



MILITARY CHILD EDUCATION COALITION®

NEWS – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Military Child Education Coalition Awarded Grant from The USAA Foundation, Inc. to Launch SchoolQuest™ Digital Tool to Support the Academic Progress of Military-Connected Children.

HARKER HEIGHTS (August 29, 2019) - The Military Child Education Coalition (MCEC) received a three year grant from [The USAA Foundation](#), Inc. to underwrite *SchoolQuest™*, an innovative, user-friendly, web-based tool designed to enlighten and empower the parents of military and veteran-connected children. *SchoolQuest™* will enable parents from all branches of the military to prepare themselves and their children to mitigate the educational challenges associated with frequent moves and other unique stressors of a military lifestyle that might otherwise adversely affect their academic success. This inventive parent resource will not only provide critical information but will also allow parents to develop a highly individualized academic journey map for each child.

An idea that originated with MCEC President and CEO, Dr. Mary Keller, *SchoolQuest™* will be an interactive virtual hub where parents of students in grade 6 through the first year of college can find information, tools, and resources centralized on a single platform. The creation of *SchoolQuest™* is based on several studies in which MCEC has been involved, including “Mitigating the Impact of School Mobility,” a study commissioned by MCEC, conducted in 2018 by The Center for Public Research and Leadership at Columbia University and underwritten by the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative. The [study was designed](#) to understand the adverse effects of repeated school moves on student performance and emotional well-being. A key finding in the study emphasized the importance a smooth and efficient enrollment has in helping students transition to a new school. Leveraging technology to break new ground in this area, MCEC believes there is an opportunity through *SchoolQuest™* to compile in one location the questions parents may not even know to ask and the resources they need to address the challenges their children face due to mobility related to the military lifestyle.

According to Dr. Keller, *SchoolQuest™* will “assist parents in becoming their child’s best advocate by providing critical information in a timely and convenient way to support their military-connected students through frequent school transitions which can impact their K-12 experience.”

More

“We know when military personnel serve, their whole family serves, too. The USAA Foundation, Inc. is humbled to be able to support this groundbreaking, first-of-its-kind tool for military children,” said Harriet Dominique, senior vice president of Corporate Responsibility and Community Affairs at USAA and President of The USAA Foundation, Inc. “That’s why USAA’s corporate responsibility strategy prioritizes support for military children and their well-being,” said Dominique.

As the primary users of *SchoolQuest™*, military parents’ feedback will figure prominently at every phase of the platform’s development. A parent working group will be created comprised of military-connected parents who have experience working with the MCEC *Parent to Parent™* program, as well as others who come from all branches of military service. The working group will have a significant role in the development of the platform, provide feedback and participate in the pilot phase to test, refine and improve the tool.

“The parents of military and veteran-connected children face a multitude of challenges when it comes to making sure their children have the most successful academic career possible. When you consider that most military-connected children change schools between 6 and 9 times before they graduate high school, coupled with the challenges of navigating states’ different graduation requirements, a tool designed with military families in mind is critical,” said Judy Glennon, *Parent to Parent™* program manager.

MCEC has contracted with [Monkee-Boy](#), an award-winning digital strategy, design, marketing, and execution agency based in Austin, TX, as its lead technology partner for the project. Anticipated to launch as a pilot prototype in late 2019, this tool is expected to benefit military families worldwide.

Established in 1998, MCEC is a nonprofit organization that solely exists to help military-connected children and youth thrive. The MCEC mission is to ensure inclusive quality educational opportunities for all military-connected children affected by mobility, transition, deployments and family separation.

The Military Child Education Coalition serves the children of those who serve us all and encourages efforts that strengthen our military children and ensure opportunities for their quality education.

The USAA Foundation, Inc.'s purpose is to lead and inspire actions that improve lives in the military and the local communities it serves. The USAA Foundation, Inc., a nonprofit organization, does not endorse or promote any commercial supplier, product or service. USAA is the sponsor of The USAA Foundation, Inc.

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The Military Child Education Coalition (MCEC) is a 501(c)(3) global, nonprofit organization focused exclusively on the well-being and needs of America's approximately four million military-connected children, specifically in the areas of academic opportunity and excellence, school transition support, and developmental needs. Our goal is to ensure that every military-connected child grows and thrives through good and challenging times in order to be college, workforce, and ultimately, life-ready.

To learn more, visit MilitaryChild.org.