



MILITARY CHILD EDUCATION COALITION™

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**MILITARY CHILD EDUCATION COALITION RECEIVES GRANT TO
SUPPORT “HIGHLY MOBILE” FAMILIES**

Grant will fund an alliance advocating consistent, college-ready standards for students

HARKER HEIGHTS, TX, February 18, 2009 – The Military Child Education Coalition today announced it received a grant in the amount of \$270,000 from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. The grant, effective through 2010, will enable the Military Child Education Coalition to address inconsistencies in state high school standards and assessments that negatively affect the college-readiness of highly mobile students. The organization will embark on this initiative in partnership with Achieve, Inc. and the Charles A. Dana Center at the University of Texas.

The Military Child Education Coalition launched this initiative on behalf of the military families it serves. More than 660,000 U.S. military-connected children are school-aged and have a parent serving on Active Duty; they move an average of six to nine times over the course of their K-12 experience. These frequent transitions are made more difficult by discrepancies in high school graduation requirements between states. Children often lose credit or are held back in school, despite their fulfillment of one state’s requirements.

“We greatly appreciate the commitment of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to this important cause,” said Dr. Mary Keller, executive director of the Military Child Education Coalition. “The variance of college-ready standards is a disservice to our service men and women, whose families already sacrifice a great deal for their country.”

Throughout its 10-year history, the Military Child Education Coalition has provided research-based and field-tested initiatives and trainings in support of transitioning students. This latest initiative is designed to build broad support among education professionals, parents and students for consistent high school standards. These standards will not only ensure that students meet college- and career-ready expectations, but also minimize the disruptions in educational progress that occur when students move between states.

Specifically, the Military Child Education Coalition is advocating for adoption of the American Diploma Project (ADP), which was conceived by Achieve, Inc. in 2001. ADP defines K-12 math benchmarks, which it packages into a Common Core. The Charles A. Dana Center further informed college-ready standards through its rigorous model, “Math Practices Worthy

of Attention.” In partnership with these two renowned organizations, the Military Child Education Coalition will provide the tools and delivery systems needed to make ADP’s math achievement markers accessible to parents.

The Military Child Education Coalition will lead the communication piece of this initiative, using training modules developed with Achieve, Inc. and the Charles A. Dana Center. The modules will include information tailored to three primary audiences: educational professionals, parents and students. Supporting information will be made available in print and online.

About the Military Child Education Coalition

The Military Child Education Coalition is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization that promotes partnerships and provides for networking of military installations and their supporting school districts. Their focus is to address transition and other educational issues related to the military-connected child, including active duty, National Guard, and Reserves. The Military Child Education Coalition seeks to include all military installations, their supporting schools, concerned organizations and caring individuals. For more information, please visit www.MilitaryChild.org.