

**Handbook for Parents of
School-Age Children
2014-2015**
Connecting Families, Schools, &
Communities



NAVSTA NEWPORT

School Liaison Officer
John F. Kennedy Child Development Center
1376 Bushnell Street
Middletown, Rhode Island 02842
Office: (401) 841-7126 FAX: (401) 841-7698

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|---|----|
| Welcome to Naval Station Newport | 4 |
| Child and Youth Program Services | 5 |
| What is a School Liaison Officer? | 6 |
| School Choice - Discover Your Options | 7 |
| Learn More about Choices Available to Your Child | 8 |
| Local Schools | 10 |
| Newport County Public Schools District Offices | 11 |
| Technical Schools | 12 |
| Eligibility and Entrance Age Requirements: Kindergarten and First Grade | 12 |
| Immunization Requirements | 13 |
| Physical Examination Requirements | 14 |
| Sports Physicals | 14 |
| NCLB and State Testing Requirements | 15 |
| Graduation Requirements | 16 |
| K-12 Laws and Regulations | 16 |
| Private School Information | 17 |
| Home School Information | 17 |
| EFMP and Special Education Services | 18 |
| Tips for Easing Your Child's Anxiety about the New School | 19 |
| Check List for School Transition | 20 |
| The Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children | 22 |
| Additional Resources | 25 |
| Newport County 2013-2014 School Calendars | 26 |

Welcome to Naval Station Newport



Welcome to Naval Station (NAVSTA) Newport, home to 53 naval and defense tenant commands and activities.

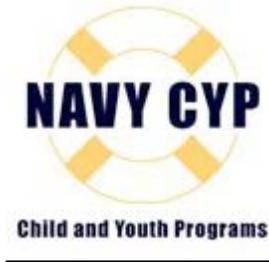
Newport is the Navy's premier site for training officers, officer candidates, senior enlisted personnel and midshipman candidates, as well as conducting advanced undersea warfare and development systems. Naval Station Newport's mission is to fulfill the diverse requirements of its tenant commands by providing the facilities and infrastructure that are essential to their optimum performance.

Naval personnel assigned to Newport come from all parts of the United States and many free nations of the world. The naval installation mirrors a miniature America, flavored with an international touch. Both its military and civilian personnel get deeply involved in local community affairs including contributing substantially to charitable causes and playing active roles in local churches, service clubs, Sea Cadets, Boy Scouts and other popular youth activities.

Newport is the home of the Navy's most prestigious educational institution, the Naval War College. As the oldest such institution in continuous existence anywhere in the world, the college is organized to pursue and integrate both academic and research endeavors. Each year, over 500 outstanding mid-career level officers of the Navy, all other U.S. services, civilian federal agencies and international naval officers come here to pursue a rigorous 10 month course of post-graduate studies.

Naval Station Newport is located on scenic Aquidneck Island in the southern portion on the state of Rhode Island. The base is partially located in all three Aquidneck Island communities, Newport, Middletown and Portsmouth. Beautiful beaches, Gilded Age Mansions, colonial architecture and exceptional fall foliage, in addition to great restaurants and wonderful entertainment make the Newport area an exciting place to live. Providence, Boston and New York are within a day's drive as well.

The Newport County School Systems (Newport, Middletown, Portsmouth, Tiverton, Little Compton, and Jamestown) offer quality public education. In addition there are a variety of private, parochial and independent schools in the area from which to choose.



Child and Youth Educational Services

Philosophy

CYP provides high quality educational and recreational programs for children and youth. Teams of caring, knowledgeable professionals plan developmentally-appropriate programs that are responsive to the unique needs, abilities and interests of children. Our staff fosters a sense of independence, trust, and responsibility within each child through understanding and respectful interactions. Likewise, through positive relationships, our programs respect and support the ideals, cultures and values of families in their task of nurturing children and youth. We are advocates for children, families and the child and youth professionals within our programs and surrounding communities.

Goals

- Build development and physical skills
- Promote social competence and positive relationships with others
- Foster emotional well-being and a sense of trust and respect
- Encourage children to think, reason question, and experiment
- Develop initiative, problem-solving and decision-making skills
- Advance creative expression, representation and appreciation for the arts
- Promote language and literacy development
- Develop self-discipline and the ability to seek out and complete self-selected tasks
- Cultivate respect and an appreciation of differences and the uniqueness of diverse cultures and traditions
- Support sound health, safety and nutritional practices

Developmental childcare and youth recreational programs are available to all active duty military, active reservists and guardsmen, DOD civilian personnel and contractors. Navy CYP are among the highest quality in the nation.

