



# MCEC<sup>®</sup>

## Student Achievement, Parent Support, & Professional Services Options for 2024





## SERVING THE CHILDREN OF THOSE WHO SERVE US ALL

### Who Are We?

MCEC is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization that solely exists to help the military-connected child thrive in the face of transition and separation.

### Our Mission

MCEC supports all military-connected children by educating, advocating, and collaborating to resolve education challenges associated with the military lifestyle.

### Our Vision

Every military-connected child is college-, work-, and life-ready.

### Our Community

MCEC is a professional coalition with a diverse community consisting of public school districts, private schools, colleges, universities, small businesses and corporations, nonprofit organizations, military commands and installations, military families, and caring individuals from local communities across our Nation.



### Our Work

The Military Child Education Coalition<sup>®</sup> (MCEC<sup>®</sup>) delivers programs, services, and professional development to meet the needs of military-connected students, parents, and professionals.

### Our Programs

#### Student Achievement

MCEC believes that enabling students to thrive and succeed in our education system by providing them the tools necessary to become college-, work-, and life-ready is of the highest importance. Student 2 Student<sup>®</sup> programs at the elementary, middle, and high school levels bring military and civilian children together to welcome new students, support academic excellence, and ease transitions as students pass in or out of schools.

#### Parent Support

MCEC empowers parents to become informed, proactive supporters allowing them to make a positive impact in the needs of their children. Parent Educators provide informative and interactive parent workshops to groups and organizations in the local community that address academic, social, and emotional issues associated with a military family lifestyle.

#### Professional Services

MCEC values the importance of professionals possessing the knowledge necessary to identify and respond to complex needs of military-connected children. Across disciplines, such as education, healthcare, childcare, and business, MCEC trains professionals to address the unique challenges facing our military-connected children. All training is grounded in research and presented by highly-skilled instructors.



# MCEC<sup>®</sup>

## PURPLE STAR SCHOOLS (PSS)

The Military Child Education Coalition<sup>®</sup> (MCEC<sup>®</sup>) is the National Advocate for the Purple Star School Initiative.



### Why should my school become a Purple Star School?

The designation reflects a school or district's intention to better understand and support military families through any educational challenge.

### What is the Purple Star School Program?

The Purple Star School program is designed to prepare schools to better understand and respond to the educational and social-emotional challenges military-connected children face during their transition to a new school and keep them on track to be college, workforce, and life-ready.

### What is MCEC's role as National Advocate?

MCEC helps schools and districts understand the value of and the requirements to become a Purple Star School. We offer support by providing:

- 1) Training and support for peer-to-peer student-led programs that promote 100% acceptance
- 2) Professional development for educators through training, webinars, and podcasts on military student transition challenges
- 3) Resources for creating a military-friendly school website
- 4) Ongoing resources to the designated campus POC supporting military students and families

### Where are Purple Star Schools?

As of April 4, 2024, 38 states have PSS designation programs, covering more than 550 districts and 3,200 schools, from elementary to high school. Eight additional states have proposed legislation.

For up-to-date facts and figures on PSS by state, visit

[MilitaryChild.org/purplestarschools](https://MilitaryChild.org/purplestarschools)

### What does my school or district need to do to achieve the Purple Star School designation?

Each state has its own designation granting body. Contact your state's Department of Education to determine Purple Star Program status.

PURPLE STAR SCHOOLS



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NATIONAL ADVOCATE<sup>™</sup>



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## MCEC Services and Resources for Purple Star Readiness

The chart below outlines the most common elements required by individual states. MCEC has the programs and expertise to assist schools in meeting these requirements.

