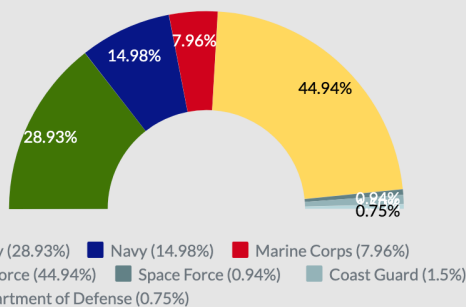


Partners in PROMISE

Key Findings^[i]

Branch of Service



REAL

5+
MONTHS

Average time families waited to receive special education services after a military move

77%

Went without special education services for over 60 days after a military move

PERCEIVED

20%

Of respondents filed a complaint, informally or formally, as a recourse to special education disputes

74%

Of those who did not file, but had cause to; of these, 22% cited "I didn't think filing a claim would help"

UNKNOWN

76%

Of respondents were not aware of special education legal support at their installation

73%

Of respondents were "not at all familiar" with Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission (MIC3) protections

THE MILITARY CHILD & SPECIAL EDUCATION

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INTRODUCTION

Navigating the world of disability and special education is an overwhelming process, made exponentially more difficult by the military lifestyle. Military EFMP (Exceptional Family Member Program) families often move every two to three years, restarting a cycle of research and advocacy that disrupts the continuity of medical and educational services their children need to thrive, impacting military readiness.

REAL, PERCEIVED, AND UNKNOWN BARRIERS

Although there are umbrella protections under federal and state laws and compact agreements, military families face significant barriers that prevent them from accessing an appropriate education in comparison to civilian special education students. Partners in PROMISE's 2021 Military Special Education Survey highlighted barriers to a Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) for military families. These barriers are grouped into three focus areas, based on the data: Real, Perceived, and Unknown.

- REAL delays in special education timelines, with findings showing significant delays in accessing special education services.
- The PERCEIVED lack of recourse when a special education conflict occurs.
- The UNKNOWN - the relationship between access to information and positive special education outcomes.

RECOMMENDATIONS

We can help military families by leveraging information, access, and accountability to remove these barriers. Partners in PROMISE's policy recommendations include:

- Create a consolidated **Resource Dashboard** of DODEA and state-level public school data to reduce delays and educate families, using the Military Student Identifier (MSI)- this data is collected at the state-level as a requirement of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).
- Improve timely access to special education services by promoting **Advance Enrollment** and working with states to track its use, increasing awareness for families.
- Improve the **Advisory Panel on Community Support for Military Families with Special Needs**. Providing transparency through open access to the Panel's Proceedings and adding key stakeholders will build confidence among EFMP families and reduce special education knowledge gaps.

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[i] Partners in PROMISE 2021 Survey was distributed in Fall 2021. Contact Partners in PROMISE at info@partnersinpromise.org for detailed findings.



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WE



DATA

but stories complete us

SURVEY DATA

STORIES

