MACDILL SCHOOL LIAISON PROGRAM

VENETIA D. WATERS | SCHOOL LIAISON

7 C's of Child & Youth Education Services

The School Liaison Program aims to connect schools, families, and communities in order to meet the educational needs of the military-connected child.

We focus on seven core elements in helping us fulfill our mission, the 7 C's:

- **Connect** schools, families, and communities to meet the unique needs of PreK-12 military-connected students
- **Cultivate** communication pathways between families, schools, community stakeholders, and the military
- **Customize** real-time solutions for military-connected students facing transitional barriers and educational gaps
- **Collaborate** with community stakeholders to build a platform for enhanced educational opportunities and partnerships
- **Comprehensive** professional development for educators to understand the military lifestyle
- **Construct** a network of extensive resources for building resilient communities
- **Create** a system of support for military-connected students experiencing parental deployment or separation

W: macdillfss.com/school-liaison-officer | P: +813-828-0146 | E: venetia.waters@us.af.mil

"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world", Nelson Mandela

School Liaison Program

ASSISTING MILITARY COMMUNITIES

Student Focused...Partnership Driven

Providing PreK-12 Child & Youth Education Services

SLs serve DoD Total Force members - e.g., DoD Civilians, Retirees, Guard/Reserve and eligible family members to include NOAA, USPHS, foreign national employees and contractors assigned.

Transition Support
(e.g., Inbound, Outbound, Remote, TDY, Cross town moves, ES-MS-HS, School Based Transition Programs, School Based MFLCS, resources and sponsorship)

Local School Navigation
(e.g., Public, Private, Parochial, Charter, Homeschool, Special Education Laws, Local Education Policies, Resources and Sponsorship)

Deployment Support
(e.g., MIC3 Compliance, Educator Awareness, MFLCs, Support Groups, Kits & Resources)

Grant Resources & Scholarships
(e.g., DoD, Impact Aid, Post Secondary Attendance)

College, Career & Military Readiness
(e.g., JROTC, STEM, STARBASE, Job Shadow, Project Search, Mentor, Cyber Patriot, College & Career Day Speakers)

Education Community Partnerships
(e.g., Education Working Groups, State SME, DSLO, National Level Organizations, NGOS, Legislative Review, Adopt-A-School, Class Readers)

School District Professional Development & Parent Workshops

Military Interstate Compact Compliance & Advisor to the Commander

Department of the Air Force School Liaisons (SLs) are the central point of contact for commanders, military families, and school districts on Preschool-12th grade school matters. Speaking the dual language of military to educators and education to the military they are considered the Education Office for Prek-12 in the local community and state. They advocate for military connected students at the local, state and national level. Differences in local demographics, installation mission, and community characteristics significantly impact SLs function. The foundation of the program will be the same, but the implementation will look different.

To locate a School Liaison Program Manager please scan the QR Code.

Parent Home Education Resources

Home education is the sequentially progressive instruction of a student directed by his/her parent or guardian, in order to satisfy the requirement for compulsory education. According to the Home Education statute, section 1002.41, F.S., parents have 3 statutory requirements:

1. File a **Letter of Intent** with the school district that you reside in. A list of Home Education coordinators can be found here: **Home Education District Contacts.**
2. **Annual Evaluations** are to be turned in to the school district that you reside in.
3. File a **Letter of Termination** with the school district that you reside in when you have completed your home education program.

Family Empowerment Scholarship:

Please contact the **scholarship funding organizations** with questions pertaining to the Family Empowerment Scholarship.

More information can be found on the **Family Empowerment Scholarship** website.

Resources for Parents:

CPALMS Where educators go for bright ideas!

Florida Home School Association (FLHSA) was founded as a way to support modern homeschool families during a time of expansive growth and emerging needs.

Florida Parent-Educators Association (FPEA) is an independent organization that exists solely to serve home education families in Florida.

Home Education Foundation (HEF) is a corporation established to raise support and direct the lobbying for home education in Florida.

Parent FAQs (PDF)

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Is Your Family Eligible?

The best way to determine whether you're eligible is to start the application process.

APPLY NOW

Scholarships For Private School

(Or transportation help to public schools)

Get an average of $7,000 a year per child for K-12 private school.

APPLY TODAY!

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MacDill AFB
Special Education Assistance / Advocacy Process (Hillsborough County Public Schools)

New transfers with IEPs / 504 Plans:

If you are relocating into the HCPS district, and you have a child with an IEP or 504 Plan, please call the CHOICE Line of Hillsborough County at 813-272-4692 and advise them you're a military family and need to have the IEP/504 Plan reviewed.

