



Bridging the Gap Between Installations - Communities - Families
Dept. of the Air Force School Liaison Program

EDUCATE * CONNECT * ELEVATE
March 2025

**Driving Sustainable Change in
the Communities We Serve**



Data Drives Results

Turning Data into Meaningful Action

As school liaisons, we play a pivotal role in bridging the mission, families, schools, and the broader community to ensure that all military-connected students have access to the resources and support necessary for their success. One of the most powerful tools at our disposal for making informed decisions and driving meaningful change is data. By effectively leveraging data, we can strategically guide our actions and advocate for the appropriate resources.



Why Data Matters for School Liaisons

Data offers valuable insights into the specific needs of students, families, and schools. By analyzing trends and patterns, we can identify challenges, celebrate successes, and highlight areas requiring support. Whether examining tailored supports, attendance rates, academic performance, behavioral data, or community engagement, each data point tells a story.



Some recognized data sources:

- National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) <https://nces.ed.gov>
- National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) <https://www.nationsreportcard.gov>
- Education Commission of the States <https://www.ecs.org>
- Data Warehouse



Legislation & Policy

Tackling systemic issues that impact military-connected students

School Liaison Program Managers (SLPMs) leverage data to monitor and evaluate educational policies that directly affect military-connected students. By systematically collecting and analyzing this data, they can identify trends and challenges that may impact student outcomes, such as frequent school transfers, gaps in special education services, and inadequate support for those facing the unique difficulties associated with military life. This analytical process enables them to recognize policy deficiencies and pinpoint areas requiring additional support or modifications, ensuring that military-connected students have access to the necessary resources and services to thrive academically.

Furthermore, this data-driven methodology empowers SLPMs to advocate for effective policies and programs. They collaborate closely with key stakeholders, including the Defense State Liaison Office, Military Affairs Committees, legislators, and educational agencies, to formulate informed recommendations aimed at enhancing the academic experience for military students.

These collaborative relationships are crucial for fostering systemic policy changes at the local, state, and federal levels, ensuring that military-connected students are well-prepared for college, careers, or military service, while allowing our Nation's warfighters to concentrate on their missions.

What legislation or provisions does your state have for military-connected students?



Tinker AFB
Timmy Higgins | SLPM

Timmy Higgins, Tinker SLPM, collaborated with Representative Nicole Miller to initiate and sustain advocacy for House Bill 2259 - *School of Choice* for military families stationed in Oklahoma. An interim study of HB2259 has been completed, and the bill has received unanimous approval from the House Education Committee. Also pictured are **Gwen Brakebill, Altus SLPM, and Nicole Painter, Vance SLPM.**



Team Colorado
School Liaison
Program
Managers

- Megan Garland - Evelo | USAFA**
- Abigayle Hahn | Schriever SFB**
- Stephanie Iverson | Buckley SFB**
- Jackie Wickham | Peterson SFB**

Colorado Senate Bill 25-073 - *Military-Connected Children with Disabilities*, aims to establish essential support for military families. In collaboration with the Regional Defense State Liaison, the Exceptional Family Member Program, community stakeholders, and families, Colorado SLPMs presented testimony to the Senate Education Committee advocating for the passage of SB25-073. The enactment of this bill will mandate local education agencies to promptly provide necessary services and accommodations to incoming military students with an existing Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or Section 504 Plan, ensuring they receive the support outlined in these plans without unreasonable delays upon enrollment.



Little Rock AFB
Terri Williams | SLPM

House Bill 1545 -
Amendment to the
Arkansas Military Child
School Transitions Act of
2021

Key Highlights:

- Expanded eligibility of MIC3 provisions to eliminate one year limit for children of Gold Star families, retirees or veterans
- Expanded Advanced Enrollment guidance
- Formalization of the Purple Star School Program

The foundation for meaningful change begins at the local level.

Is Your Community Prepared?