COMPONENT	FUNCTION	MCEC SUPPORTS
Point of contact for military students and families	Serves as the primary link between the school and military-connected families to assist with transitions in and out of the school or district	Orient and train the point of contact at each school or district.  <b>Professional Learning Communities</b> and <b>Purple Star Overview</b> training
Dedicated website with resources for military families	Signals military support and inclusion to incoming families and centralizes critical transition information and resources	Providing links to SchoolQuest™ <b>Military Student Consultants (MSCs)</b> and a variety of resources on our website
Student Transition Program	Assists incoming students to acclimate to a new campus and community with ongoing connections in the school	Conduct training to create a campus-based, student-led peer-to-peer program ( <b>Student 2 Student</b> ®)
Professional Development for School Professionals	Cultivates awareness of and empathy for military-connected students while equipping all staff to support families and students	MCEC offers a range of Professional Development, webinars, and podcasts on challenges associated with a military lifestyle.
Military Recognition Events	Honors and increases awareness of military-connected students, families, and staff to help families integrate into a new community	MCEC develops free <b>Month of the Military Child Toolkits</b> each year along with a variety of parent support resources

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 [Info@MilitaryChild.org](mailto:Info@MilitaryChild.org)



### HOVER & DISCOVER

Open the camera app on your mobile phone to hover over the QR code. Click the link and learn more about MCEC's advocacy for the Purple Star School Program





# MCEC<sup>®</sup>

## STUDENT 2 STUDENT<sup>®</sup>

"S2S is by far the most powerful tool I have had in education to support kids."

- S2S SPONSOR  
WIDEFIELD HIGH SCHOOL

### Core Values

Leadership  
Academics  
Service  
Climate and Culture  
Relationships  
100% Acceptance



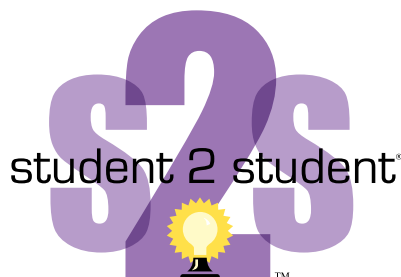
Student 2 Student<sup>®</sup> (S2S) is a peer-to-peer student-led program that brings military and civilian students together to welcome new students, creates a positive environment for all, supports educational opportunities, builds connections through service, and eases transitions.

Students make a positive impact on their school and community using the S2S six core values: Leadership, Academics, Service, Climate and Culture, Relationships, and 100% Acceptance.

Programs are for all three school levels: high school, middle/junior high school, and elementary school

### S2S teams:

- Provide every new student with a school tour and welcome packet
- Eat lunch with new students and check in during first two weeks
- Host social events and S2S meetings to build relationships
- Actively engage in school and community service projects
- Seek guidance from S2S sponsor when assisting peers
- Create an inviting and supportive environment for ALL students



A Military Child Education Coalition<sup>®</sup> Initiative

"This training was fun and made me very confident about helping new people."

- STUDENT  
FORT CAVAZOS, TEXAS



# MCEC<sup>®</sup>

## We offer initial program and enhancement trainings.

- Training can be offered in-person or virtually.
- High school students, middle school students, and adults attend training.
- Only adults and upper-level students attend elementary school training.
- MCEC provides: trainers, resources, supplies, and training
- School provides: transportation to training, substitute teachers, and committed students and sponsors willing to making a difference in their school and community




### AFTER TRAINING ATTENDEES WILL BE ABLE TO:

- Understand the unique needs of military-connected and transitioning students.
- Describe how the MCEC S2S program helps mitigate academic, social and emotional challenges for transitioning students.
- Identify and apply the six building blocks (core values) of S2S: Leadership, Academics, Service, Climate and Culture, Relationships, and 100% Acceptance
- Learn how to use service opportunities to create a sustainable S2S program.
- Identify personal skills needed to implement and sustain a successful S2S program using leadership, team building, and communication skills.

*"We offer a place that students can fit in without any judgment."*

- S2S SPONSOR  
**DISCOVERY MIDDLE SCHOOL**



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### HOVER & DISCOVER

Open the camera app on your mobile phone to hover over the QR code. Click the link and learn more about MCEC's Student 2 Student.