NAVSTA Newport CYP offers a wide variety of recreational activities, school-age care, day camps, teen programs and special family events. School-age care and summer camps focus on a variety of age appropriate activities to enhance the cognitive, social, emotional and physical development of children ages 5 - 12 years-old. Our teen program is open to youths 9-18 years of age and offers the opportunity to participate in field trips, special events, sports and membership in the teen council. The CYP's before and after-school programs are currently accrediting with the Council on Accreditation and, are affiliated with the Boys & Girls Club of America (B&GCA). **Call 401-841-2883 for additional information about NAVSTA Newport CYP Programs.**

The John F. Kennedy Child Development Center provides full-day care in a developmentally-appropriate learning environment for children six weeks to five years old. Hourly care is also available. Hours of operation are 6:15 AM to 5:30 PM. All CYP facilities are closed on all federal holidays. **Call 401-841-4562 for additional information.**

What is a School Liaison Officer (SLO)?



The School Liaison Officer is the primary point of contact between the military installation, the local schools and school districts, transitioning families, and the community at large. The Navy School Liaison Officer (SLO) program helps installation and regional commanders work with state departments and local school districts to foster awareness of the stressors on military families brought about by frequent transitions and extended deployments. These education professionals are located on all major Navy installations and serve as linkages between all military families and schools. Parents, educators and community members are encouraged to contact their local School Liaison Officer with any questions.

The six (7) core functions of a School Liaison Officer (SLO):

- School Transition Services
- Deployment Support
- Special Education System Navigation
- Installation, School, Community Communications
- Partnerships in Education
- Home School Linkage, Support
- Post-Secondary Preparation

The School Liaison Officer's (SLO) primary responsibilities are:

- Provide information.
- Make referrals.
- Educate families.
- Advocate for children.

Specific responsibilities include:

- Serve as the installation point-of-contact for local Child and Youth Service matters.
- Facilitate communication between local school authorities and senior leadership.
- Advocate for the educational needs of military children.
- Provide information regarding all schools in the area.
- Ensure a communication link with inbound and outbound families on educational issues.
- Maintain contact information pertaining to the Exceptional Family Member Program and other local resources for students with special needs.
- Engage with school leaders, installation leadership and families on items of interest such as understanding required state testing, school exit exams, high school seniors applying for financial aid, student transition, Individual Education Plan (IEP) etc.
- Serve as a liaison between organizations providing services to students, school personnel and community to foster partnerships between schools, families, and military and civilian organizations.
- Educate teachers, counselors, and administrators on unique issues affecting military families.
- Command a working knowledge of federal, state and local laws applicable to military child education.

School Choice – Discover Your Options

Some of the most important decisions parents make are about their child's education. Parents want their child's school to meet the same goals and high standards that they have set. Making the right school choice for your child is extremely important to their long term success. The right school will impart high academic expectations while offering a safe environment within which to learn. Many families choose where they live based on the school districts and neighborhood schools.

Parents can choose from public schools, charter schools or other public schools of choice, or enroll their child in an independent or private (secular or religious) school or they may choose to teach their child at home.



All parents want the best possible education for their children. Studies have shown that many service families are accepting or rejecting assignments based on their schooling options. Base Commanders and School Liaison Officers are aware of the schooling choice and the quality of the schools surrounding their installation in order to assist families in understanding their education options. Because education is regulated by state government, available schooling options vary between states. Additionally, all students have different learning styles and needs. Children within the same family may not learn in the same way or at the same rate. It is important to consider the needs of each child individually.

Finding the right educational setting for each child requires a careful examination of the various options that are available to students and their families. Understanding expanded school choice is essential to selecting the best school for your child. The No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB), signed in 2002, has given parents additional options when considering how to educate their children. It is important to remember that you know your child better than anyone else and trusting your intuition in the decision making is essential.

Making an informed decision means that you must gather information and do some research. Here are some quick resources to help you make your decisions:

- **Choosing a School for your Child** – A publication of the United States Department of Education, <http://www.ed.gov/parents/schools/fing/choose/index.html> offers a series of checklists and pertinent questions to assist parents in making schooling choices.
- **Military OneSource** – A useful resource for obtaining information on schools. Users may access the services 24 hours a day 7 days a week. The service is toll free from the United States :(800) 342-9647; from overseas: (800)-3429-6477; or overseas collect: -1-484-530-5908. In addition, Military OneSource offers a website at www.militaryonesource.com for information on a variety of topics and issues.
- **The Military Child Education Coalition** – MCEC is a 501(c) (3) non-profit, world-wide organization that identifies the challenges that face the highly mobile military child, increases awareness of these challenges in military and educational communities and initiates and implements programs to meet these challenges.
- **Military HOMEFRONT** – The official Department of Defense website for reliable Quality of life information designed to help troops and their families, leaders and service providers. Whether you live the military lifestyle of support those who do, you will find the information you need!

