What Every Veteran & Military-Connected Family

MUST UNDERSTAND ABOUT

PCS'ing During High School, Applying for College & Navigating Scholarships Season



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What Every Veteran & Military-Connected Family Must Understand About PCS'ing During High School, Applying for College & Navigating Scholarships Season

A foundational guide to avoiding costly mistakes, understanding your resources & your rights, without recreating the wheel. What you need to know to keep moving forward.

Introduction

Why I Wrote This—and Why You're Right to Be Here

If you're reading this, you're probably doing what so many veteran & military-connected families do quietly and responsibly: trying to figure things out on your own.

You might be a veteran returning to school, a dependent planning for college, a military spouse looking to take the next step in your career or a family juggling service, transitions, and uncertainty—all at the same time. And somewhere along the way, you realized something unsettling:

There are benefits and scholarships out there... but no clear, safe, trustworthy roadmap.

I've worked with military-connected families long enough to know this truth: ***the hardest part isn't eligibility — it's navigation.***

Families don't miss out because they aren't deserving. They miss out because the system is fragmented, overwhelming, and often unclear. This guide exists because the military and veteran communities deserve support without chaos.



We took the tedious work out of the scholarship search so you can focus on success.

This ebook is not a list of scholarships (but I have one of those too!)

It's not a promise of outcomes.

And it's not here to sell you on unrealistic guarantees.

What it is—is a foundation.

Let's build success together.

Dreams don't work unless you do – so let's get started!!

CHAPTER 1

PCS'ing During High School



The average military-connected student moves 6-9 times during their K-12 educational experience. If that isn't hard enough, many move in the middle of high school creating further uncertainty as they prepare to apply for college and scholarships.

Let's start where the biggest questions are...
Am I going to graduate on time??

As a military connected student, you have some tools to help ensure on time graduation – but that doesn't mean you get to slack off!

Before leaving your sending school, you must tackle a few important items – trust me on this!



1. Transfer/save any schoolwork or documentation from your previous school. Most students forget to go through their school email prior to leaving and then lose access.

2. Speak to your guidance counselor about transitioning Naviance or other college prep information so you don't lose information you have already worked on.

3. If you have volunteer hours logged at your sending school, ensure you have a copy when you PCS. Many scholarships and college applications want to see volunteer hours.

Remember – when you leave the school you lose access to your school email!!

4. When PCS'ing, bring a hand-carried, unofficial copy of your transcripts. You are entitled to this under the Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission (MIC3) www.mic3.net

   a. CHAPTER 300 Transfer of Education Records and Enrollment SEC. 3.101 | ELIGIBILITY FOR TRANSFER AND ENROLLMENT

   (a) Unofficial or "hand-carried" education records – In the event that official education records cannot be released to the parents for the purpose of transfer, the custodian of the records in the sending state shall prepare and furnish to the parent a complete set of unofficial educational records containing uniform information as determined by the Interstate Commission. Upon receipt of the unofficial education records by a school in the receiving state, the school shall enroll and appropriately place the student based on the information provided in the unofficial records pending validation by the official records, as quickly as possible. In the event a state or an LEA charges a fee for copies of educational records, such a fee shall not exceed the reasonable cost of reproduction.

   (b) Official education records/transcripts – Simultaneous with the enrollment and conditional placement of the student, the school in the receiving state shall request the student's official education record from the school in the sending State. Upon receipt of this request, the school in the sending state will process and furnish the official education records to the school in the receiving state within ten (10) business days except for a designated school staff break including, but not limited to, spring, summer, or holiday. Records should be furnished as soon as possible following the return of staff from a school staff break; however, the time shall not exceed ten (10) days after the return of

6. Bring a copy of the course syllabus and course description to help answer any questions about the work you have completed.

7. If you have a teacher or coach you would like to get a recommendation from for college or scholarships, ask them before you leave! Worst case, ask for their email address so you can get in touch with them later. And, NO you won't just remember it so ask and write it down.



CHAPTER 2

You are NOT alone. Before you GO...call your SLO!

Did you know there is an Education Subject Matter Expert or School Liaison, at every major installation around the globe whose primary purpose is to help military families navigate the PreK-12 educational landscape? YOU DO NOW!



I have had the honor to serve as a School Liaison for nearly 12 years!

You School Liaison has their finger on the pulse of the educational community! Here's How...

