



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
LANSING

RICK SNYDER  
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN  
SUPERINTENDENT OF  
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

March 3, 2011

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: Local and Intermediate School District Superintendents and  
Public School Academy Directors

FROM: Mike Flanagan, Superintendent of Public Instruction 

SUBJECT: School-Aged Children of Military Families

I am writing to request your support for a very important initiative to assist school-aged children of military families attending our Michigan public schools. I am fully aware that I am asking for your voluntary support during a time when mandated data submissions have become such a sensitive issue for school districts. The fact that I am writing this letter to you lets you know how committed I am to supporting military-connected children in our state. I appeal to your sense of patriotism and ask you to join me in helping children whose parents serve us all so selflessly.

Our nation is in the 10th year of deploying our Armed Forces into sustained combat operations. The stress that these multiple deployments and separations have on military families has increased to unheard of proportions. President Obama and the First Lady recently have committed their attention to strengthening our nation's military families by ensuring that they have the resources they need to be their best. Specifically, they have committed to ensuring excellence in our military's children's education and their development. Each of the President's Cabinet Secretaries, including the Secretary of Education Arne Duncan, has personally committed to improving support for our military families.

I hope we can support these efforts together in identifying military-connected children of Michigan with parents or guardians currently serving the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, and/or Coast Guard. This will include all children of parents currently serving in the Michigan National Guard, in Reserve United States Forces, or on Active Duty. If each school district or public school academy can identify its military-connected children by providing the Michigan Department of Education the unique identification code, last name, first name, gender, and date of birth,

**STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

JOHN C. AUSTIN – PRESIDENT • CASANDRA E. ULBRICH – VICE PRESIDENT  
NANCY DANHOF – SECRETARY • MARIANNE YARED MCGUIRE – TREASURER  
RICHARD ZEILE – NASBE DELEGATE • KATHLEEN N. STRAUS  
DANIEL VARNER • EILEEN LAPPIN WEISER

608 WEST ALLEGAN STREET • P.O. BOX 30008 • LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909  
www.michigan.gov/mde • (517) 373-3324

Page 2  
March 3, 2011

we will take a huge step in identifying these students. Once school-aged children of military families are identified, support can be provided. In states like Michigan that do not have large active duty posts or bases, our military children are spread throughout our communities and therefore do not always have access to networks of support.

A formatted spreadsheet has been developed ([Military-connected children](#)) for use to enter in the requested identification information. Starting May 1, 2011, districts will be able to upload the spreadsheet into the Michigan Electronic Grant System (MEGS). The spreadsheet and additional instructions will be available on the MDE website, under the Grants page. We are asking that the spreadsheets be uploaded by June 15, 2011. Any arrangements you can make between now and then to help us with this initial collection will be appreciated.

I see this voluntary data collection as being critical to helping us monitor the academic growth of and directing future education and counseling resources to those students most affected by deployments and other military family stressors. Also, under the President's initiative, the US Department of Education is proposing, as part of No Child Left Behind reauthorization, to give priority to federal grant applications that help address the needs of military-connected students.

If you have any questions about this endeavor, please contact Louis Burgess, Assistant Director, Grants Coordination and School Support at [burgessl@michigan.gov](mailto:burgessl@michigan.gov) or 517-335-3672.

cc: Michigan Education Alliance