Learn More about Choices Available to Your Child

A quick primer on school types:

Public Schools

District Schools are often called “neighborhood schools” because they are within the town/city where the student resides. They provide free, public education for all students who reside in the boundaries of the school district providing a full range of special education services. District schools get their financing from local, state, and federal government funds. An elected board of education, school committee, traditionally oversees the budget and policies of the district schools. In most cases, they must admit all students who live within the borders of their district.

Charter Schools are public schools which are run independently of the local school district. These schools receive tax dollars as well as receiving funds from private sponsoring groups. They aim to provide educational innovation, improve academic achievement, and establish multi-cultural environment without regard to economic status. Charter schools must adhere to the basic curricular and teacher certification requirements set forward by the state but are free from many of the regulations that apply to conventional schools and the day to day scrutiny of school boards and government authorities. Charter schools may focus on an area of instruction such as specializing in teaching mathematics and science or working with students who are considered “at risk.” Charter schools are open to all students; however, the “Charter Document” may limit students to a specific geographic area. A lottery is generally used if there are more applicants than spaces available.

Magnet Schools are highly competitive, highly selective public schools renowned for their special programs, superior facilities, and high academic standards/achievement. Magnet schools are operated by local school districts, regional centers, and/or an agreement between schools and districts who share policy and curriculum decisions for the school. Students generally choose to attend a magnet school because of an interest in the school’s academic focus or unique programs such as science, technology, math, performing arts, foreign language, or International Baccalaureate. All students are eligible to attend magnet schools. School districts usually limit the enrollment in magnet schools and use a lottery system to select students if there are more applications than spaces available.

Career and Technical Centers are schools for grade 9-12 students who have an interest in specific vocational or technological training. These schools specialized technical skills training while they instruct students in all academic areas as well. Upon graduating from a technical school students are eligible to go on to a full range of post secondary educational programs. Some technical programs are located in separate facilities from the district high school and some are incorporated within the comprehensive high school. Teachers must have state certification as well as special training/experience in the areas taught.



Non-Public Education

Religious Private Schools are private schools which generally espouse a specific religious belief based on the denomination or faith established by the governing board. Often religious schools have open enrollment and do not require their student body to be of the same faith or denomination, although they do require that the students do abide by the rules established by the school leadership. In addition to academic coursework religious schools usually require coursework in religious studies. Students must apply to attend the school and entrance exams are often a requirement. Private religious schools can refuse admission to any student or dismiss a student after enrollment for an infraction of the rules. Teachers are not required to be certified by the state, though they may be required to be a member of a specific denomination. Teachers may hold a

variety of degrees and certifications. Requirements vary from school to school. Tuition costs vary widely. Transportation may be included in the cost of tuition or may be a separate charge.

Private Secular Schools are schools without religious affiliation. Many secular schools have a long history and tradition while others are relatively new. Secular schools often give preference for admission to students whose relatives are alumnae of the schools. Some secular schools may offer a traditional education that centers on preparation for college while others focus on an educational philosophy or a specific approach to learning such as those that accommodate individuals with special needs, i.e., schools for the deaf or blind. Tuition costs vary widely. Transportation may be included in the price of tuition or may be a separate charge. Teachers are not required to be state certified.

Home Schooling or Home Education is educating your children outside the public, private, parochial school establishment. Parents may decide to homeschool their children for a number of reasons- religion, special needs, concern about physical conditions and danger in formal school setting, or fear of unacceptable teaching or religious curricular. Each state has specific mandatory requirements for parents who choose the homeschooling option. Parents may decide to perform the schooling themselves in their own home or a relative, neighbor, professional tutor, or homeschool cooperative may perform the service. Parents who are considering this option should inform themselves completely about time commitments, curricula, relevant state laws, outside resources and available support groups.





Local Schools

There are many public and private schools in Newport County and the surrounding areas that service the military community at Naval Station Newport.

If you choose to live in Navy (Balfour Beatty) Housing, the public school system that your child/children will attend depends on where your housing assignment is. Coasters Harbor Island, Hart Field, Farragut Field and Fort Adams housing are in the Newport School District, Coddington Cove and Green Lane housing are in the Middletown School District, and Melville housing is in the Portsmouth School District.

If you choose to live outside of housing, the public school your child/children will attend is primarily determined by where you choose to reside within the community. In the local area, there are multiple cities and towns that are within commuting distance of Naval Station Newport. Above is a map of Newport County which includes the communities of Newport, Middletown, Portsmouth, Jamestown, Little Compton, and Tiverton. Although Naval Station Newport is located in Newport County, many communities in Rhode Island and south-eastern Massachusetts are within a 30 min-1 hour commute.

