



Key Message

Military children are often limited in their school and course registration options due to the timing of military-directed moves. States can help by waiving proof of residency requirements until the student arrives in the new state on military transfer orders.

Discussion Points

1. Military families transferring on official military permanent change of station orders are not eligible to register in courses, enroll in specialized academic programs, or submit their children's names in random lotteries for charter or magnet school entry until they are physically located within district boundaries.
2. Military service members routinely PCS on a three- to four-year rotation, most often in the summer. Families typically receive military orders in early to mid-spring.
3. When children of military families move as a result of their parents' service, they are often disadvantaged due to missed deadlines for course and program enrollment and registration, which commonly occur in the spring.
4. When military students know which school they will be attending and their class schedules in advance, they and their families have a sense of comfort, relieving unneeded stress during their transition between locations.
 - Advance enrollment helps ease some of the challenges military pupils face. They do not receive an advantage or priority over other students.
5. No new online systems are required.
6. Advance enrollment benefits school districts by reducing the need to make projections regarding their student population.
 - This is of particular importance in the current environment with delayed PCS moves due to health and safety.



About 185 thousand military children move between schools annually, and may potentially miss important registration and application periods. As a result, they may have to shift their planned courses of study, which may require them to take courses during summer school, or even force them to graduate later than their peers.