

# Supporting Youth with Parents in Active Armed Forces

## Recruitment and Retention Super Strategies

### INTRODUCTION

## Who are Youth with Parents in the Active Armed Forces?

**T**he Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act includes youth with a parent who -

1. is a member of the armed forces (such term is defined in section 101(a)(4) of title 10, United States Code); and
2. is on active duty (such term is defined in section 101(d)(1) of title 10, United States Code.)

This document will provide recommendations related to recruitment and retention strategies for military connected youth. Military connected youth tend to experience school transience due to parent deployment and relocation. This can cause a disturbance in transfer of school records and academic progress. One strategy that all community colleges can further develop is a positive relationship with local school districts to assist in a smooth transition for students.

## Did You Know?

Illinois currently has three active military bases across the state- Rock Island Arsenal Garrison, a U.S. Army facility in Rock Island County, Scott Air Force Base in St. Clair County, and Naval Station Great Lakes in Lake County.<sup>2</sup>

## Recruitment and Retention Super Strategies | RECOMMENDATIONS

- Strengthen partnerships and collaboration with local area high schools.
  - ✓ Academic and guidance counselors can promote the benefits of CTE programs.
  - ✓ Students can be informed of support services available on campus prior to enrollment.
- Offer assistance with admission, registration, and financial aid for students who may have increased difficulty navigating the enrollment process.
  - ✓ Designate a single point of contact for students throughout this process to cultivate a positive relationship.
  - ✓ Ensure financial aid officers are informed on scholarship opportunities and financial assistance available to military connected youth.
- Academic and financial aid advisors need to stay abreast of benefits and supports available to all military connected students.
  - ✓ If your college has an office for veteran services, all three should be in communication when supporting military connected students.
- Provide professional development opportunities to staff to raise awareness and understanding of the unique challenges faced by military connected students.
- Create a support group for military connected students.
- Encourage students to become involved on campus and locally to strengthen a sense of community.
- Connect with community organizations to provide students access to additional assistance. This could include:
  - ✓ mental health services
  - ✓ child care facilities
  - ✓ community action agencies
  - ✓ government benefit offices
  - ✓ housing departments
  - ✓ public health departments

### Did You Know?

In 2018, military dependents ranging from 19 to 22 years of age totaled 107,133. Children ages 21 to 22 must be enrolled as full-time students in order to qualify as dependents.<sup>1</sup>

### Sources:

<sup>1</sup> Department of Defense, Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Military Community and Family Policy. (2018). *2018 Demographics Report: Profile of the Military Community*. Retrieved from <https://download.militaryonesource.mil/12038/MOS/Reports/2018-demographics-report.pdf>.

<sup>2</sup> Illinois Installations. (2020). Retrieved April 14, 2020, from <https://installations.militaryonesource.mil/state/IL/state-installations>.

<sup>3</sup> Military Child Education Coalition. *College, Career and Life Readiness for Military and Veteran Children: A Military and Community Leaders' Guide*. Retrieved from [https://www.militarychild.org/upload/files/resources/GE\\_Leaders\\_Guide.pdf](https://www.militarychild.org/upload/files/resources/GE_Leaders_Guide.pdf).

<sup>4</sup> Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act H.R.2353, 115th Cong., (2018) (enacted). <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/2353/text?r=2>.