*"Seeing the relief on a new student's face and that of their parents, when they find out they will be provided with their own personal tour guide, is one of the greatest successes we can have."*

- S2S SPONSOR  
**LEAVENWORTH HIGH SCHOOL**

*"S2S has enhanced the way Cedar Valley welcomes and receives new students to the campus. Students are empowered to serve as ambassadors, and new students instantly find a friend on their very first day."*

- FORMER PRINCIPAL  
**CEDAR VALLEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

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## FRANCES HESSELBEIN STUDENT LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

### FALL SEMESTER

United States Military Academy |  
West Point, New York

During the fall semester, the students learn leadership skills from West Point faculty, distinguished guest lecturers, and hands-on activities. These experiences are the same as those our future military leaders learn prior to starting their careers as officers. The evening activities include building lifelong connections with their teammates, sharing their own S2S programs, and goal setting with their new teammates.

### SPRING SEMESTER

United States Air Force Academy |  
Colorado Springs, Colorado

A team of senior cadets, majoring in Behavioral Science and Leadership, build the annual Frances Hesselbein program starting the fall of their senior year. The week's learning is structured around the core leadership principles taught to the cadets. The students are taught by the cadets and are provided experiences that build on the leadership principles. The week ends with a goal setting session for students to take back to their campus and implement.



The mission of the Frances Hesselbein Student Leadership Program<sup>™</sup> is to grow and sustain the Student 2 Student<sup>®</sup> (S2S) program on the local campus. Established by MCEC in 2006, the Frances Hesselbein Student Leadership Program offers an intensive experience for selected students to enrich their leadership and team building skills.

The week-long experience builds skills through personal and small group settings. Students gain confidence, competence, and commitment to their leadership to strengthen their local S2S program.

Students also have an opportunity to share their program challenges and successes with other peers to gain a new insight on improvement. Distinguished guests provide insights to overcoming challenges and to building personal character.

This is a scholarship-based program. The only expenses to the student are luggage fees, meals while traveling, and souvenirs.

#### QUALIFICATIONS:

- Active in S2S
- Demonstrate competency in the core values of S2S
- Sophomore or junior student
- Complete the application requirements
- Good academic standing
- Sponsor recommendation





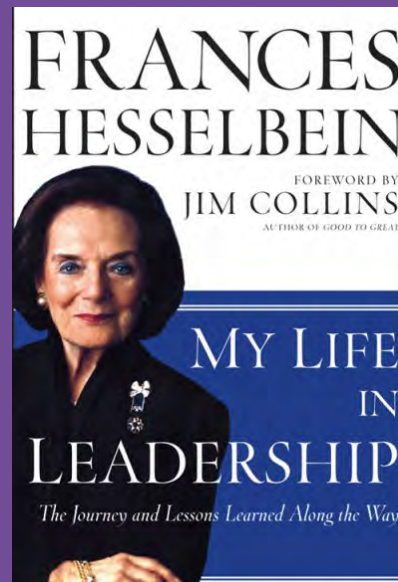
## Who is Frances Hesselbein?

Frances Hesselbein (November 1, 1915 – December 11, 2022) was a trailblazer, author, editor, and gifted leader. She was the president and CEO of the Frances Hesselbein Leadership Institute. Prior to founding the Frances Hesselbein Leadership Institute, she served as the CEO for the Girl Scouts of the USA. Between 1965 and 1976, she rose from volunteer troop leader to CEO and held the position of CEO for fourteen years (1976-1990). She is credited with leading a turnaround for the Girl Scouts, increasing their minority membership and establishing the Daisy Scout program for the youngest girls accepted into the Girl Scouts. In 1998, Hesselbein was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom for her work with the Girl Scouts of the USA, and was the recipient of 22 honorary degrees.

*"This training will help me improve my leadership skills, by allowing me to become more resilient and responsible for my actions and giving me the ability to better communicate and strengthen my connections."*

**- NATE B.**

SEVERNA PARK, MARYLAND



*"The lesson that meant the most to me this week was the S.M.A.R.T. goals lesson. I learned so much about how to accomplish goals and how to accomplish them diligently."*

**-AUBREY T.**  
COLORADO SPRINGS,  
COLORADO

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## THE MILITARY CHILD *Well-being* TOOLKIT






### Social Emotional Learning

Social Emotional Learning (SEL) is the process through which children and adults acquire emotional intelligence.

Categories of SEL:

- Self-Awareness
- Self-Management
- Social Awareness
- Social Skills
- Responsible Decision-Making

The emotional, social, and mental health of military students plays a crucial role in their academic success.