2025

Month of the Military Child

“

Why fit in when you were born to stand out? ~Dr. Seuss

”



From Sea to Shining Sea - Every Step is a Story

PURPLE POWER! LET'S SPLASH THE MAP WITH A VIBRANT SHADE OF PURPLE!

Purple Up! Day is observed during the Month of the Military Child, providing communities an opportunity to recognize the sacrifices made by military children and youth. The significance of wearing purple stems from its representation of all branches of the military, as this color is a combination of the hues associated with the five military branches.



Partnerships Matter

School Liaisons worldwide are forging distinctive partnerships with community stakeholders to honor the remarkable spirit of military children.

From Sea to Shining Sea, how is your community celebrating the children of those who serve our nation?

SLP Toolkit Available Now!

Our toolkit has everything you need to celebrate and share the story!

- 50 Ideas for Schools to Celebrate Military Children
- Virtual Backgrounds
- Social Media Cover Photos
- Signature Block
- 2025 MoMC Appreciation Certificate
- 2025 Virtual Spirit Days



DEPT OF THE AIR FORCE SCHOOL LIAISON PROGRAM



Month of the Military Child

CERTIFICATE

OF APPRECIATION

AIR FORCE BASE HONORS

as an ongoing hero for their contribution, spirit, and service as a military child - From sea to shining sea, every step is a story

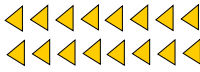
DATE

2025





RAF Croughton Yana Minarov | SLPM



The RAF Croughton School Liaison Program Manager, Yana Minarov, organized a British Schools Information Fair, which featured 16 state and independent schools in the vicinity. The event aimed to provide local educational information to 30 families connected to the military. Additionally, the SLPM conducted training sessions for educators regarding the School Liaison Program and the Non-DoD Schools Program (NDSP). This initiative received support from the Force Support Squadron (FSS), the Mission Support Group (MSG), and leadership from the US Embassy London Annex.

Mountain Home AFB Domineek Haag | SLPM

General Kenneth and Mrs. Cindy Wilsbach, along with CMSgt David Wolfe, ACC Command Chief, and spouse, Dr. Doniel Wolfe, visited Stephensen Elementary School located on Mountain Home AFB. During this visit, Domineek Haag, the School Liaison Program Manager, provided an update on the PreK-12 education challenges military families face. At the forefront of the discussion were the areas of responsibility, school ratings, the needs of military families, and innovative plans for the future.



Yokota AB | Josh Fly | SLPM



Junior Resiliency Training Assistant Program

Josh Fly, SLPM, collaborated with the Integrated Resilience Outreach (IRO) team to inaugurate the Junior Resiliency Training Assistant (RTA) program at Yokota Air Base. This initiative successfully equipped ten students with essential skills to deliver resiliency lessons to their peers. Demonstrating their newly acquired competencies, six of these Junior RTAs conducted a lesson for participants in youth programs.

Year Two of the Student Ambassador Training program offered 17 middle and high school students the opportunity to develop skills in goal setting and critical thinking while enriching their understanding of Japanese culture. This innovative collaboration among multiple agencies highlights the importance of sustainable, mutually beneficial partnerships within the communities we serve.



Student Ambassador Training



Where They Are, We Are



Blue Ribbon School Designee

Col Matthew Altman, Commander of **Joint Base Langley-Eustis**, joined school division leaders and School Liaison Program Managers, Taylor Hunter and Terrilyn Williams, in celebrating Bethel Manor Elementary School, located on JBLE-Langley. Bethel Manor has been honored with the prestigious designation of National Blue Ribbon School by the Department of Education.

Learning on Subject Matter Experts

In partnership with Jo Anne Mullholland, School Liaison Program Manager, the 28th Operations Support Squadron's Weather Flight from **Ellsworth AFB** recently imparted their weather forecasting expertise to Francis Case Elementary School students. Students in kindergarten through third grade had the opportunity to explore various cloud formations, understand the formation of thunder and lightning, and delve into other scientific inquiries related to weather phenomena.