They will provide information and answer questions regarding the school district and connect your family with appropriate staff from the Exceptional Student Education (ESE) Department to answer questions regarding your child's IEP. Once families have a residential address, the attendance area school can be confirmed.

This **link** provides additional transition resources for military families.

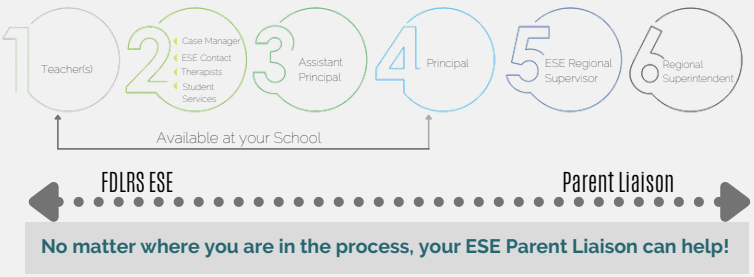
This **link** provides a brochure of the traditional IEP/504 Plan transfer process and provides additional contacts and insight.

You can also contact our School Liaison Officer (SLO), Ms. Venetia Waters, regarding other school districts, homeschooling, virtual school, and more! She can be reached by email at **venetia.waters@us.af.mil or call 813-828-0146.** We are both here to serve you and your family.

Establishing a new IEP or 504 Plan:

If you're concerned your child might need an IEP or 504 Plan, the best place to begin is at your child's school. Hillsborough County Public School site provides the diagram below for this process of initiating communication with ESE services.

Check out their **link** for a breakdown and contact information:



As you're initiating the process, we recommend reaching out to our EFMP Family Support (EFMP-FS) Office for additional educational resources related to special education: **6fss.fsh.efmp@us.af.mil or 813-828-0122.**

The YOUNGER (0-5) kids are the EASIER it is to get evaluations and establish services (if qualified) that will remain with them through their K-12 education!

DO NOT WAIT!

https://www.hillsboroughschools.org/domain/2872
https://health.usf.edu/medicine/pediatrics/early-steps

Resolution & Advocacy Resources

At some point in your special education journey, you may encounter some challenges. If so, there are a few processes and resources for you and your family. EFMP-FS Coordinators and School Liaison Officers have strong relationships with HCPS ESE-connected partners. We can work with any DoD ID cardholder family / any branch of service (stationed at MacDill AFB or living in the local area) to try to resolve situations quickly through our network. In many cases, this offers resolutions parents need. Below is a guide of how the process works.

Step 1
Discuss concerns with school and attempt resolution. (Teacher, ESE specialist, Assistant Principal, Principal)

Step 2
Contact base EFMP-FS or SLO. Will provide resources and network with district partners.

Step 3
HCPS district partners will connect families with appropriate district staff to assist.

Step 4
If resolution can't be reached, legal/advocacy service might be appropriate.

EFMP-FS and SLOs are NOT able to attend IEP or 504 meetings.
We have comprehensive training resources and can continue to assist in other areas.

Additional resources you may look into while you're attempting resolution are below. Keep in mind that there might be organizations both nationally and in the local community; we aren't always able to make referrals to ALL resources, but they exist if these do not work for you.

MacDill AFB Legal Office: While base attorneys cannot represent you, they can go over the law with you as related to your case. You can request an appointment on your mainline or through their org box
Call 813-828-8797 (DSN 968); 6ARW.ja.generallaw@us.af.mil

Hillsborough County Public School ESE Contact Information

All Schools Contacts: https://hillsborough.fdlrs.org/school-contacts
Student Services: https://www.hillsboroughschools.org/studentservices
Comprehensive Parent Resources: https://www.hillsboroughschools.org/Page/5895

Florida Diagnostic Learning & Resources System (FDLRS) Parent Services

https://www.fdlrs.org/about/parent

The ARC of Tampa

https://www.thearctb.org/social-services-organization;

Family Network on Disabilities

https://fndusa.org/; https://fndusa.org/contact-us/programs/psn/; https://fndusa.org/contact-us/programs/dadvocates/; https://fndusa.org/contact-us/programs/youth-advocacy/;

Wright's Law

https://www.wrightslaw.com/

Did you Know...

Pre-K-12 is one of the "Five to Thrive"

A session "TownHall - Leadership and the Family" moderated by Lt. Gen. Kelly featured guest speakers Gen. and Mrs. Brown, Chief and Mr. Bass, Gen. and Mrs. Raymond, Chief Towberman, and Mrs. Rush. The panel discussion focused on questions from families and five areas that were leadership's top priorities for families and a new initiative called "Five to Thrive".