Public School District Offices
Newport County

Middletown Public Schools

26 Oliphant Lane
Middletown, RI 02842
Phone: (401) 849-2122
Fax: (401) 849-0202
www.mpsri.net
Superintendent: Rosemarie Kraeger

Newport Public Schools

15 Wickham Road
Newport, RI 02840
Phone: (401) 847-2100
Fax: (401) 849-0170
www.newportriscschools.org
Superintendent: Colleen Jermain

Portsmouth Public Schools

29 Middle Road
Portsmouth, RI 02871
Phone: (401) 683-1039
Fax: (401) 683-5204
www.portsmouthschoolsri.org
Superintendent: Ana Riley

Tiverton Public Schools

100 North Brayton Road (Rear)
Tiverton, RI 02878
Phone: (401) 624-8475 (76)
Fax: (401) 624-4086
www.tivertonschools.org
Superintendent: William J. Rearick



Newport County Regional Special Education
(Little Compton, Middletown, Portsmouth
And Tiverton)

1 Frank Coelho Drive
Portsmouth, RI 02871
Phone: (401)847-3916
Fax: (401) 848-5927
www.ri.net/nptctyregional/index.html
Director: Rachel Santa

Jamestown Public Schools

76 Melrose Avenue
Jamestown, RI 02835
Phone: (401)423-7020
Fax: (401) 423-7022
www.jamestownri.com/schools
Superintendent: TBD

North Kingstown Public Schools/
Jamestown High School

100 Faiway Drive
North Kingstown, RI 02852
Phone: (401) 268-6400
Fax: (401) 268-6405
www.nksd.net
Superintendent: Philip Auger Ph. D.

Little Compton Public Schools

28 Commons
Little Compton, RI 02837
Phone: (401) 635-2351
Fax: (401) 635-2191
www.littlecomptonschools.org
Superintendent: Kathryn Crowley

Technical Schools

Newport Area Career and Technical Center
(Serving Newport County Schools)
Rogers High School
15 Wickham Road
Newport, RI 02842
Phone: (401) 847-6235
Fax: (401) 849-3295
www.newportrischools.org
Director/Principal: James Nelson



For more information on local schools, check out the following websites:

www.schooltree.org
www.greatschools.net
www.schoolquest.org

**The Navy neither endorses nor supports the above organizations.

Eligibility and Entrance Age Requirements For Kindergarten and First Grade

In order to be eligible to enter school in Rhode Island:

- “Every child who has attained or will attain five (5) years of age on or before September 1st of any school year shall be eligible to attend kindergarten during all the days that the kindergartens are in session during the school year.” -RI STATE LAW
- “Every child who has completed or will complete six (6) years of life on or before September 1st of any school year shall be eligible to attend first grade during all the days that the public schools are in session during the school year. Every child shall be eligible to attend first grade only upon completion of a state recognized or accredited kindergarten program.” -RI STATE LAW



Immunization Requirements for All Children Entering Kindergarten in Rhode Island

Important Message to Parents with Children Entering Kindergarten

In accordance with the Rhode Island Department of Health *Rules and Regulations Pertaining to Immunization and Testing for Communicable Diseases* (R23-1-IMM), all children entering kindergarten are required to have the following immunizations:

- **Three (3) doses of hepatitis B vaccine**
- **Five (5) doses of DTaP (diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis) vaccine**
- **Four (4) doses of polio vaccine**
- **Two (2) doses of MMR (measles, mumps, rubella) vaccine**
- **Two (2) doses of varicella (chickenpox) vaccine *or* a statement signed by your child's doctor stating that your child has a history of chickenpox disease.**

All children entering kindergarten are required to be up-to-date on their childhood immunizations as well as have a physical exam. This is the perfect opportunity to review your child's immunization record with his or her doctor to ensure your child is protected from all vaccine-preventable diseases.

IMPORTANT REMINDER ABOUT FLU VACCINATION:

An annual Influenza (flu) vaccination is now *RECOMMENDED* for all children 6 months-18 years of age to prevent the spread of flu to others in daycare, preschool and school settings as well as at home and in the community. Influenza vaccine is available from October through April each year. Don't forget to ask your doctor about flu vaccine **Remember!!! Ask your doctor about your child's LEAD SCREENING TEST too!** Evidence that your child has been tested for lead poisoning is also a requirement for entry into kindergarten.

As of September 2006, vision screening is a requirement for school entry. For details, visit <http://www.health.ri.gov/family/visionscreening.php>

Immunization Requirements for All Children Entering 7th Grade in Rhode Island

Important Message to Parents with Children Entering 7th Grade

In accordance with the Rhode Island Department of Health *Rules and Regulations Pertaining to Immunization and Testing for Communicable Diseases* (R23-1-IMM), all children entering the 7th grade are required to have the following immunizations:

- Booster dose of Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis) vaccine, if it has been 5 years or more since the last dose of diphtheria-tetanus containing vaccine.**
- Four (4) doses of Polio vaccine**
- Two (2) doses of MMR vaccine (Measles, Mumps, Rubella)**
- Three (3) doses of Hepatitis B vaccine.**
- Two (2) doses of Varicella (chickenpox) vaccine received *or* a statement signed by your child's doctor stating that your child has a history of chickenpox disease.**
- One (1) dose of Meningococcal conjugate (Meningitis) vaccine**

All children entering 7th grade are required to be up-to-date on their immunizations as well as have a physical exam. This is the perfect opportunity to review your child's immunizations with the doctor to ensure your child is protected from all vaccine-preventable diseases.

