



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

June 2017

Enrollment and Placement of Children Residing on Military Bases

Version 2.0

Approved by: Antwan Wilson, Chancellor
John Davis, Chief of Schools
Scott Barash, General Counsel

Chancellor's Signature

7/2/2017
Date

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I. Executive Summary

Originating Office: Office of the Chief of Schools	Number: #104
Subject: Enrollment and Placement of Children Residing on Military Bases Authority: D.C. Code §38-174(c); 5-E DCMR § 2106.6.	Date: June 23, 2017 Rescinds:

A. Introduction

The District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS) recognizes that school-aged children residing on military bases located within the boundaries of the District of Columbia face obstacles to educational success, such as frequent moves and the deployment of one, or more, of their parents. To help overcome these obstacles, and to comply with the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children Establishment Act of 2012, DCPS issues this Chancellor's Directive to permit the enrollment and placement of such children at any point during the school year.¹

B. Purpose

The purpose of this Directive is to establish the authority, procedures, and requirements for the enrollment and placement of students who have parents who are in active military duty and who reside on military bases in the District of Columbia. Questions about this policy should be directed to dcps.policy@dc.gov.

C. Roadmap

This directive explains the legal authority for approving discretionary transfers for military families, describes which students are eligible for enrollment under this Directive, outlines the placement and enrollment process for students residing on military bases, and delivers special considerations for implementing the provisions within this Directive.

¹ The Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children Establishment Act of 2012 is codified at D.C. Code §49-1101.01.

II. Placement of Children Residing on Military Bases Located in the District of Columbia

A. Legal Authority

The District of Columbia Municipal Regulations (DCMR)² authorize the Chancellor to grant any discretionary transfer and set the duration of the approval of the transfer when the Chancellor determines that the transfer would be in the best interests of the student, and that the transfer would promote the overall interests of the school system. Consistent with DCMR requirements,³ students receiving a discretionary transfer through this process may be:

- approved for a transfer for a set duration;
- involuntarily transferred; or
- removed from a specialized school, program, or academy if the student no longer meets the criteria established for admission to such specialized school, program, or academy.

Nothing in this Directive shall be interpreted to supersede a measure adopted by the Chancellor necessary to comply with Federal requirements related to any law applicable to DCPS, including, but not limited to:

- the Americans with Disabilities Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 1201, *et. seq.*;
- Every Student Succeeds Act, Pub. L. 114-95 title I §1001; and
- Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 20 U.S.C. §§ 1400, *et seq.*

B. Applicability

The following students are eligible for enrollment and placement under this policy:

- Students eligible to enroll in grades K-12 residing with active-duty parent(s) or guardian(s) within the grounds of the Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling (JBAB), Fort Lesley J. McNair (Fort McNair), and the Marine Barracks Washington DC (Barracks); and/or
- Students aged 18 and older with remaining DCPS eligibility who reside with active duty parent(s) or guardian(s) within the grounds of the JBAB, Fort McNair, and Barracks.

This Directive does not apply to:

- Children of active duty military families living in civilian housing in the District of Columbia (i.e. those families not living at JBAB, Fort McNair, or Barracks);
- Children of veterans or individuals otherwise discharged from service in the uniformed forces of the United States of America; or
- All children eligible for enrollment in DCPS pre-school or pre-kindergarten programs pursuant to 5-E DCMR § 2004.1 and 2004.2.

² 5-E DCMR § 2106.6.

³ 5-E DCMR § 2106.6 and 5-E DCMR § 2106.11.

C. Placement and Enrollment Process

All students eligible for placement and enrollment assistance under this Directive can begin the process described in this section at any point during the school or calendar year. Families or adult aged students may contact the JBAB Education Liaison or the DCPS Student Placement Office for an intake meeting at (202)939-2004.

Parents/guardians and adult students are encouraged, when indicating a preferred school of choice, to consider the goal of maintaining the eligible student's educational programming he or she received in his or her previous school. This may include consideration of:

- the availability of honors classes;
- International Baccalaureate and/or Advanced Placement classes;
- vocational and technical courses;
- gifted and talented programs;
- specialized instruction services received through an Individualized Education Program (IEP); and
- English as a second language programs.

If the first school of choice of the parent/guardian or adult student is unavailable due to limitations on school or program availability, the Student Placement Team will work with the parent/guardian or adult student to enroll the eligible student in another appropriate school. DCPS will make reasonable attempts to accommodate the first choice of the requestor in all circumstances. The Student Placement Team will review information about the student and the parent's preferred school, and determine the school location based on the Military Compact and which school is best suited to meet the child's needs.

Nothing in this Directive shall supersede the student attendance requirements for children of compulsory school.⁴D.C. Code § 38-201. All compulsory school age children are required to enroll in and attend a school during the period of each year when the public schools of the District of Columbia are in session. An eligible student may be required to attend his or her in-boundary school pending the finalization of a special placement as detailed in this directive.

Nothing in this Directive shall infringe upon the rights of eligible students to attend their neighborhood schools in accordance with established attendance zone boundaries unless the student's IEP necessitates a different placement than can be provided at the neighborhood school.

All placement recommendations made by the DCPS Student Placement Team per this Directive must receive final approval from the Chancellor.⁵

⁴ D.C. Code § 38-201

⁵ 5-E DCMR § 2106.6

D. Other Considerations

If a parent/guardian or adult student elects a designated application-only school as his or her first choice for the eligible student, the student will be able to apply to that school at any point during the school or calendar year. Nothing in this Directive shall prevent designated application-only schools from evaluating eligible students on the merits of the application, and eligible students must be deemed accepted by the designated application-only school to attend. The designated application-only schools will not consider the timing of the application submission from eligible students when considering admission.

Any eligible student subsequently enrolled at a school outside of his or her attendance zone boundary is eligible to remain at that school until the student desires to attend a different school or ages out/graduates. Any eligible student who ages out of or graduates from a school, which has been designated as a feeder school by the Chancellor, shall be automatically eligible to attend the next-level school in the designated feeder pattern.

Should any eligible student wish to change schools at any point during the school or calendar year, or should any eligible student aging out of or graduating from a feeder pattern school not wish to attend the next-level school in the designated feeder pattern, the parent/guardian or adult student may follow the placement procedure set forth in section C of this provision. Barring exceptional circumstances, an eligible student may only receive one placement under the authority of this Directive per school year, and no more than three total placements during the eligible student's time with DCPS.



Approval For Placements For Military Children Residing On Military Bases

DCPS recognizes that school-age children residing on military bases in the District of Columbia face obstacles to educational success such as frequent moves and the deployment of one or more of their parents. In order to help overcome these obstacles, and in recognition of the Council of the District of Columbia's recent passage of the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children Establishment Act of 2012, DCPS issued Chancellor's Directive #104, "Enrollment and Placement of Children Residing on Military Bases" to allow such children to enroll, at any point during the school year, in the school of their choice, pending classroom and/or program availability.

The transfers for the children of military families to the schools listed below are approved pursuant to Chancellor's Directive #104, as well as 5-E DCMR 2106.6, "Out of Boundary Transfers." In each instance, the Chancellor has deemed the transfer to be in the best interests of the student and the overall interests of the school system.

This school assignments for the students listed below shall be effective upon execution by the signatories.

DCPS Youth Engagement Division:

Dr. Arthur Fields
Deputy Chief

Date

DCPS Office of the Chancellor:

Antwan Wilson
Chancellor

Date