

ASSEMBLY THIRD READING
AB 2467 (Committee on Education)
As Introduced February 20, 2026
2/3 vote. Urgency

SUMMARY

As an urgency measure, expands the types of documentation and the type of housing that can be used by military families to enroll students in advance of their move to a California school district.

Major Provisions

Expands the addresses an active-duty military parent may use for purposes of establishing residency in a school district to advance-enroll their child, to include an off-base hotel, on-base military housing, and other temporary housing.

COMMENTS

Advance enrollment for military-connected students. California enacted the first Advance Enrollment law in 2016, which allows military families to enroll their children prior to entering the state. This policy is intended to minimize delays in school attendance for students relocating to California due to a military transfer.

Current law requires that a student whose parent is transferred or is pending transfer to a military installation within the state while on active military duty pursuant to an official military order has complied with the residency requirements for school attendance in any school district. While it has been effective in easing a major challenge for families, after a decade in practice, some administrative barriers to implementation and access have been identified by families and school staff.

Additionally, according to recent research (Karre, 2023) examining the effectiveness of policies such as Advance Enrollment states have enacted to support military-connected students, the following challenges were identified:

- 1) Implementation: The study found wide disparities in how states and local districts implemented these policies, creating confusion and frustration for families moving between states;
- 2) Awareness: A significant finding was the lack of awareness of Advance Enrollment policies among both military families and school personnel. This information gap is a major obstacle to the use of the policy; and
- 3) Information Accessibility: Even when policies existed, information about them was often difficult to find on state and school district websites, placing an additional burden on families during a move.

Military-connected students in California. California is home to the largest number of active-duty military personnel in the country, with over 156,000 active duty personnel, (2023, Statista). According to the Defense Manpower Data Center, as of August 2024 there were 53,607 military connected students of active-duty parents in California. These students are affiliated with 30 different military installations throughout the state, with the largest concentration in San Diego County.

Academic achievement of military-connected students in California is slightly higher than the average. Until recently there has been little published data regarding academic outcomes of students from military families. One area of inquiry has been the effect of long parental deployments on students' academic performance, and one study (Richardson, 2011) found that students whose parents have been deployed 19 months or longer have modestly lower scores across all subjects and irrespective of the rank, component, seniority, or gender of the parent. Another study (Engel, 2010) of students in DOD schools found that long deployments and deployments during the month of testing had the most adverse effects, and that evidence suggests that these effects may persist for several years. A 2011 policy brief from the University of Southern California School of Social Work notes that "Living with fear that a parent – or another relative – serving in the military is in danger can traumatize a child to the point where it significantly affects their ability to function in the school environment."

Since the 2018-19 school year, California summative assessment data in English language arts and mathematics has been disaggregated for students from military families as a separate subgroup. These data show that, for the 2024-25 school year, 52% of military-connected students met or exceeded standards in English language arts, compared to a statewide average of 49%. In mathematics, 40% of military students met or exceeded standard, compared to a statewide average of 37%.

Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children. The DOD, in collaboration with the National Center for Interstate Compacts and the Council of State Governments, developed the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children (Compact) to address educational transition issues of children of military families.

The goal of the Compact is to ensure that the children of military families are afforded the same opportunities for educational success as other children and are not penalized or delayed in achieving their educational goals. States participating in the Compact work to coordinate graduation requirements, transfer of records, course placement, and other administrative policies. According to the DOD, all 50 States and the District of Columbia participate in the interstate compact. California adopted the Compact in the state's Education Code in 2009. The Compact addresses a number of topics, including timely enrollment; transfer of school records; school placement; eligibility for enrollment and participation in school programs, athletics, and extracurricular activities; and on-time graduation.

A 2014 California Department of Education (CDE) review of the Compact's implementation found variations across districts. The report suggested that California undertake a more comprehensive effort to ensure that school district personnel and military families are maximally familiar with the provisions of the Compact so that its provisions are applied consistently. The report also found that California's membership in the Compact has substantially aided both school districts and military families by alleviating many of the educational difficulties military children encounter due to frequent moves from one school in one state to another.

According to the Author

According to the author, "AB 2467 addresses challenges in enrolling children of military families in school, strengthening local implementation of Advance Enrollment by making technical changes to existing law, and removing barriers and clarifying requirements for school districts. It reinforces California's commitment to being a welcoming state for military families and ensures a stable educational environment for their children."

Arguments in Support

The United States Department of War writes, "With approximately 47,000 active-duty military school-age children attending school in this state, California is in a unique position to have a highly impactful positive effect on the educational experiences of military children and families.

Military-connected students embody resilience, adaptability and a global perspective -- qualities that enrich every classroom they enter. As states continue to enact policies that support these students, there is a tremendous opportunity to build on existing momentum by strengthening implementation, increasing awareness and ensuring equitable access to information. By embracing enhancements across key areas of education policy, states can create more inclusive, responsive and effective education systems. These efforts not only benefit military families but also elevate the overall quality and equity of education for all students.

California led the nation by enacting the first Advance Enrollment law in 2016, which allows military families to enroll their children prior to entering the state. While it has been effective in easing a major challenge for families, after a decade in practice, some administrative barriers to implementation and access have been identified by families and school staff.

AB 2467 will address implementation challenges by making minor, but important technical changes to existing law. Enactment of this bill will reinforce California's commitment to being a welcoming state for military families and will continue to facilitate a stable educational environment for their children."

Arguments in Opposition

None on file

FISCAL COMMENTS

According to the Assembly Appropriations Committee, "Minor and absorbable costs to school districts to accept additional housing types as eligible proof of residency for military families wishing to enroll."

VOTES**ASM EDUCATION: 9-0-0**

YES: Patel, Hoover, Alvarez, Bonta, Castillo, Garcia, Lowenthal, Pellerin, Zbur

ASM MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS: 8-0-0

YES: Schiavo, Jeff Gonzalez, Ávila Farías, Carrillo, Davies, Irwin, Quirk-Silva, Valencia

ASM APPROPRIATIONS: 14-0-1

YES: Wicks, Hoover, Arambula, Calderon, Caloza, Dixon, Fong, Mark González, Krell, Pacheco, Pellerin, Solache, Ta, Tangipa

ABS, ABST OR NV: Muratsuchi

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 66-0-14

YES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Fong, Gabriel, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Jackson, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Ward, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas

ABS, ABST OR NV: Arambula, Bonta, Chen, Flora, Gallagher, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Papan, Petrie-Norris, Celeste Rodriguez, Valencia, Wallis, Wicks

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