IMPORTANT REMINDER ABOUT FLU VACCINATION:

An annual Influenza (flu) vaccination is now *RECOMMENDED* for all children 6 months-18 years of age to prevent the spread of flu to others in daycare, preschool and school settings as well as at home and in the community. Influenza vaccine is available from October through April each year. Don't forget to ask your doctor about flu vaccine

Immunization cont.

In order to ensure a smooth transition for your child, it is recommended that you have immunizations completed prior to arriving at your new duty station. If that is not possible, they can be administered upon your arrival at Navy Health Clinic New England; 48 Smith Road Newport, 02841-1002. For appointments Call (888) 628-9633.



Physicals

Physical Exam Requirements in Rhode Island

All students in both public and non-public schools must show documentation of the completion of a physical examination by the student's primary care provider at two times during their school years:

- At school entry (usually at kindergarten, but may be at any time a student enters a Rhode Island school for the first time) and
- At 7th grade entry.
- A student may not be excluded from school due to the lack of documentation of the above mentioned physical examinations.

The **School Physical Form** is available through the **Department of Health**. Go to: <http://www.health.ri.gov/forms/school/Physical.pdf>



Sports Physicals

Students who compete or plan to compete in school sports activities must have sports physical completed prior to the beginning practice or try-outs. Sports physicals must be completed on a yearly basis. Sports physicals are generally more comprehensive than the school entrance physicals. Please contact your local school district for more information and to obtain the district-specific form.

In order to ensure a smooth transition for your child, it is recommended that you have sports physicals completed prior to arriving at your new duty station. If that is not possible, make your appointment upon arrival at Navy Health Clinic New England; 48 Smith Road Newport, 02841-1002. Please specify your need for a sport physical. For appointments call (888) 628-9633.

No Child Left Behind/ State Testing

A child's academic success is one of the chief concerns of military parents. Being informed on all aspects of a school's potential is a vital part of making successful school choices for children. Under the *No Child Left Behind (NCLB)* Act of 2001, each state has developed and implemented measurement to determine whether their schools are making adequate yearly progress (AYP). AYP is an individual state's measure of progress toward the goal of 100% of students reaching state academic standards in reading/language arts and mathematics.

For more information on *NCLB*, please read the U.S. Department of Education Guide; **No Child Left Behind: A Parents' Guide** which can be found at: <http://www.ed.gov/parents/academic/involve/nclbguide/parentsguide.html>

State Testing in Rhode Island

The Rhode Island Board of Regents adopted the Common Core State Standards on July 1, 2010. This adoption underscores Rhode Island's commitment to maintaining high standards for its students. RIDE is confident that the Common Core maintains the rigor and high expectations that have been set for our students through the NECAP GLE/GSEs. The transition to curriculum and instruction that is fully aligned to the Common Core Standards will occur over several years with the expectation of full implementation by the 2013-2014 school years. New evaluation tools, such as the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (**PARCC**) Assessment are aligned with the more rigorous Common Core State Standards (CCSS). PARCC is based on the core belief that assessment should work as a tool to enhance teaching and learning.

State testing in Rhode Island is defined by a **Comprehensive Assessment System (CAS)**. CAS is a coordinated plan for monitoring the academic achievement of students from Pre-K through Grade 12. The goal of the system is to increase student learning by producing actionable data, evaluate the effectiveness of programs, and ensure that *all students* are making progress toward achieving learning goals. Currently school districts around the state are working to develop and refine their CAS in an effort to highlight successes and to encourage learning from each other. The Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE) coordinates the administration of a variety of assessments that are made available to each school district. Individual students do not participate in all of the assessments. Specific information, including participation and administration policies, can be found on the Rhode Island Department of Education website www.ride.ri.gov in the Instruction and Assessment section. School Districts will announce their testing schedules based on the assessments given in their districts and the administration date window.