College, Career & Military Readiness

Vance AFB School Liaison Program Manager, Nicole Painter, hosted the Air Force Academy Admissions Advisors for a briefing tailored to local high school students. Education Community Partnerships such as this allow students to open their aperture to what is possible as they explore their post-secondary options.

askushow

partnershipsdriveresults

notwithoutus



Charting the Course

Special Education Navigation

The SLPM is the primary point of contact for school-related matters, and this role involves direct coordination with schools to address all PreK-12 education matters.

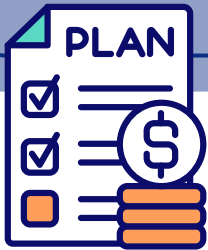
Key roles of SLPs for military families include:

- **Information and Guidance:** Providing details on special education services, processes, and students' rights
- **Coordination:** Aligning military families, school districts, and agencies to meet educational needs
- **Transition Support:** Assisting with school transitions, record transfers, and addressing new challenges
- **Resource Connection:** Linking families to local and state resources, specialized programs, and support services
- **Training and Workshops:** Offering training on special education to help families advocate for their children
- **Problem Resolution:** Educating and coordinating to support issues related to special education services



STAY CONNECTED

- ✓ Primary Point of Contact for PreK-12 Education
- ✓ Public, Private, Homeschool, Charter, Magnet, DoDEA, International and Host Nation Schools
- ✓ Special Education System Processes
- ✓ Partnership with EFMP-Family Support, EFMP- Navigator, EFMP-Medical
- ✓ Collaboration with Installation Legal Office
- ✓ Connection to AFPC Exceptional Assignments Program



Behind the Numbers: Understanding the School Liaison Budget and Its Impact

Installation Size	FY 24 Guidelines	FY 25 Guidelines	FY 26 Guidelines
GSU OCONUS	\$6,800	\$8K	\$8K
SMALL	\$5-8K	\$10K	\$10K
MEDIUM	\$8-11K	\$12K	\$12K
LARGE	\$11-14K	\$15K	\$15K
XLARGE	\$15-20K	\$20K	\$20K

As the SLP continue to adapt to the changing landscape, a key focus is ensuring that resources are allocated effectively to support program impacts. The SLPM budget refers to the financial resources allocated to facilitate communication, support, and engagement between key stakeholders and support to vital service needs.

- **Professional Development:** ensures SLs and the community they serve are knowledgeable, responsive, and capable of handling their diverse needs
- **Strategic Outreach:** amplifies the messages and ensures that everyone—from parents to local organizations—is connected
- **Cell Phone:** stay connected, respond to issues in real-time, and keep stakeholders informed, which is especially important in emergencies

INSIDER SCOOP



DODEA PARTNERSHIP AND RESOURCES

Educate, Engage, and Empower military-connected students to succeed in a dynamic world.

FY25 DoDEA Grant Program

Funding Opportunity Title: Grants to the Military-Connected Local Educational Agencies for Academic and Support Programs (known herein as MCASP) and the World Language Advancement and Readiness Program (known herein as WLARP), Fiscal Year 2025.

April 18, 2025

Deadline for transmittal of applications, no later than 11:59PM ET

<https://grants.gov/search-results-detail/358308>



DoDEA Grant Program Office

Email: dodea.grants@dodea.edu



HOME EDUCATION

<https://homeschoolfreedom.com>



Homeschool Freedom is an online platform designed to support families in creating personalized, meaningful educational experiences. Whether they are starting out or are a seasoned homeschooler, this website offers tools, community, and expert advice to help you navigate the challenges and joys of homeschooling.



SCHOLARSHIP ALERT Air Force Aid Society

With grants, scholarships, and additional educational support, AFAS provides invaluable resources that can help reduce the financial stress of pursuing higher education.

