



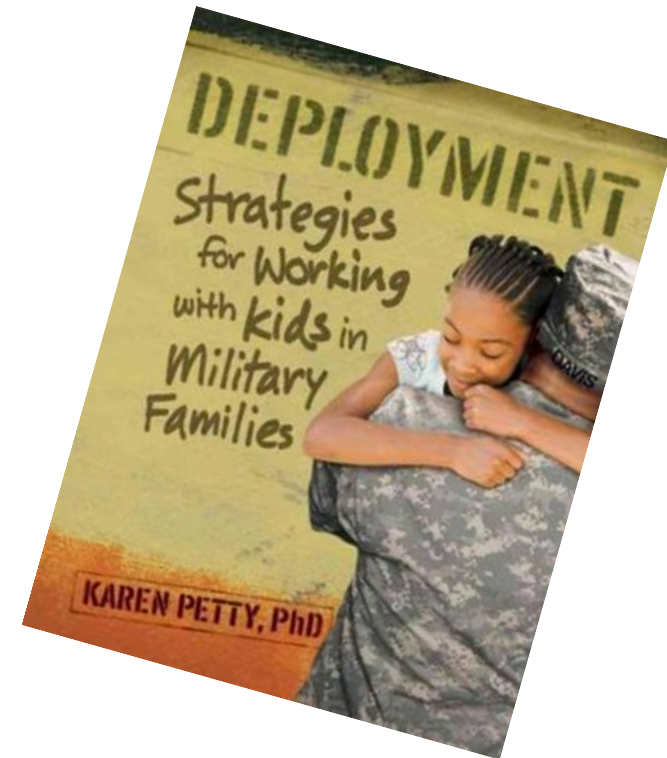
# ***Pre-Service Teacher Preparation for Supporting Military-Connected Students: A New Approach***

MCEC National Training Seminar  
24 July 2018

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**TEXAS WOMAN'S**  
UNIVERSITY



# Today's Agenda

- Pre-Service Teacher Preparation Workshop
  - What is it?
  - Results?
- Activity
- Q & A
- Summary



# Today's Learning Objectives

#1 – Describe two reasons why we should address the needs of military-connected students with future teachers

#2 – List three key learning objectives for the Pre-Service Teacher's Symposium participants

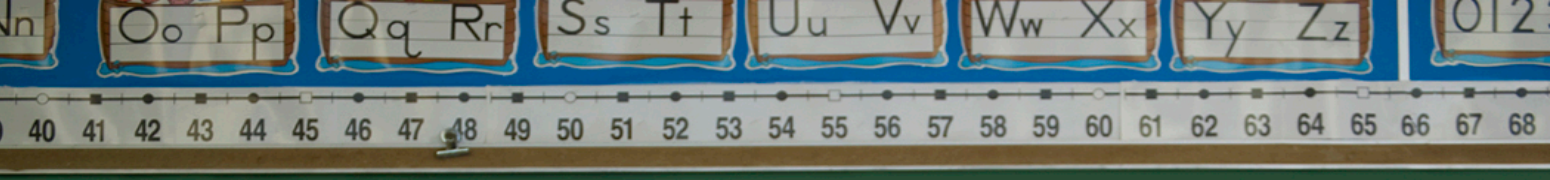
#3 – Leave with one new strategy generated for supporting military-connected students





Unless they have had a personal experience with the military, most new teachers are not aware of the strengths and needs of their military-connected students





# 3 KEY POINTS

#1 – 1 and 70

#2 – drafted

#3 – Three



# Demographics

- Approximately 1.1 million students enrolled in public schools have a parent or parents serving in the military
- 70 million students enrolled in public schools in 2013



**KEY POINT #1: 1 in 70**

*Sources: Military Child Education Coalition & National Center for Education Statistics*



# Who Are Our Military-Connected Children?

- Almost **2 million** with parent(s) Active Duty, Guard, or Reserve
- **1,381,584** are 4-18 years old
- Found in **every school district**
- Over **80%** (1,105,267 students) in public schools







**KEY POINT #2:**  
**Drafted, not volunteered**



# Why Being a “Military Brat” is Awesome



- 1. Experience and Appreciation of Diversity**
- 2. Proficiency in Language Learning**
- 3. Adaptability to New Environments and Situations**
- 4. Desire to Serve Others**
- 5. Connection to Other Military Children**