| <i>Assessments</i> | <i>Grades Tested</i> | <i>Administration Dates</i> |
|---|--|--|
| NECAP Science | 4,8,10 | May4-28, 2015 (RI schools only) |
| Alternate Assessment - NCSC Reading, Writing, Math | 3-8 and 11 | Spring dates TBD |
| Alternate Assessment RIAA- Science | 4,8,11 | (1)Sept29-Nov14,2014 (2)Jan5-Feb6,2015 (3)Mar3-May1,2015 |
| PARCC ELA/Literacy, Mathematics | ELA/Literacy 3-10 Mathematics 3-8, High School | TBD |
| ACCESS for ELLS | K-12 | Jan14-Feb18,2015 tentative |
| Developmental Reading Assessment (limited participation) | K,1,2 | May1-29,2015 |
| National Assessment of Educational Progress NAEP Reading, Math & Science | 4 and 8 | Jan26-Jan30,2015 Mar2-6,2015 |
| Teaching Strategies Gold Progress Checkpoints Assessment | Early Childhood Special Education, State Funded Pre-K Classrooms | Nov7,2014 Feb27,2015 June5,2015 |
| Technology Literacy Assessment | 8 | Nov24-Dec24,201 Mar2-Mar27,2015 |

Graduation Requirements

All Rhode Island public school districts have graduation requirements that include a “demonstration of proficiency based learning” component as defined by the RI Department of Education beginning in 2008. The Rhode Island Regents’ Regulations for High Schools require that schools focus on educating all students toward a successful transition to any post-secondary experience they choose, whether it be college, technical school, or the workplace by providing educational experiences that are student centered and focused on a rigorous and relevant curriculum. Students must not only earn a required number of Carnegie Units (20 minimum; additional will be determined by each individual school district) they must also “demonstrate proficiency” in a manner determined by the individual school districts as well.



To review the basic graduation requirements of any school in Rhode Island it is best to refer to each school independently. As graduation requirements vary from district to district, you should consult each community’s website and direct any specific questions to them individually. (see page 10 for a list of Newport County school district websites or consult the SLO WebPages on the CNIC NAVSTA Newport website.)

Beginning with the class of 2014, *all* students must complete the following, at a minimum, to earn a high school diploma: 20 courses, 2 diploma assessments, state assessment (scoring at least partially proficient on the NECAP reading and mathematics tests) and meet additional requirements of districts and the local schools. Performance assessments (Diploma Assessments) include student portfolios, exhibitions and comprehensive course assessments. Students are required to complete the two Diploma Assessments chosen by the district or school. Tasks and similar applied learning assessments may be collected in student portfolios, required as part of comprehensive course assessments and are a central component of student exhibitions.

State minimum graduation requirements frequently change and/or are modified as states attempt to provide the best education they can for their students. For this reason you should refer to <http://www.ride.ri.gov/StudentsFamilies/RIPublicSchools/DiplomaSystem.aspx> for the most recent updates.

K-12 Laws and Regulations

For information on local laws and regulations regarding Elementary and Secondary Education, in the state of Rhode Island please visit:

Rhode Island Department of Elementary and Secondary Education:
<http://www.ride.ri.gov/commissioner/legal/default.aspx>

Private School Information

There are many private school options in Rhode Island. To explore these educational opportunities please visit:

RI Department of Education Directories:

http://www.ride.ri.gov/RIDE/EZ_PrintDirectoryReports.aspx

Private School Review: <http://www.privateschoolreview.com>

National Center for Education Statistics (NCES :)

<http://nces.ed.gov/surveys/pss/privateschoolsearch>

For more information on religious private schools visit; <http://www.parochial.com>

****THE NAVY NEITHER ENDORSES NOR SUPPORTS THE ABOVE ORGANIZATIONS. THEY ARE PROVIDED PURELY AS AN INFORMATIONAL RESOURCE FOR FAMILIES**

Home School Information

Many parents choose to provide their child's education outside of the public school system. Information on homeschooling in Rhode Island can be found at:

Home School Central:

<http://www.homeschoolcentral.com>

Rhode Island Guild of Home Teaching:

<http://www.rihomeschool.com>

Home School Legal Defense Association:

<http://www.hsllda.org/>

Rhode Island Department of Education:

http://www.ride.ri.gov/Instruction/home_school.ssp

The Military Homeschooler: <http://www.militaryhomeschoolers.com>



****THE NAVY NEITHER ENDORSES NOR SUPPORTS THE ABOVE ORGANIZATIONS. THEY ARE PROVIDED PURELY AS AN INFORMATIONAL RESOURCE FOR FAMILIES**

Special Education Services

There are many resources for students who have special educational/physical needs. For information on the state of Rhode Island's policies and procedures, please visit the Rhode Island Department of Elementary and Secondary Education at:

http://www.ride.ri.gov/Special_Populations/default.aspx

Local school departments provide excellent support services and programming for students with special needs. Please contact your school district's Special Education Administrator for specific details.

Exceptional Family Member Program

The Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP) has been established to identify long-term medical and educational issues (including both physical and emotional) and/or special education needs of military families.

EFMP enrollment information enables Navy detailers to proactively consider a family member's special needs requirements during the assignment process and to pinpoint the assignment to a location with appropriate resources to address the particular special needs. EFMP enrollment is mandatory. Contact the EFMP program coordinator/case manager at the Navy Health Clinic New England; 48 Smith Road Newport, 02841 or call (401) 841-6041.

