

# Communication PRinciples for Principals

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## MOVING WITH CHILDREN AND TEENS



### IDEA

Visit **MilitaryHOMEFRONT** for information on moving through the Plan My Move customizable calendar tool and comprehensive installation overviews with articles, photos, contacts and major unit listings.

### Moving is always a challenge

Moving is always a challenge, and it is even more so with children. In DoDEA, transition issues, resulting from multiple moves are critical areas of focus. Organization and communication are the keys to a successful move. The military helps to facilitate an organized move by providing members with support services. The military supports members who receive permanent change of station (PCS) orders by providing shipment and storage of household goods; access to temporary and permanent housing; assistance with child care, spouse employment, financial counseling; DoD operated schools in many worldwide locations; and a set of allowances and entitlements designed to compensate for the extra costs of moving. Since the military offers a wide variety of support services it is often difficult to learn about all the programs, policies, and procedures associated with moving in the military.

This tip sheet will highlight an important source of information for principals with regard to family moves.

### Moving Resources

Did you know that DoD and the Services have assembled all the information in one place service or family members need to know to manage their moves? If you didn't, now you do, and all of this information is located online on the *MilitaryHOMEFRONT*.

*MilitaryHOMEFRONT* houses all the information you need to know in one place within the Troops and Family tab under the key word "Moving". A user can access vital information about large and small installations worldwide including articles, photos, contacts and major unit listings. Users can Plan Their Move in clear manageable steps through the *Plan My Move* customizable calendar, which contains tasks and information associated with moving worldwide. To use *Plan My Move* simply select a moving date, destination and departure location and the system will determine the information to be displayed. The calendar defaults to 3 months but by signing in and customizing it, a user can change the length of time, modify, add and remove tasks specific to meet a single or family member's needs.



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Visit the DoDEA website  
for more information.  
<http://www.dodea.edu>

In *Plan My Move* there are four education-specific articles available on the website with invaluable information on locating and choosing the right school for children of all ages. The four education articles included are:

- 1. Education Overview, which is content specific to each installation. It provides a broad overview of the educational system.
- 2. Education – Local Schools addresses for families going to LEAs stateside.
- 3. Education – Local Schools/Overseas focuses on important DoD school information and links to test scores as well as individual school websites for the DoD schools located on the installation. It explores the choices for and how to select an international school when appropriate.
- 4. Education – Special Needs examines selecting schools and the processes for finding the right schools for children with special needs. There are links to all the approved resources available to assist families with special needs children.

Through *Plan My Move*, users have access to the above articles and many more such as; Moving with Infants and Small Children, Moving with Children, Moving with Teens, Leaving Teens Behind among other titles. Some Specifics on Researching Local Schools Stateside

Several high quality commercial tools are available to assist in making decisions about which school to choose for your child. These website tools are listed below along with information on how to access the information and what type of information each site provides.

Both *Great Schools* and *School Matters* provide a wealth of information for parents.

Another resource, SchoolQuest, was developed by the *Military Child Education Coalition* to help military families select schools. SchoolQuest also offers an Online Library that provides resources for families in transition. At this time, the SchoolQuest data base covers 99 military installations. The Military Child Education Coalition also provides a *data base of information* on each State's educational system.

The *School Report Tool* is available from Military OneSource. The School Report Tool lists the names and locations of public, public charter, private, virtual and home schooling choices around major installations. *Charter Schools* are nonsectarian public schools of choice that operate with freedom from many of the regulations that apply to traditional public schools. Use this site to find one in your area.

Share this tip sheet with counselors, registrars, SLOs and anyone else who helps deal with transition issues for our students. You can also find it on the web at <http://www.dodea.edu/pressroom/prPrincipal.cfm>

# TIPS



## Some Specifics for Researching Local Schools Overseas

Start with the information on your new installation. Visit [Plan My Move](#) and review the installation's Education - Overview article. All of the overseas installations have dedicated a portion of the Education Overview to discussing the education options available in the local community. In addition to DoDEA, the [U.S. Department of State's Office of Overseas Schools](#) mission is to promote quality educational opportunities for dependents of American citizens overseas at the elementary and secondary level. If a DoD school is not available on your installation there may be a school in the local community that is an American-Sponsored Elementary and Secondary School.

## A Word About Finding Schools for an Exceptional Family Member

### Children from 3 through 21 Years of Age

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) requires all States and Territories to provide [special education services](#) to children who are from 3 through 21 years of age. Each local school district has a special education director, and each school should have a case study committee or school based committee (terms differ) that attends to special education students' needs.

Parents of children receiving special education and related services should hand-carry all pertinent school and medical documents including their children's Individualized Education Program (IEP) and current testing and evaluation reports to the new school. The IDEA requires that if a child transfers to a district in the same state, the receiving school must provide comparable services to those in the child's IEP from the sending district's until the new school develops and implements a new IEP. If a child transfers to another State, the receiving district must provide comparable services to those in the child's IEP from the sending district until the receiving district completes an evaluation and creates a new IEP.

Military Youth on the Move ([apps.mhf.dod.mil/MYOM](https://apps.mhf.dod.mil/MYOM)) is a new Department of Defense web site launched on April 30th for military children and teens who are relocating.

## Acknowledgement:

*Information provided in this issue is courtesy of [MilitaryHOMEFRONT](#). The appearance of external hyperlinks does not constitute endorsement by the United States Department of Defense Education Activity of the linked web sites, or the information, products or services contained therein. For other than authorized activities such as Defense agencies or military service/command sites, the Department of Defense Education Activity does not exercise any editorial control over the information you may find at these locations. All links are provided consistent with the mission of the Department of Defense Education Activity.*