO) Welcome Letter
- Installation overview with Web links for local school resources
- Compact Listing Quick Links

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

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

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Military One Source Installation Page – Joint Base Charleston

Most of the following information can be located on the Installation Page for Joint Base Charleston, accessed at: <http://www.militaryinstallations.dod.mil>. Look under the “Education” tab.

Introduction

Children of military members attend schools in the surrounding Charleston, Dorchester II, and Berkeley County School Districts. The districts provide a full range of educational programs, i.e., vocational and technical training, 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 options available in the area. School starts in mid-August and ends early June for most schools.

Attendance Zones: According to state law, students must attend assigned public schools within their district of residence. There are a few charter schools that draw from all areas of the state regardless of residence.

The School Liaison Officer

The School Liaison Officer (SLO) assists military parents/guardians advocate for the K-12 educational needs of their children, including public, private and home school support programs. The SLO can further assist with transitions to the next duty station.

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 [school report cards](#) Online, and visit each campus, as you make your housing decision.

South Carolina has made great strides improving education, and is in the process of implementing the Common Core Standards being adopted by most states.

South Carolina is a member of the [Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunities](#) for Military Children. Information is available online. All military families with school age children should be familiar with the rules of the compact before transferring to a new area.

Those Living in Air Base (AB) Housing

AB Housing is serviced by Charleston County Schools. 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 brand new state of the art facility that is demonstrating strong improvement under new leadership.

Charleston County’s Resolution to Accommodate Military Families significantly expands access to [Choice school Options](#) for military families. It provides:

- Extended magnet school application periods for military families arriving after the normal December deadlines.

- The Choice Application for Military Families provides inbound families a choice of up to three schools they would like to attend other than the locally assigned school. Transportation to a choice school varies, depending on the individual school.
- Applications are submitted directly to the CCSD office as noted on the application. A copy of your orders will be required as well.

DO NOT APPLY DIRECTLY TO ANY OF THE CHOICE SCHOOLS. Contact the School Liaison Officer for more information on this program, or visit the [Charleston County Military Families Web link](#). Please communicate with the district directly as noted on the application, or with the School Liaison Officer, if you have questions.

A performance matrix for the "Choice" schools is available upon request from the SLO.

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 Elementary is a Palmetto Gold and Silver Award Winner. [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 Palmettos Finest designation. [Goose Creek High School](#) and the [Berkeley Center for the Arts](#) provide comprehensive 9-12 curriculum. Be aware that any active duty military family attached to Joint Base Charleston, and living in Berkeley County, may enroll their school age children in the Marrington Schools. Transportation is provided for on-base residents living 1.25 miles, or greater, from the school. Contact the School Liaison Officer for more information.

Charter School – Joint Base Charleston - Palmetto Scholars Academy (PSA)

PSA is a state charter school for gifted and talented children grades 6-12. They are constructing a new campus on the Air Base, and currently operate on the old Navy Base. Construction is scheduled for completion Mid December 2015. The curriculum is geared to high performing and gifted/talented students. Contact the School Liaison or PSA for more information. The link to their Webpage is: <http://www.palmettoscholarsacademy.org/>. Military families are encouraged to apply during the regular lottery, held the 3rd Wednesday of February each year. Charter school law provides a set aside 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.

New Student Registration: Tips for Changing to a New School

Arrange for official copies of your school records to be sent to your new school. Usually parents or a guardian must sign release papers to allow the old school permission to send records to the new school. Get an unofficial copy of your transcript and check out your grades to hand carry. This will help you make sure you get into the right classes at your new installation, in case your official records are delayed. Contact the guidance counselor at your new school. The school's email and phone numbers are available on the websites listed above. Find out all you can about the courses you are going to sign up for at the new school. Algebra II may cover different material at your new school, don't wait for an unpleasant surprise.

Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunities for Military Children

This site is a must for any military family transferring with school age children. 43 states, public school systems, currently honor the terms of the compact. Please become familiar with your rights under this program. Visit www.mic3.net.

Enrollment

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.

Note: According to South Carolina Law, school-aged children must be transferred / enrolled in school within 10 days.

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)
- School records from previous school if available
- Special Education records (IEP/504) if applicable
- Proof of guardianship, if applicable
- Latest report card if possible

For specific information contact the school you will plan to attend, or the local district office.

Immunizations

Requirements can vary from state to state. 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 the SC school system.

South Carolina High School Diploma

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.

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](#).

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

South Carolina Public Charter School District

The South Public Charter School district provides a wide array of charter and virtual school options statewide, including statewide programs for gifted and talented students. Visit their Website: <http://www.sccharter.com/>.

Private Schools

Private schools in the greater Charleston area are too numerous to list and the choice is a personal matter. The [Tri-County Admissions Council](#) provides a comprehensive look at schools in the area. It is suggested that the private schools be contacted directly to determine tuition requirements. There may be additional fees for some programs.

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 adults living within their attendance zones.

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