

**NEW!**

Free TedEd  
Lessons for Parents  
and Educators!

Military & Veteran Children:

# a CONSTELLATION of STRENGTHS & CHALLENGES



Military Child Education Coalition has developed a series of **EIGHT INTERACTIVE LESSONS** designed to support youth serving professionals, parents, and highly mobile military and civilian students to become college and career ready.

Professional Learning Community

## Military & Veteran Children:

# a CONSTELLATION of STRENGTHS & CHALLENGES



### Who can benefit from these lessons?

Educators, service providers, youth-serving professionals, parents and anyone interested in learning more about supporting military students and increasing their opportunities for a successful transition from high school to college and career.

### How do I find the lessons?

The eight interactive lessons (described at right) can be found at [www.militarychild.org/professional-learning-opportunities](http://www.militarychild.org/professional-learning-opportunities). Each one is a separate link to TedEd. Once you arrive at the TedEd site, it is best to register for a username and password, so you can take full advantage of the TedEd enabled lessons.

### What will I learn in the lessons?

Each lesson includes a short video. Once you have landed at the lesson, view the video first. Then, you will be given the opportunity to learn more about the topic through thought provoking questions, additional resources and more. You can even check your understanding through a short quiz. There is no limit to the amount of times each video can be watched. Be sure to share with other learners your compelling thoughts and action items.

### Objectives for learning:

- Introduce participants to the mobile military and veteran-connected child.
- Share information about strategies for inclusion, transition and motivation of military and veteran-connected children.
- Create an environment where all children graduate from high school successfully ready for college and careers, regardless of their transition status.

### What is a Professional Learning Community?

According to ALLTHINGSPLC.info, a Professional Learning Community (PLC) is defined as an ongoing process in which educators work **collaboratively** in recurring cycles of collective inquiry and action research to achieve better results for the students they serve. PLCs operate under the assumption that the key to improved learning for students is continuous job-embedded learning for educators.

### How can a Professional Learning Community help your campus?

#### For staff, the following results have been observed:

- Reduction in isolation of teachers.
- Increased commitment to the mission and goals of the school, and increased vigor in working to strengthen the mission.
- Shared responsibility for the total development of students and collective responsibility for students' success.
- Powerful learning that defines good teaching and classroom practice, and creates new knowledge and beliefs about teaching and learners.
- Increased meaning and understanding of the content teachers teach and the roles they play in helping all students achieve expectations.

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# The Lessons

## *Lesson One:*

### **A Spectrum of Things to Consider About Military Kids**

Two million strong! The children of our nation's military serve this nation, too. Let's look at what makes them both resilient and vulnerable... and then how to be a part of helping them thrive.

## *Lesson Two:*

### **Motivating Military Children to be College, Career and Life Ready**

Military students move to new schools frequently, and each time it's like starting over. What encourages them to work hard to be college, career and life ready each time? Look at techniques that educators and parents can incorporate into their routines to motivate them.

## *Lesson Three:*

### **Getting Highly Mobile Military Kids Ready for the World**

It is never too early to start preparing students for future careers and postsecondary education. Teachers and parents can start fostering career and college exploration and readiness skills starting in elementary school.

## *Lesson Four:*

### **Producing College and Career Ready Students: Understanding the Challenges**

Mobile military students face hurdles in building towards college and career readiness at high school graduation. What are some ways that professionals and parents can help them face the challenges and encourage their readiness?

## *Lesson Five:*

### **Producing College & Career Ready Students: Ensuring Military Kids are College Ready**

In order to better prepare students for the college environment we must look at some of the fundamental differences that make the transition challenging for mobile military students.

## *Lesson Six:*

### **Producing College & Career Ready Students: Career & Technical Education**

The career course sequence in high school should be considered in meeting the goal of providing students with multiple paths to graduation while equipping them for a successful career or postsecondary education.

## *Lesson Seven:*

### **Higher Education Initiatives for Military Kids**

Higher education institutions can play a major role in helping military kids be academically competitive in postsecondary education. University professors and researchers can become involved in supporting military kids by considering initiatives that address their unique needs.

## *Lesson Eight:*

### **Getting Military Kids with Exceptional Needs Ready for the World**

Despite advances in improving the college and career readiness of students with disabilities, we must ensure that they are not left behind. We must equip students with the knowledge and skills to fulfill their individual potential and lead full and independent lives.

### For staff, continued:

- Higher likelihood that teachers will be well informed, professionally renewed, and inspired to enthuse students.
- More satisfaction, higher morale, and lower rates of absenteeism.
- Significant advances in adapting teaching to the students, accomplished more quickly than in traditional schools.
- Commitment to making significant and lasting changes, and higher likelihood of undertaking fundamental systemic change.

### For students, the results include:

- Decreased dropout rate and fewer classes “skipped.”
- Lower rates of absenteeism.
- Increased learning that is distributed more equitably in the smaller high schools.
- Greater academic gains in math, science, history, and reading than in traditional schools.
- Smaller achievement gaps between students from different backgrounds.

### Ways to put the MCEC lessons into practice:

1. Create goals for increasing the campus-wide awareness of military and veteran-connected students.
2. Create an interest inventory for middle and high school students to gauge the interest and help identify mentoring opportunities.
3. Casually talk to one student each week about his/her career aspirations.
4. Identify former students who are military or veteran-connected and ask them to share their career experience with your students.
5. Highlight the college experience of your colleagues through bulletin boards and newsletters.

### What are some other ideas that you have?

We would love for you to share your ideas with us through the TedEd platform!

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*GATES foundation*

### REFERENCE

1. Hord, S.M. (1997). *Professional learning communities: Communities of continuous inquiry and improvement*. Austin: Southwest Educational Development Laboratory.

\*The MCEC lessons created with funding from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation will help members of Professional Learning Communities understand the challenges faced by military-connected children and all children who experience transition. When you use the MCEC lessons as a topic in your PLC, the members will find engaging videos, dynamic conversations and ideas for assisting all students to become college and career ready, while meeting the demands of state, district and local requirements.