- General Henry Arnold Education Grant
- Air Force Aid Society Merit Scholarships

Applications for the 2025-2026 application year are now available through April 30, 2025.

PSMI

Contingency Planning



Recent power and water outages at various installations significantly affected PSMI operations. By leveraging established partnerships between the installation entities and the School Liaison Program Manager, these installations successfully revised their processes and policies to implement contingency support for future incidents.

Is Your Installation Prepared?

MILITARY FAMILY LIFE COUNSELORS

As we approach Spring Break, it's crucial to ensure that our MFLCs are prepared to provide the necessary support to students and families in a timely manner.

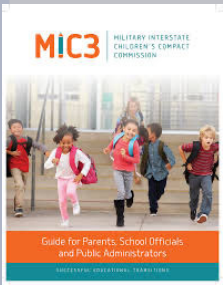
Spring Break Steps to Follow within BOSS:

1. Submit request
2. Camp/Summer Program Support
3. Installation Based Short Term Camp



**MILITARY & FAMILY
LIFE COUNSELING**

SLP Resources



MIC3 Publications

The Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission (MIC3) has made publications available. These documents are a valuable resource for military families, educational professionals, and

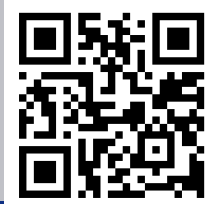
policymakers, providing essential information on the policies, services, and educational support systems designed to assist children of military families as they navigate transitions between different states.

Visit the MIC3 website to explore and download the full range of publications

<https://mic3.net/publications/>

AVAILABLE NOW

MIC3 MOMC Toolkit



SEASONS OF MY MILITARY STUDENT

What-A-Website

<https://seasonsofmymilitarystudent.com>



This website presents the "Seasons of Transition" framework, which delineates the different phases that military-connected students encounter during relocations. This framework serves as a valuable resource for parents and educators, enhancing their understanding of the challenges these students may face during such transitions.

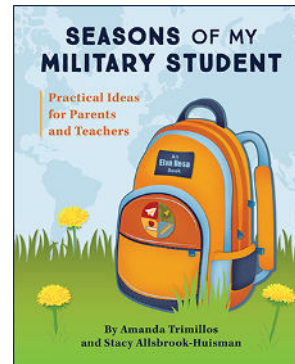


NEW UPDATE

Records Management System (RMS)

We are excited to announce important updates to our Records Management System, designed to better track and manage the # of Homeschool Co-ops and the # Actual Students Assigned to each installation. These changes reflect our commitment to improving our data analysis to reflect the SLP impact.

Leadership Recommendation



"Seasons of My Military Student: Practical Ideas for Parents and Teachers" is a valuable resource aimed at assisting parents and educators in supporting military-connected students who often relocate due to the demands of military life.

Authored by Amanda Trimillos and Stacy Allsbrook-Huisman, this book presents strategies designed to assist students in adapting to new educational environments and overcoming the associated challenges.

Join Us Every Month For Our SLP Unplugged

Monthly opportunities to gain strategic technical and tactical support



THIS MONTH

Engaging and Effectively Communicating with Families

Connect With Us

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@dafslp

@DAFSLP

DAFSchoolLiaisonProgram

@DAFSchoolLiaisonProgram



School Liaison Program Managers are the primary OPR for all PreK-12 engagements, challenges, concerns, education programming components to include Special Education, state-level/host-nation representation, and education community partnerships; responsible for Public Schools on Military Installations coordination to include DoDEA Schools and CYB Military & Family Life Counseling Program.

Additional Duties Based on Community

MIC3 State Lead, DoD STARBASE POC, DAF STEM POC, School Based Transition Program Oversight, Non-DoD Schools and International AD Student Programs.

The information in this newsletter is provided as a resource and does not constitute endorsement by the United States Air Force, or the Department of Defense of the external website, the information, products, or services contained therein.