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The MCEC Military Child Well-Being Toolkit was created to provide accessible social-emotional supports and resources directly to parents, educators, and other youth-serving professionals working with military-connected youth.

The toolkit provides evidence-based content to foster the emotional intelligence (EI), mindfulness, and overall well-being of military children. It also aims to support students of military families living with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), traumatic brain injury (TBI), and other injuries. Additional topics include suicide prevention and awareness, diversity, equity, inclusion, social justice, and LGBTQIA+. The MCEC Military Child Well-being Toolkit includes 13 interactive documents about these topics that contain several resources tailored to parents, professionals, and schools.

MCEC supports all military-connected students, and we provide resources to create a caring community that will enable them to be college-, work-, and life-ready.

### HOVER & DISCOVER

Open the camera app on your mobile phone to hover over the QR code. Click the link and learn more about MCEC's Well-being Toolkit.

Supported by:

**BAE SYSTEMS**

Disclosure Statement: The toolkit is not intended to be a substitute for professional medical advice, diagnosis, or treatment. Always seek the advice of your physician or other qualified health providers with any questions you may have regarding a medical condition. Never disregard professional medical advice or delay in seeking it because of something you have read on our website.

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# What does it include?



## 1 Research & Content Development

MCEC designed this comprehensive resource to align with Collaborative for Academic, Social and Emotional Learning (CASEL), Whole Child Design, Design Principles for Schools, Social Emotional Academic Development (S.E.A.D.), national resources, and the 2021 U.S. Surgeon General's Advisory on Youth Mental Health to provide support for the overall well-being of military-connected children and youth.

## 2 Topical Strategies & Tools

Thirteen interactive, topical documents designed for parents and professionals. When you visit the toolkit, each tab includes individual, group, or classroom activities and national resources for the following topics:

- PTSD, TBI, Invisible and Physical Injury
- DEI, Social Justice, and LGBTQIA
- Suicide Prevention and Awareness
- Emotional Intelligence
- Mindfulness and Overall Well-being

## 3 Relevant Resources

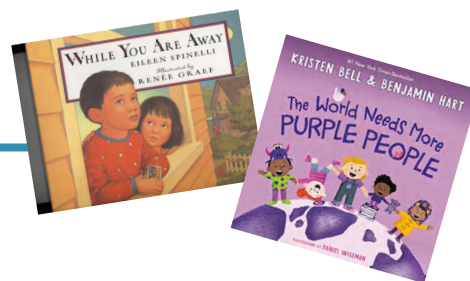
We at MCEC often collaborate and partner with national resources that serve military-connected students and families. All content has been reviewed by our Science Advisory Board members for ethics and best practices.

PARTNER RESOURCE	WEBSITE
National Child Traumatic Stress Network (NCTSN)	<a href="https://nctsn.org">nctsn.org</a>
National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine	<a href="https://nap.nationalacademies.org/resource/other/dbasse/wellbeing-tools/interactive">nap.nationalacademies.org/resource/other/dbasse/wellbeing-tools/interactive</a>
Collaborative for Academic, Social and Emotional Learning	<a href="https://casel.org">casel.org</a>
The Trevor Project	<a href="https://thetrevorproject.org">thetrevorproject.org</a>
The Jason Foundation	<a href="https://jasonfoundation.com">jasonfoundation.com</a>
Sesame Street for Military Families	<a href="https://sesamestreetformilitaryfamilies.org">sesamestreetformilitaryfamilies.org</a>
National Military Family Association	<a href="https://militaryfamily.org">militaryfamily.org</a>
Clearinghouse for Military Family Readiness	<a href="https://militaryfamilies.psu.edu">militaryfamilies.psu.edu</a>
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: Childrens Mental Health	<a href="https://cdc.gov/childrensmentalhealth">cdc.gov/childrensmentalhealth</a>
Families Overcoming Under Stress (F.O.C.U.S.)	<a href="https://focusproject.org">focusproject.org</a>
Child Mind Institute	<a href="https://childmind.org">childmind.org</a>
Thrive	<a href="https://thrive.psu.edu">thrive.psu.edu</a>
Brainline.org	<a href="https://brainline.org/military-veterans/military-caregiving">brainline.org/military-veterans/military-caregiving</a>
Child Help Hotline	<a href="https://childhelphotline.org">childhelphotline.org</a>