1. Transition Support (PCS)
2. Special Education Navigation
3. Homeschool Support
4. College & Career Readiness
5. Deployment Support
6. Command, School & Community Communications
7. Partnerships in Education

You can find your Worldwide School Liaison @

Contact Info, Phone Numbers & Address | MilitaryINSTALLATIONS

Air Force/Space Force: SCHOOL LIAISON PROGRAM | Department of the Air Force Child and Youth Programs

Army: School Liaison Office | The Official Army Benefits Website

Navy: School Liaison Directory | MCC Central

High School Stabilization Program (or Senior Stabilization)



The High School Stabilization Program (HSP) (or Senior Stabilization) allows active-duty military families to defer Permanent Change of Station (PCS) moves, keeping soldiers at their current duty station while their children complete their junior or senior year. It aims to minimize academic disruption, with applications generally submitted between March of sophomore year and September of junior year.

The most important aspect of this program is the timing – Please see requirements below

Army: High School Senior Stabilization Program

Air Force & Space Force: High-School-Senior-Assignment-Deferment-HSSAD-PSD-Guide.pdf

Navy: high-school-seniors-dgm0405-1609.pdf

CHAPTER 4

You Can't Go Wrong, Knowing Your Rights.

The Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission (MIC3) is a law in all 50 states that seeks to level the playing for highly transient military children, during the transition process. *Your School Liaison is the MIC3 Subject Matter Expert*, so your first line of defense for clarification is them.

As it pertains to transitioning high school students & seniors please read below-



You can find the entire updated MIC3 Rulebook here: MIC3 Compact Rules
Or state-by-state laws here: Interactive Map - MIC3

CHAPTER 400 Graduation SEC. 4.101 | WAIVER REQUIREMENTS (a) LEA administrative officials shall waive specific courses required for graduation if similar course work has been satisfactorily completed in another LEA or shall provide reasonable justification for denial. Should a waiver not be granted to a student who would qualify to graduate from the sending school, an LEA shall provide an alternative means of acquiring required coursework so that graduation may occur on time. If the receiving LEA requires a graduation project, volunteer community service hours, or other state or LEA specific requirements, the receiving LEA may waive those requirements. SEC. 4.102 | EXIT EXAMS (a) Exit exams – States shall accept: 1) exit or end-of-course exams required for graduation from the sending state; or 2) national norm-referenced achievement tests; or 3) alternative testing, in lieu of testing requirements for graduation in the receiving state. In the event the above alternatives cannot be accommodated by the receiving State for a student transferring in his or her senior year, then the provisions of SEC. 4.103 shall apply. SEC. 4.103 | TRANSFERS DURING SENIOR YEAR (a) Transfers during senior year – There may be cases in which a military student transferring at the beginning or during his or her senior year is ineligible to graduate from the receiving LEA after all alternatives have been considered. In such cases the sending and receiving LEA's shall ensure the receipt of a diploma from the sending LEA, if the student meets the graduation requirements of the sending LEA. In the event that one of the states in question is not a member of this compact, the member state shall use best efforts to facilitate the on-time graduation of the student in accordance with Sections A and B of this Article.

CHAPTER 500 Placement and Attendance SEC. 5.101 | COURSE PLACEMENT (a) The receiving school shall initially place a student who transfers before or during the school year in educational courses based on the student's enrollment in the sending state school and/or educational assessments conducted at the school in the sending state to the extent the educational courses are provided by the receiving school. Course placement includes but is not limited to Honors, International Baccalaureate, Advanced Placement, vocational, technical and career pathways courses. The receiving school may perform subsequent evaluations to ensure appropriate placement and continued enrollment of the student in the course(s). The receiving school may allow the student to attend similar educational courses in other schools within the LEA if the receiving school does not offer such educational courses

CHAPTER 5

Before You Apply – The Calm & The Storm.

College Selection – It is never too early to start.

BIG QUESTIONS:

1

WHAT program of study are you interested in? Some students know and some don't, both answers are ok. Is there more than one? You need to start by figuring out WHAT you want to study.

2

WHY is that a program of interest for you? If your answer is simply "for the money" – then ask yourself 'will this fulfill me long term'?

3

HOW much schooling is required prior to effectively entering this field? The last thing you want to do is find out you need to be in school for 6+ years when you only projected four.

4

WHAT is the average employment rate? Is this a steady rate over time? Is this a field that is projected to change due to technological advances? All things to consider before you become a permanent basement dweller.

5

WHAT is the average salary range? Life is certainly about more than money, but before you put yourself in a six-figure debt to earn a piece of paper you should know if you will be able to pay your bills.



NOW WHAT?

