



## IDENTIFIER FOR MILITARY CHILDREN IN EDUCATION DATA SYSTEMS BEST PRACTICES

**SUBJECT:** States can assign an identifier for military children in their education data systems, thus allowing tracking of data such as attendance, academic progress, and graduation. Schools and districts will benefit by having access to data to help inform policy and program decisions for this unique student population. In addition, states can assist the Department of Defense in developing policy and military child education initiatives.

**PRINCIPLES:** States can support military child education through statute and/or regulation by:

- (1) Creating a data entry point that identifies children from military families.
- (2) Disaggregating data to identify children of active duty, and children of National Guard and Reserves, as separate groups.
- (3) Utilizing the cohort data as a report-only subgroup and not for school or LEA rating purposes.

### **BEST PRACTICE EXAMPLE:**

Nevada AB 224 (2013) created a student identifier to be included in their existing information system:

**“Section 1.** NRS 386.650 is hereby amended to read as follows: 386.650 1. The Department shall establish and maintain an automated system of accountability information for Nevada. The system must: . . .

***(3) . . . include, without limitation, a unique identifier for each pupil whose parent or guardian is a member of the Armed Forces of the United States, a reserve component thereof or the National Guard in a manner that will allow for the disaggregation of each category;”***

### **Military Student Identifier Definitions**

“Student connected to an Active Duty military family” means: a school-aged child, enrolled (or in process of enrolling) in Kindergarten through Twelfth (12<sup>th</sup>) grade, who is claimed as a dependent of an Active Duty member of the Armed Forces of the United States.

“Student connected to a Guard or Reserve military family” means: a school-aged child, enrolled (or in process of enrolling) in Kindergarten through Twelfth (12<sup>th</sup>) grade, who is claimed as a dependent of a member of the National Guard or Reserve.

“Military-connected Student Identifier” means: data collection employed by a state or local education authority to identify “Students connected to Active Duty military families” and “Students connected to Guard or Reserve military families” if data is collected in such a way as to enable separate reporting of both categories.

“Active duty” means: full-time duty status in the active uniformed service of the United States.

“National Guard or Reserve” means: members of the Reserve Component as defined in 10 U.S.C. Section 10101.