To learn more about the Navy Exceptional Family Member Program, please visit Navy Personnel Command: <http://www.npc.navy.mil/CommandSupport/ExceptionalFamilyMember/>

You may also contact NAVSTA Newport EFMP Liaison at 401-841 -2148 or for assistance.

Support for Special Needs Families

Specialized Training of Military Parents (STOMP) is a federally funded Parent Training and Information (PTI) Center established to assist military families who have children with special education and health needs. Read more about STOMP at <http://www.stompproject.org>

The Department of Defense created a DoD Special Needs Toolkit filled with comprehensive information to help military families navigate through special needs services. Access the TOOLKIT at; <http://www.public.navy.mil/bupers-npc/support/cfm/Pages/default.aspx>

Locally, the Navy Health Clinic New England offers support for special needs families. A case manager is available to answer questions and coordinate medical care. Your case manager, working closely with the installation SLO, will advise you in regards to local special education services. The installation SLO will help guide you through the IEP process within the schools and help you to become a better advocate for your child. Please call your School Liaison Officer at (401)841-7126 for assistance.

TIPS FOR EASING YOUR CHILD'S ANXIETY ABOUT THE NEW SCHOOL



- Become familiar with your child's school before your child's first day. Give your child as many details as possible about the new school and the surrounding community in order to ease the first day jitters.
- Help your child establish ways to stay in touch with friends at their previous duty station. This gives him a sense of continuity as he acclimates to the new school environment and makes new friends.
- Encourage children to talk with their teachers. Getting to know their teachers makes it easier for them to ask for help. If you have a young child, make a point of meeting the new teacher personally.
- Talk to your children about their school experiences. Encouraging your child to talk about his frustrations in her new learning environment provides her with a healthy forum for expression.
- Encourage your child to join extracurricular activities such as clubs or school organizations. This is a positive, productive way to meet people with shared interests.
- If school work is challenging, talk to your child's teacher. Children should not wait until they are overwhelmed to voice their concerns. This is a good way to model positive interaction with the teacher.
- Finally, do not hesitate to contact your local School Liaison Officer. We are ready and willing to help you with every phase of your school transition!

Quick Checklist for School Transition

Parent/Guardian:

- Student's Birth Certificate *
- Student's Social Security Number *
- Student's Shot record *
- Legal Documents as needed (i.e. Guardianship/custody) *
- Proof of Residency/Military Orders

School Information:

- Address, Phone numbers and other contact information
- Course description Book/Grading Scale (for grade 6 and above)
- Copy of the cover of each textbook or the title page
- School Profile/Handbook
- School Webpage
- Other as needed: _____

School Records:

- Copy of Cumulative Folder (only the copy sent from school to school is considered official)
- Current Schedule
- Report Cards
- Transcript/Course History (with grading system, and Class Rank)
- Attendance and tardy records
- Standardized Testing Score Records
- Withdrawal Grades/Progress Reports
- Activity records (extracurricular if available)
- ROTC Records (if applicable)
- Letters of Recommendations (especially for senior students)
- Writing Samples (if available)
- At-Risk or Action Plans for classroom modifications (if available)
- Portfolios (if available)
- Accelerated Reader Points (if applicable/available)
- Service Learning Hours (if applicable/available)
- Other: _____

Special Programs record as Appropriate:

- Individual Education Plan (IEP)/Individual Accommodation Plan 504/Gifted Program Description *
- English as a Second Language (ESL) or Bilingual Education *
- At-Risk or other Action Plans for Classroom Modification *
- Other: _____

Other Documents and Examples:

- Community Service or Service Learning Verification
- Class work or Performance Based Project Examples (important for Graduation By Proficiency in RI)
- Academic Recognition and Competition Participation Verification
- Others: _____

* Hand carry this information for each child with you to your new location.

Additional Recommendations for School Transition:

3-6 months before the Move

- Research the new school district
- Call you School Liaison Officer to answer any questions you may have

1-2 months before the Move

- Review the checklist and gather any missing documents
- Copy proof of residence or housing documents that show where you will be living
- Set up a time to meet with the school counselor at the receiving school to go over transcripts (note contact information for key school staff)
- Find out what the withdrawal process is at your school and make a plan to withdraw your child from school in an appropriate manner

2 weeks before the Move

- Review checklists and make sure that all documents are as current as possible
- Remind School of the student's last day

MOVING BEFORE THE END OF THE SCHOOL YEAR

- Make a copy of the front cover of your child's textbooks
- Copy course outlines or topic covered
- Know what to expect with the transfer of credits (call your SLO for information)
This step could reduce a lot of stress!

The vision of the **School Liaison Program** is to coordinate and assist school aged children of military parents with educational opportunities and information necessary to succeed in an academic environment. School liaison officers also network, educate and work in partnership with local schools to provide caring adults to enhance the education experience.