It is time to find out WHERE your program(s) of study available!

Time to put those Google skills to work and develop a list of schools to consider.

Your Guidance Counselor is a great source of information as well!

Step 1: MAKE A LIST.



Yes I made a template for you! Click Link Below!

College Search: Worksheets - Google Sheets

This is seldom a one-day project which is why I recommend starting early – especially if you know your program of study. Making a list helps keep the information straight, eliminates stress and confusion while opening up clear communication with your family and guidance team so you don't waste time (PS: it also gets your parents to stop nagging you!)

The Template is broken down into 3 parts

1. **Basic Search:** This is the starting point to help you narrow down the information. Don't forget to link the website to the spreadsheet.
2. **Deeper Dive:** In this step you gather a little more information to help you make realistic decisions. This part may seem overwhelming but putting the information all together is important
3. **Let's Apply!:** This is your final list. It is time to dig into the real information about unlisted financials, requirements, documentation and more!

all spreadsheets are customizable to your own needs with the intent to provide insight into questions you should consider

PRO TIP! Contact the Department Head of your chosen program of study

1. Ask Questions: Start with an email.
    a. Express Interest in the program – provide one specific thing you are excited about *(They love this! professors want engaged students)*
    a. Ask a unique question – this engages them in the conversation and shows your curiosity *(they love this even more!)*
    b. Request a time to connect virtually. – You are about to make a huge commitment, make sure it is the right vibe for you.
    a. Follow-up! If you want to stand out in the crowd when it comes time for admission, sent a thoughtful email expressing your appreciation for their time in speaking with you. Make sure to reference at least one key take away from your conversation. *(If you really want to be a rock star, send a handwritten note!)*

CHAPTER 6

Time to Organize for Success…Let's Build a Binder

Listen up Parents… We all want our kids to take initiative but as a document gatekeeper myself – they really need us in this process!

You need to ensure that you have all the documentation needed for both college & scholarship applications. Employ the mentality that 'it is better to have and not need than need and not have'.

General things you may need:

- ✓ Birth Certificate
- ✓ Immunization Record
- ✓ Social Security Number
- ✓ High School Transcript
- ✓ Letters of Recommendation
- ✓ Standardized Test Scores (where required)
- ✓ Extra-Curricular Activities
- ✓ Volunteer/Community Service Hours
- ✓ Employment, Internship, Extended Learning Opportunities
- ✓ Awards
- ✓ Financial Aid: FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)
- ✓ Interview/Portfolio Review (as required by program)

Military Specific Documents

- ✓ Proof of Service/Status: DD214 (for veterans)
- ✓ Active Duty ID card
- ✓ NGB Form 22 (National Guard).
- ✓ Dependent Eligibility: Birth certificate/ Marriage certificate
- ✓ Leave & Earnings Statement (LES)
- ✓ Education Benefits: VA Certificate of Eligibility (CoE) for GI Bill benefits.
- ✓ Academic Records: Joint Service Transcript (JST)
- ✓ Verification of Military Experience and Training (VMET)



Having these documents 'at the ready' in digital and hard copy ensures you won't have to wait to apply. It also means you need to be thoughtful with putting your PII out into the world. This is a good time to review digital safety!!

Fail to Prepare – Prepare to Fail…or as I frequently tell my kids, "the lack of preparation on your part does not constitute an emergency on mine."

CHAPTER 7

The Scholarship Landscape: Why Deserving Families Miss Great Opportunities

Looking for scholarships can feel like finding a needle in a haystack.

Maybe you have tried to just 'Google It' – haven't we all!

What you come back with is the commonly seen, well-known scholarships and a laundry list of scholarship sites for you to search...and boy does that take a lot of time.



Did you know it takes on average 11-13 clicks into a website to determine if your military family is even eligible to apply?



What you are actually navigating is a **fragmented landscape** made up of programs created by entirely different entities, for entirely different reasons, operating under entirely different rules. That doesn't mean the system is malicious. In fact, there are many generous scholarships available – if you can find them. The truth is that we only think we know what is available because we have instant access to information. The fast-paced world we lived in doesn't stop for PCS season, deployment, changing schools, communities and supports.

In reality, **you are the only constant across every decision you make** – UNTIL NOW!

With over 600 Hours spent creating this database, from over 45 resources, including the Top 30 Guidance Counselor Recommended Search Engines. We scoured the internet so you don't have to!

How Partners In Purpose Supports This Journey

After years of watching Military and Veteran families struggle to find the resources they need to fund their higher education dreams, I knew we could do better...and we did.

