



Education Workshops for Parents

MCEC parent workshops are designed to help military-connected parents as they guide their children through their educational journey. These workshops offer research-informed information, practical solutions, and strategies for parents with children of all ages.

Back-to-School Basics

As the school year begins, military-connected families are looking for tools and strategies to help make the new school year a success for their children. We will discuss how to keep the lines of communication open both at home and with teachers as well as the importance of routines and parental involvement. This workshop will also provide practical ideas on homework and organization.

Building a Portfolio for Your Military-Connected Child

A military child's portfolio is designed to help both the student and the parent transition smoothly. This workshop addresses how a well-maintained showcase portfolio can assist with goal setting and organization. It will also include one of the most requested MCEC strategies, which shows how to build an academic portfolio virtually or in an education binder.

Chart Your Course – Academic Plan

This is the first part of the Chart Your Course workshop where strategies will be shared to address how military-connected middle and high school students can map out their academic plan to graduate on time despite multiple transitions. There will be a look inside the MCEC SchoolQuest™ tool, discussion on the MCEC recommended academic plan, and sharing strategies for developing good study habits.

Chart Your Course – College Readiness

This is the second part of the MCEC Chart Your Course workshop. The training will address how military-connected students can prepare for college applications, including a detailed discussion of how academics, diversity, extracurricular activities, and community connections play a role in the application process. Also discussed is how the MCEC SchoolQuest™ tool can be used in developing and maintaining a comprehensive college portfolio.

Chart Your Course – 2 hours

This full-length MCEC Chart Your Course workshop addresses how middle and high school students can map out a strong academic plan, enabling them to graduate on time and fulfill common entrance requirements despite multiple transitions. The workshop focuses on the circle of success, including academics, activities, and life skills.

College Admissions for Military-Connected Students

This workshop helps military-connected families understand the college admission process and what students need to know to be prepared. We will address the online application process, specifically outlining different college application components, explain application options, and conclude with a brief demonstration on how to create a college-bound student portfolio to help students stay organized.

College-Bound Portfolios for Military-Connected High School Student

As parents prepare to help their military-connected students who are approaching the transition to college, this workshop will share tips for organizing a portfolio of documents that reflect activities and progress in school. This tool will assist students in the college application and financial aid process.

Coping Strategies for Military-Connected Children and Youth

This training focuses on positive coping strategies that will help parents steer children toward reframing events as challenges that can be navigated rather than traumas. Special emphasis is placed on strengthening lines of communication, the value of quality time, and managing emotions appropriately.

Cyber Safety for Military-Connected Children and Youth

In this time of 24/7 connectivity, healthy screentime habits are critical. This workshop will address the benefits and risks of device usage and online safety for military-connected children and youth. Tips on helping children become good cybercitizens will also be addressed.

Financial Aid Basics for College-Bound Military-Connected High School Students

It is important to talk about the financial aid process and the resources available to support military-connected families when planning for this huge milestone in your student's life. We will cover the cost of college, ways to pay for it, qualifying for aid, and different types of financial assistance.

Growing Great Readers

Developing literacy skills are critical for military-connected children to be successful in school and life. A family's role in reading starts at birth and continues throughout life. In this workshop, we share ideas to spark a love of reading in children and develop good reading habits for the entire family.

Guiding Your School-Aged Child's Social-Emotional Development

It is pivotal to examine the stages of social-emotional learning for school-aged children and identify the benefits of a child having supportive relationship and coping skills. The training will also address challenges that hinder healthy development in these areas, as well as provide tips and strategies for helping children enhance those skills.

Homeschooling Basics for Military Families

Families new to homeschooling can gain insight about potential benefits and challenges as well as resources available to military families who are interested in learning more about homeschooling.

Keys to Academic Success

Families play an important part in helping their military-connected children achieve academic success, especially through transitions related to a highly mobile lifestyle. This workshop addresses seven keys to academic success: Routine, Parental Involvement, Communication, Organization, Healthy Habits, Planning Ahead, and Seeking Help.

Kids in the Kitchen

This workshop addresses how military-connected families can incorporate literacy, math, and science in meal preparation. Also, we explain the benefits of nutritious meals for healthy development and well-being.

Persistent and Challenging Behaviors

We know that all behaviors, both desired and undesired, are ways that children communicate. This workshop will help military parents identify common triggers that may contribute to challenging behaviors and appropriate, alternative strategies to navigate these challenges.

Reconnecting After Deployment

This workshop addresses the deployment cycle as well as reintegration tips and strategies to make redeployment and post-deployment less stressful for the whole family. Using a family puzzle concept, participants learn strategies on reconnecting after deployment.

Staying Connected When Separated from Your Service Member

Deployments and separations are part of the military lifestyle. This workshop addresses how three-way communication is key prior to and during the time a service member is absent. Practical strategies on how military families can stay connected will also be shared.

Test-Taking for Military-Connected Elementary School Students

Tests can be stressful for any student, including younger children. This workshop will address challenges that military-connected children might face regarding different state and district assessments as they transition. Strategies on preparing children for test taking and tackling test anxiety will also be addressed.

Test-Taking for Military-Connected Middle School and High School Students

Typically, testing becomes more frequent as students enter the upper grades. This workshop will address testing challenges that military-connected middle and high school students may encounter as they transition. Test taking strategies and military-specific resources to support students with testing will be provided.

Transitions for Military Children with Exceptional Needs

This workshop describes the amplified challenges that military-connected students with exceptional needs may encounter as they transition to new locations. Parents will learn relevant information about Individual Education Programs (IEP) and Section 504 plans. We will share practical tips and available resources for military families, enabling them to ensure a smooth transition for their students with exceptional needs.

Transitions: What Every Parent Needs to Know

In this workshop, parents will consider the impact transitioning has on military-connected children. Strategies and resources will be shared to help military families leverage the benefits of living the military lifestyle so that it becomes an asset to their military children.

What is a Purple Star School?

This workshop addresses how Purple Star Schools are a gamechanger for military-connected families. Parents explore transition challenges for military-connected children and how Purple Star Schools can help ease those challenges. The relevancy and benefits of the Purple Star School program will be shared along with resources and strategies to help grow this initiative in support of military-connected children.