# Example Strategies

- **Holidays** – service birthdays
- **Patriotism** – honoring the flag through reveille/retreat
- **Resilience** – building resilience through their life experiences for others to learn from



**KEY POINT #3: Three strategies:**  
Holidays, Patriotism, Resilience



# What Did We Want to Know?



prior knowledge

awareness

preparedness

beliefs

# What We Found in Post-Survey!

Implementation strategies

No prior experience

relevance

New Knowledge

Increased Awareness

Increased preparedness

Beliefs

informative

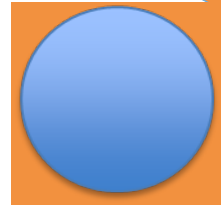
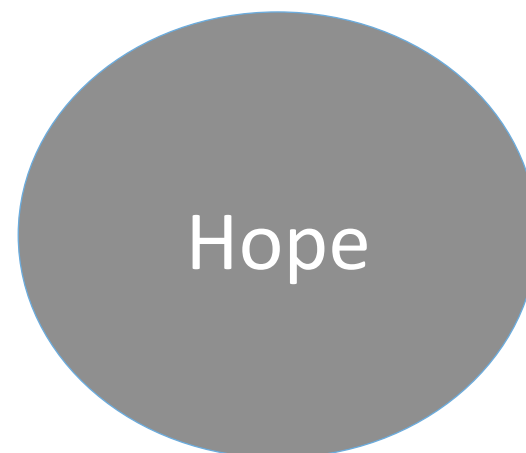
New perspective

support

# Other “Stuff” that We Found!



praise – amazing, great, awesome, thank you’s



loved

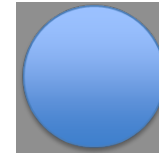


eye-opening



helpful

possibilities



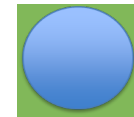
transitioning



More pressing needs



Others need assistance more.



Lack of relevance



Singles out military-Connected kids

# Activity in Small Groups

- Brainstorm: What do you want teachers of military connected students to know?
- In other words, how may we (universities) better prepare teachers?



1. Understand the language and the culture of the military
2. Understand the logistics of helping kids within the military demands
3. Parental involvement, military parents can be very involved
4. Inclusive with all of the students, teaching new teachers that there will be students entering and leaving class throughout the year





1. Not all installations have schools on site, many attend public schools off site, but the military isn't able to "keep things stable" for them always, requires all community resources
2. Interstate compact – KNOWING what it is, using it in their school
3. Starting by asking them to situationally frame their experience: Think of a time when you were new, vulnerable...
4. MC students are an emotional gift – many layers to be unwrapped carefully
5. Identify/understand that mc students are often frustrated/angry with the "life circumstances" of the military, how it is impacted them
6. Understanding that deployed parents are NOT the same person when they return home



1. Everyday life of a military child, what do they do when they are not deployed.... Think about the culture
2. KNOW the financial struggles of military
3. Culture between branches
4. Challenge of new teacher coming in to a “wolf pack” of established teachers
5. Understanding why it is important to advocate for all students
6. Values of military student in your classroom
7. Have teachers come on installation for a development day - an “Educator’s Tour”
8. Have military talk too teachers, use local university



1. BUILD RELATIONSHIP WITH EVERY CHILD IN YOUR ROOM
2. Understand the day-to-day life of a military connected child
3. How to do this without drawing too much attention to them
4. When the students move into the class
5. Understand the attitudes of the mc student, some hate the travel, while others love it, and those indifferent



# What We Will Do Next!

- Continue the TWU Military-Connected Student Seminar.
- Inform/request others to incorporate information in curriculum inside and outside of Teacher Education.
- Create offsite access to Seminar information.
- Bring in Military-Connected Students and Parents as facilitators.
- Incorporate your feedback today into Seminar.

# Today's Learning Objectives

#1 – Two reasons why we address the needs of military-connected students with future teachers

#2 – Three learning objectives for the Pre-Service Teacher's Symposium participants

#3 – One new strategy generated for supporting military-connected students



# Thank you!

You Can Reach Us Here:

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