We created the first & ONLY comprehensive, fully-searchable, Joint Services Scholarship Database with over 1,000 Scholarships just for military & veteran families!

What does this mean? It means you can sort the database and come up with hundreds of scholarships you may be eligible for AND see the criteria all in one place. Plus – we continually update and add scholarships and scrub the database for accuracy annually!

- No more clicking through each site for information.
- No more wasted time.
- No more missed opportunity.

So, What's is the Joint Services Scholarship Database?

- ✓ **1027+ Scholarships**
- ✓ 501 scholarships with a declared value totaling **over $5,584,000!!**

Looks Who's Eligible...

- 520+ Dependent/Child
- 342 Spouse
- 182 Grandchild
- 62 Great-Grandchild
- 32 Immediate Family Member
- 157 Active Duty
- 239 Student Veteran
- 93 National Guard Student
- 76 Reserve Student
- 72 ROTC Student
- 119 listed full/partial tuition scholarships with 256 opportunities for award



Access the Joint Services Scholarship Database here

www.Partners-In-Purpose.com/Scholarship-Database

CHAPTER 8

Why Survive When You Can Thrive?

This is a stressful, fast moving, emotional process for the entire family – taking a team approach will ensure open communication, create accountability and prevent many arguments!

PRO TIP: Establish a drumbeat that works for both of you. Schedule a time for status updates to prevent the daily nagging and eye rolling (no promises on the eye rolling!)

Ex: Once a month in the early stages – Bi weekly as you progress – Weekly in crunch time

Use SMART Goals to help frame the work and keep you on track!



A few important items to consider

- Have your child open a new email account, with a simple naming structure, (yourname@gmail.com) prior to applying for colleges and scholarships.
- Ensure you student has "scrubbed" their social media – If you think they aren't looking – think again!!
- Google your child's name and pull their credit report – stranger things have happened.





USE YOUR RESOURCES!

Here is a collection of resources that may be helpful as you go through the process. While this is not a comprehensive list – it is a start in the right direction!

tutor.com TUTOR.COM for U.S. MILITARY FAMILIES www.tutor.com/military

www.Tutor.com/military is one of my favorite resources and it is FREE to all military service members, veterans and DOD Civilians. This includes webinars, individual tutoring and writing support in over 100 subjects, SAT/ACT Prep, NCLEX-RN Prep, ROTC/NROTC, Study Skills, Career & College Readiness



National Association for College Admission Counseling: Guide to the College Admissions Process NACAC-GCAP-2022-Report-1022_1.pdf

College Board: College Application Checklist – BigFuture | College Board

Common App for Military Service Members & Veteran Students Military-connected students

Military Spouse College & Career Information @ MySECO Surviving the College Admission Process | MySECO

A Letter from Our Founder

Dear Military & Veteran Families,

For nearly 12 years it was the honor of my life to serve as a Military School Liaison Officer. In that time, I have helped tens of thousands of families navigate every aspect of the educational system, fought for legislation to support our families and searched for innovative ways to get the job done. I have witnessed the tears of frustration, the excitement of success, and the unwavering strength of this amazing community. My conclusion – we have so much more work to do and I am ready to do it!

While I will never personally know the sacrifices each family has made, it is not lost on me how beautiful and challenging this life can be. It is for that reason that I have founded The Six Strong Foundation™ Inc., a 501(c)3 nonprofit DBA:Partners In Purpose, because you deserve more than people sitting in a room talking about change. You deserve real support - right now.

So, what does the future look like for Partners In Purpose? Well, we have Big Plans…HUGE! All focused-on real quality of life issues for military & veteran families!

It is our goal to become a HUB of accurate information to support the entire military and veteran community. From educational resources to childcare, local and national support organizations, spouse engagement, organizational and non-profit awareness and more, we are committed to the success of military and veteran families around the globe!

This e-book is just one tool currently in creation to support post-secondary education. Stay tuned for future printable resources, virtual workshops, webinars, organizational tools, tips, tricks and more! Join our mailing list and share with other military families at www.Partners-In-Purpose.com

Ubuntu.

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Partners In Purpose recognizes the constraints of PII and OPSEC and is deeply committed to ensuring all information on our platform is secure

THE SIX STRONG FOUNDATION™

DURING. AFTER. ALWAYS.

A 501(c)3 charitable non-profit EIN 42-2464118

A solid place for your service to stand.

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THE SIX STRONG PROJECT™ — DURING. AFTER. ALWAYS.

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