# MCEC<sup>®</sup>

# TELL ME A Story



## Making Connections and Finding Support through Literature

Tell Me A Story<sup>®</sup> (TMAS<sup>®</sup>) is a family literacy event geared toward children ages 4-12. The mission of the program is to empower military-connected children by using literature and their own stories in a way that fosters resilience, strong peer and parent connections, and a sense of pride and accomplishment.

Through TMAS, children and parents are able to recognize that they are an active part of caring communities — not just recipients of this care, but also participants in caring for others. TMAS can help give children the tools needed to be resilient and have a positive optimistic outlook. The program encourages parents to help their children become strong readers. Children who read well do better in school — it is “the critical skill.”

Each TMAS event focuses on one book, carefully selected by MCEC for its content, literary value, and illustrations. TMAS books also exhibit 23 character traits of positive, optimistic people. Research shows that these traits can be developed and contribute to people becoming more resilient as well as living healthier, happier, and longer lives. All TMAS books touch on two main themes of positive psychology: resilience and optimism. Some of the books directly address certain military-related issues, such as deployment. The chosen books are developmentally appropriate for 4-12 year-olds and are respectful of the diversity of families and experiences.

Since its inception in 2005,  
TMAS has impacted nearly

# 65,000

military-connected kids and parents  
through more than **700** events.

# TMAS

Tell Me a Story<sup>®</sup>

MAKING CONNECTIONS AND FINDING SUPPORT THROUGH LITERATURE

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"It really did save me hours of digging and endless frustrations like I have had in past moves."

Military Parent

## SCHOOLQUEST

SchoolQuest<sup>™</sup> is a free, interactive tool that is designed to support highly mobile military-connected parents and students with making the best choices before, during, and after a transition to improve academic success and social well-being.



"I really like how comprehensive it is. It is filled with the kind of information I wish I had when we first started military life with children."

Military Parent



**ACADEMIC TRACKER:** Monitor and plan your student's academic career progress from 6th to 12th grade.



**STUDENT PROFILES:** Customize to each student. Track deadlines, courses and topics of interest.



**RESOURCES:** Browse a variety of academic topics, including scholarships, and save your favorites.



**CHECKLISTS:** Choose from a library of useful checklists or create your own.



**SCHOOL SEARCH & RELOCATION:** Guidance on school comparisons and note-taking space for easy reference. Access to transition information for each state, DoDEA and D.C.



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SchoolQuest<sup>™</sup>



SchoolQuest.MilitaryChild.org



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The weekly conversations brought to life on the MCEC podcast series vividly illuminate a wide range of challenges that our military children face from compounded struggles with relocation to self-identity to suicide. As we look ahead, we'll continue to tackle challenging issues for our military families, including overcoming disabilities, legislation to assist military families in transition and teen anxiety.

When we collect stories, perspectives, and experiences we strengthen our community.

Join us each week on our MCEC Podcast channel and hear some amazing stories.

## OUR LISTENERS:

- Military-connected parents and professionals who serve military families from all service branches.
- Our listenership reaches all 50 states and multiple countries.

## MCEC PODCAST

Through the Military Child Education Coalition<sup>®</sup> Podcast, we provide informal and conversational weekly episodes with military service members, professionals, parents, and military kids. Our goal for these conversations is to not only provide information and resources but also build connection through shared experiences, real life scenarios and stories.



## Subscribe · Listen · Reflect · Learn · Grow

Podcasts are published each Tuesday, and special releases are available to our followers and subscribers. Listen with Apple Podcasts, Google Podcasts, on Podbean, or wherever you enjoy your podcasts!



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## MILITARY STUDENT CONSULTANT



As a premier resource that addresses challenges associated with the military lifestyle, an MCEC **Military Student Consultant** is a trusted professional resource during times of transition and throughout the deployment cycle, providing individualized support services for parents, educators, and administrators.