The mission of the **School Liaison** is to provide military commanders with the support necessary to coordinate and advise military parents of school-aged children on educational issues and needs and to assist in solving education-related problems.

The goals of the **Program** are to identify barriers to academic success and develop solutions; promote parental involvement in their children's education; develop and coordinate partnerships in education; provide parents with the tools they need to overcome obstacles to education that stem from the military lifestyle; and to promote and educate local communities and schools regarding the needs of military children.

Resolving Education Transition Issues for Military Families



What Are the Issues?

Military families encounter school challenges for their children for enrollment, eligibility, placement and graduation due to frequent relocations in service to our country.

What Is the Compact?

The Compact provides for the uniform treatment of military children transferring between school districts and states. It was developed by The Council of State Governments' National Center for Interstate Compacts, the Department of Defense, national associations, federal and state officials, and departments of education, school administrators and military families.

How Does a State Join the Compact?

Each state must adopt the Compact through their legislative process. Participation is voluntary.

What Happens After a State Joins the Compact?

Each state appoints representation to a governing commission responsible for enacting rules to implement the Compact. Each participating state also creates a state council based on the requirements of their state legislation.

How Do I Learn More About the Compact?

You should visit the Council of State Government's Web site at

www.csg.org/militarycompact

What Children Are Eligible for Assistance Under the Compact?

Children of

- Active duty members of the uniformed services, National Guard and Reserve on active duty orders
- Members or veterans who are medically discharged or retired for (1) year
- Members who die on active duty

What Children Are Not Eligible for Assistance Under the Compact?

Children of

- Inactive members of the National Guard and Reserves
- Members now retired not covered above
- Veterans not covered above
- Dept of Defense personnel, federal agency civilians and contract employees not defined as active duty

What Are Some of the Specific Educational Issues that the Compact Covers?

Enrollment

- Educational Records
- Immunizations
- Kindergarten & First Grade Entrance Age

Placement & Attendance

- Course & Educational Program Placement
- Special Education Services
- Placement Flexibility
- Absence Related to Deployment Activities

Eligibility

- Eligibility for Student Enrollment
- Eligibility for Extracurricular Participation

Graduation

- Waiving courses required for graduation if similar course work has been completed
- Flexibility in accepting state exit or end-of-course exams, national achievement tests, or alternative testing in lieu of testing requirements for graduation in the receiving state
- Allowing a student to receive a diploma from the sending school instead of the receiving school

Who Do I Contact in my State or School District to Learn More about What Is and Is not Covered in the Compact?

- You should contact your State Compact Commissioner.

Is there a Person at the Military Installation who can Help me Understand the Compact Issues and Requirements for Local School Districts?

- You should contact the School Liaison Officer at your local installation. For a listing of School Liaisons in your area, visit the Military K–12 Partners Web site at
- http://militaryk12partners.dodea.edu/reference_SLOexplained.html
- At NAVSTA Newport contact Janet McCarthy at 401-841-7126

What Happens if the Member State does not Comply with the Compact?

- The Compact provides for a governance structure at both the state and national levels for enforcement and compliance.

Where is the Compact in Terms of Implementation at the National and State Levels?

- Forty-eight states have adopted the Compact. The Department of Defense will continue to work with the Commission, Council of State Governments, national organizations, and state leaders to bring the remaining states on board. Member states are beginning to form their State Councils and inform school districts of the terms of the Compact. The Commission has met twice and is working to implement and communicate the requirements of the Compact.
- For Further Information, Visit the Web sites
- www.csg.org/militarycompact
- www.mic3.net

Resources

Choosing a School for Your Child:

www.ed.gov/parents/schools/find/choose/index.html

10 Things Military Teens Want You to Know:

www.nmfa.org/site/DocServer/TOOLKIT_8.5x11_proof6.pdf?docID=15601

Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children:

www.mic3.net

Plan My Move:

www.militaryhomefront.dod.mil/portal/page/mhf/MHF/MHF_HOME_1?section_id=20.40.500.398.0.0.0.0

Student Online Achievement Resources (SOAR):

www.soarathome.org

Free SAT/ACT preparation software program:

www.eknowledge.com/military.asp

Parents' Guide to the Military Child During Deployment and Reunion:

www.aap.org/sections/uniformedservices/deployment/pdfs/parent_guide_deployment.pdf

Guide for Helping Children and Youth Cope with Military Reserves Deployment:

www.nmfa.org/sections/uniformedservices/deployment/pdfs/parent_guide_deployment.pdf

Military One Source:

www.militaryonesource.com

Military Impacted School Association:

www.militaryimpactedschoolsassociation

Military Child Education Coalition:

www.militarychild.org

Military Kids Connect

www.militarykidsconnect.org