The top 5 priorities were:

1. Housing
2. PreK-12 Education
3. Childcare
4. Healthcare and Mental Health
5. Spouse Employment

FOR MORE INFO:

Panel Session Video

https://vimeo.com/611914816?fbclid=IwAR0qcSsciLlWTjQ1hXxefcoNRWT0DkVPZmQzymAFmdOyh-3m_3Ja89KG-nY

Article

Caring for Their Son Gave the Browns a Window Into the Needs of Exceptional Families - Air Force Magazine

Bright Futures

Bright Futures
Scholarship Program

Florida Academic Scholars (FAS)

This is the most comprehensive and important Bright Futures Scholarship. Florida Academic Scholars (FAS) beneficiaries might get support for a limit of 120 semester hours toward the completion of a first baccalaureate degree for as long as five years after high school graduation.

The Academic Top Scholars Award will likewise be given to the Florida Academic Scholar with the most highly Academic ranking in the country.

The Florida Academic Scholars will get an honor equivalent to 100% of tuition cost and other various charges in the fall, spring, and summer semesters for the 2020-2021 academic year.

For school related expenses, Florida Academic Scholars will get an extra $300 per semester (autumn time and spring alone).

Florida Medallion Scholars (FMS)

This is less competitive than the FAS, this scholarship has a high number of exam score and GPA criteria.

FMS beneficiaries might receive money for as long as five years after high school graduation for a maximum limit of 120 semester hours toward the achievement of a first baccalaureate degree.

Florida Medallion Scholars will get a scholarship worth 75% of their tuition cost and applicable fall, spring, and summer expenses.

Bright Futures Scholarship

To help with the additional cost of training, the Florida Academic Scholars (FAS) will receive a stipend of $300 for each spring and summer session. Tuition and fees will be charged to students attending a public university.

Beginning in the summer semester, FAS students are eligible to receive an award to cover tuition and applicable fees for summer sessions.

For the Florida Medallion Scholars (FMS), 75% of the tuition and applicable fees will be covered by the scholarship they receive. Beginning in the summer of 2022, FMS students will be able to receive an award to cover tuition and applicable fees for summer sessions.

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Bright Futures

Bright Futures Scholarship Program

Eligibility Criteria

- Bright Futures requires a minimum GPA of 3.0 in non-elective high school courses.
- Enroll in a single career and technical education program for at least three credits.
- A minimum unweighted GPA of 3.5 in career education courses is required.
- Complete at least 30 hours of community service.
- Must be a Florida resident who is pursuing or has completed a Florida high school diploma and intends to attend a Florida postsecondary institution.
- You must complete the Florida Financial Aid Application by August 31 of your graduation year.

For More Information

Types of bright futures scholorships:
https://scholarships5.com/bright-futures-scholarship/#Bright_Futures_Scholarship_2022-2023

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Top 10 Facts FOR PARENTS ABOUT Tutor.com for U.S. Military Families

1 Safe and Anonymous

All tutors must pass a rigorous application process including an extensive background check. No personal information is shared between student and tutor. All work is completed in our recorded classroom.

2 NO COST for Eligible Students

There is NO cost to eligible students to use Tutor.com for U.S. Military Families and you will not be asked to purchase anything.

3 Personalized Learning Sessions

Every Tutor.com session is personalized to meet the needs of your student, from remedial to advanced levels. It focuses on conceptual learning and critical thinking—not just quick answers.

4 Covers a Wide Variety of Subjects

Students can get help in math, science, English, writing, social studies, Spanish, computer literacy, AP® courses, and more. We also provide job search assistance.

5 More than Just Homework Help

Tutors assist students with specific homework problems but can also help with concept review, writing assignments, test prep, and more.

6 Extends the Learning Day

With over 3,000 thoroughly vetted tutors on board and 24/7 access, Tutor.com can help students at their moment of need, no matter when that may be.

7 Supports Student Achievement

95% of students who use Tutor.com say it helps them complete their homework and improve their grades.* Students come to class better prepared and ready to learn.

8 Builds Confident Learners

Students of all skill levels can get help from a tutor. In fact, 97% of students responding to our post-session surveys have said that using Tutor. com makes them feel more confident in their learning.

9 Is Easy to Use and Accessible from Anywhere

Wherever students have online access—at home, at school and anywhere in between–they can connect to a tutor using any computer or mobile device. Sign up is quick & easy!

10 Endorsed by Parents

"This service has been excellent and wonderful. My 7-year-old son is actually motivated to do his homework because of it. Thank you so much!"

www.tutor.com/military

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and program eligibility details. The appearance of the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) visual information does not imply or constitute DoD endorsement.

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*Based on 2018 post-session Tutor.com student surveys.