An MSC personally responds to every phone call or submission on our MCEC website at [MilitaryChild.org/contact](https://MilitaryChild.org/contact).

*"I would not have been able to navigate the tangled mess of information without your assistance."*

Response from MSC survey

MSCs advocate for and provide support to students and parents who experience academic or social-emotional challenges and need direct problem-solving support resources. Critical areas MSCs routinely respond to include:


- **TRANSITION SUPPORT:** Academic, developmental, and/or social-emotional
- **RELOCATIONS:** PCS, deployments, retirements, and/or families who are leaving the service.
- **ACADEMICS:** Credit transfers or transcript evaluations
- **READINESS:** Academic (school, colleges, and universities), career, work, and/or overall life readiness
- **EXCEPTIONAL FAMILIES:** Support with EFMP, IEP, and/or 504



MSCs are highly specialized education professionals who provide personalized concierge support directly to students, parents, or professionals who serve military-connected (Active-Duty, National Guard, Reserve, ROTC cadre, recruiter, and veteran) families, no matter where they are located in the world.

Through partnerships and collaboration with installation school liaison officers, EFMP coordinators, state-level Department of Education student services, Military Interstate Children's Compact Commissioners (MIC3), and other MCEC programs, MSCs provide wrap-around individualized transition and relocation support services to assist military-connected students, families, and professionals with real-world transitional barriers associated with the military lifestyle.

 [MilitaryChild.org/contact](https://MilitaryChild.org/contact)

 (254) 953-1923

 [msc@MilitaryChild.org](mailto:msc@MilitaryChild.org)



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Open the camera app on your mobile phone to hover over the QR code. Click the link and learn more about MCEC's MSCs.



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## 360 SUMMITS



**"I learned that leadership is developed from within yourself. To succeed you must seek out successful people and sustain discipline and motivation to keep the success train rolling."**




- S2S student, 360 Summit  
Columbia, SC

### **What can an MCEC 360 Summit do for your community?**

The Military Child Education Coalition can lead a community-wide, multi-faceted event to help schools respond to the educational and social-emotional challenges of a military lifestyle.

Bringing insight and understanding of the unique challenges military-connected students face, the MCEC 360 Summit provides opportunities for cross-sector collaboration, idea sharing, tools, and programming support. The Summit includes training for students, parents, educators, and other youth-serving professionals; student enrichment; and opportunities for your community to help support military families.

MCEC 360 Summits introduce schools, districts, and communities to the benefits of Purple Star Readiness – and how to apply for or sustain this worthwhile designation. Criteria are tailored state-by-state to identify and nurture schools to be truly "military friendly."

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 [MSC@MilitaryChild.org](mailto:MSC@MilitaryChild.org)



### **HOVER & DISCOVER**

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## Components of *your* Summit can include:

AUDIENCE	DESCRIPTION
<b>For Professionals</b>	Professional development to assist educators, school administrators, and other youth-serving professionals to address the unique challenges facing military-connected children.
<b>For Students</b>	Our peer-to-peer mentoring program – Student 2 Student <sup>®</sup> (S2S <sup>™</sup> ) – supports military and veteran-connected children dealing with moving from one school to the next. Student-led and adult guided, S2S programs in schools bring civilian and military kids together to welcome new students, support academic excellence, and ease transitions. Sessions can be tailored for new or established S2S teams.
<b>For Parents</b>	A community event for parents and their children recognizes the sacrifices military-connected children face and addresses their unique needs — all while raising awareness of local community supports and resources. MCEC empowers parents to be their child's best advocate, encourages and strengthens parent-child engagement, and equips parents with the resources needed to navigate the challenges associated with a military lifestyle.

Your Summit provides the training and resources your schools and community need to support education goals and overall well-being for military-connected children. It can be tough to transition to a new school, but welcoming environments foster student success. Each 360 Summit is a 1 to 2-day event, tailored to meet the specific needs of your community.

**Interested in bringing a 360 Summit to your community?**  
**Contact us today at [MSC@MilitaryChild.org](mailto:MSC@MilitaryChild.org)**



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SERVING THE CHILDREN  
OF THOSE  
WHO SERVE US ALL!