

Where to Find More Information

The DoDEA Parent's Guide to Special Education includes a list of Internet resources on this topic and many others. The guide can be downloaded at the Department of Defense Education Agency (DoDEA) Special Education Home Page. http://dodea.edu/instruction/curriculum/special_ed/index.htm

Sites Especially for Military Families

For more information about Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP), visit www.militaryhomefront.dod.mil/efm and click on "EFMP," speak to a Special Needs Coordinator at your local military treatment facility, or visit one of the service-specific Web sites listed in the "For Information and Assistance" section.

Military OneSource - A Master's-degree consultant is available to provide help with concerns related to children with special needs 24 hours a day. Translation services are available in most languages. Call 1-800-655-4545 (in US and overseas). <http://www.militaryonesource.com>

Systematic Training for Military Parents (STOMP) provides information, training, and assistance to military families who have children with disabilities. <http://www.stompproject.org>

Other Important Sites

Technical Assistance Alliance for Parent Centers - Locator to find state parent training and information centers and links to scientifically-based research, national information centers, and IDEA. <http://www.taalliance.org>

National Dissemination Center for Children and Youth with Disabilities - Clearinghouse of information about special education and specific disabilities, summaries of key topics and points of contact in each state. <http://www.nichcy.org>

Parent Educational Advocacy Training Center (PEATC) - <http://www.peatc.org>

IDEA Partnerships

Portal to resources related to IDEA, the law, national technical assistance providers, state/ local organizations and agencies, and the U.S. Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP). <http://www.ideapartnership.org>

U.S. Department of Education - information on special education, parent involvement, education research, laws and regulations. <http://www.ed.gov>

Non-DoD informational references are being provided as required by IDEA but their inclusion in this material does not constitute any endorsement by DoDEA.

DoDEA Special Education Series

The complete series of brochures and other resources for parents of students with disabilities are available on the DoDEA special education website at http://dodea.edu/instruction/curriculum/special_ed/index.htm.

Special Education Brochures

1. Pre-referral Interventions: Steps Before a Special Education Referral/Assessment
2. Moving: Things to Remember When Relocating
3. Communicating Effectively: Building a Strong Partnership
4. Individualized Education Program (IEP): Your Role in the Process
5. Related Services: Understanding the Purpose of these Services
6. Early Intervention Services: Transitioning to Preschool Services for Children with Disabilities
7. Transition: Planning for Life After High School
8. Parent Rights and Responsibilities: Insights into Your Rights and Responsibilities
9. Resolving Disputes: Your Role in Reaching Resolutions
10. Assistive Technology: Assessment, Devices, and Available Services



Moving Things to Remember When Relocating

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE EDUCATION ACTIVITY

Moving Things to Remember When Relocating

DoDEA Support

If you have a child with a disability, both the military services and DoDEA want to ensure that he or she will receive appropriate special education services following your family's move to a new location, whether stateside or overseas. This brochure offers several tips to help you as your child changes schools, particularly within DoDEA.

Preparing for a Move

As soon as you know that you may have another assignment you will want to start updating and organizing your files. You can begin by using the following checklist at least 30 days prior to your port call:

- Request a copy of your child's complete educational records, including a copy of your child's latest Individualized Education Program (IEP) or Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP).
- Request a copy of all assessment information used by the school to plan for your child's special needs.
- Obtain copies of pertinent medical records (both private and military).
- Meet with your child's teacher and review the progress your child has made since the last IEP was developed. An alternative is to request written progress reports from your child's service providers.
- Gather information about adaptive equipment used by your child, such as wheelchairs, hearing aids, braces, walkers, etc.
- Gather information about assistive technology used by your child, such as communication systems, hardware modifications, enlarged materials, scanners, auditory trainers, etc.

— Contact your local Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP) representative to ensure that your coding is accurate. NOTE: As soon as you know that you will have a new overseas assignment (or a follow on overseas assignment), contact your local Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP) coordinator to enroll or to update enrollment information. If you are moving overseas, your local stateside EFMP will also help coordinate medical and educational screenings which are mandatory.

Leaving Your Duty Station

As you leave your duty station, be sure to take any special equipment, medication, refills, and supplies (e.g., hearing aid batteries), which your child may need in the next month or two. In addition, you should hand-carry all the information about your child's education program to the next duty station. At a minimum, hand-carry a copy of the current IEP or IFSP.

Non-DoDEA schools may have different policies or procedures that guide the operation of their special education program. Do not expect to use the same forms and procedures that were used in DoDEA. You should also know that some services may not look the same either. By fully understanding what services your child is receiving and becoming familiar with the local programs/services, you can be a better advocate for your child .

If your family members have any special medical or educational needs, contact the local EMFP or family support representative to request information about available community support services.

Arriving at Your New Duty Station

Be sure to follow this checklist when you arrive at your new duty station to ensure your child receives the services he or she needs:

- Take the educational information (including your child's IEP) and immunization records with you when you enroll your child in the local school.
- Be sure to notify the new school that your child has special needs and sign the appropriate releases so the new school can request official copies of your child's records.
- Request copies of any publications about the school's special education services. Also, obtain any information about your rights.

Both in DoDEA and stateside public schools, parents are encouraged to play an active role in their child's special education program. At the new school, your permission will be sought prior to any changes in your child's program. Some schools may ask for your permission for additional assessment in order to determine eligibility using their criteria. You can expect to participate in an annual review of your child's IEP/IFSP and in other meetings to ensure a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) for your child. Contact the special education representatives at your child's new school for additional information on your rights as a parent.