



School Scuttle

Educational issues affecting military kids
Camp Lejeune - New River - Cherry Point

March 2010

This Month's Theme is:

Smooth Moves

Get ready to pack up and move to your next duty station!

In the midst of all the chaos, remember that your School Liaisons are here to help you. We have tailored a workshop specifically to help you make your "educational transition" a smooth one.

Positive Change of Schools (PCS) workshops are held at Camp Lejeune, New River, and Cherry Point. This workshop is your "one stop shop" for getting what you need to make this school transition a positive one. By attending, you will gain knowledge on what steps to take with your exiting and receiving schools, the latest educational research, valuable resources, SL contact information, tips and strategies, an overview on laws that affect military kids, tips on dealing with differences in state standards, helpful websites to evaluate school systems, and guidelines of creating a transition binder for your school-age children.

We are in this together, and we will help you sort through the information so that you can make the best decisions for your child's education. If you cannot attend a workshop, please call your school liaison to set up a time to meet individually.



Some of the main topics will include:

School Connectedness

Preparing for your Move

Your Support System

Academics & State Standards

Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children

From the Bulletin Board...



ASK AN EXPERT

Q: We are getting ready to move from Virginia to North Carolina and are concerned about differences in state standards. How will our children do compared to the education they have been receiving?

A: It is very difficult to compare one state's educational system to another. It is like comparing "apples and oranges" because each state may use a different assessment to gauge how its students are performing. However, there are resources that can help you be more prepared and metrics that can be used to see how a school system is ranked according to national ranking standards. National standards and scores are only one piece of the picture. As a parent, you need to take all factors into account when looking at a new school. Ask yourself, what is important to you?



Student Online Achievement Resource (SOAR) can be used to help you access how your child will do in the new state. Through very brief 20 question assessments, your child will get an idea of his strengths and weaknesses and those are aligned to the state standards of your receiving school. Once your child completes the assessment, they can use online tutorials tailored to their needs, video lessons and reviews. This program is best utilized a couple of months before the move. It will help you and your child be proactive and work on any weak areas.

If you are interested in getting an educational profile of a particular state, visit the National Center of Education Statistics (IES). IES can give you state comparisons, most recent state report cards, testing history and results, and state profiles. Look at schools with a critical eye, a school may have a low score, but may also be supporting many kids with special needs and that will bring down their school scores

WEB RESOURCES OF THE MONTH

Student Online Achievement Resource

SOAR is a program for military families and the school districts that serve them. It aims to address the unique challenges facing military children in our nation's public schools, while benefitting the overall student population.

www.militarystudent.org

IES National Center for Education Statistics

State profiles present key data about each state's student and school population and its NAEP testing history and results. The profiles provide easy access to all NAEP data for participating states and links to the most recent state report cards for all available subjects

www.nces.ed.gov

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Did you know you now have access to legal advice for issues related to exceptional family members?

Vickie O'Brien is civilian counsel for Exceptional Family Members. She assists those who are in the Exceptional Family Member Program or are in the process of completing paperwork for the program. She provides legal counsel on any disability-related issue encountered by an Exceptional Family Member such as special education, SSI, SSDI, Medicaid, and guardianship for adult family members. Ms. O'Brien is located in Building 66 aboard Camp Lejeune, which is the SJA/Legal Assistance Office. If you are an Exceptional Family Member and have legal questions, you may contact her directly by phone at 910-451-9730 or by email at Vickie.obrien@usmc.mil.

Mark Your Calendar!

UPCOMING EVENTS

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION
3-11	Positive Change of Schools Class 2:00-3:00 p.m.	Station HQ Bldg. Cherry Point
3-12	Super Hero You – Kids in the Midst 6:00-8:00 p.m.	MCB, Camp Lejeune Call 451-0176 to register
3-18	EFMP Special Needs Forum 9:00-11:00 a.m.	MCB, Camp Lejeune Ball Center
3-25	Kids in Reunion Workshop 6:30-8:00 p.m.	MCB, Camp Lejeune Call 451-0176 to register
3-25	Volunteer Information Session 2:00-3:00	Station HQ Bldg. Cherry Point



COUNSELOR'S CORNER

Family Meetings

Moves are a wonderful time to start holding family meetings. They give the children a sense of control and it allows them to be part of the decision making process. Here are just a few tips to making the family meeting a success:

1. Give every family member a chance to share positives and negatives.
2. Acknowledge difficult feelings and come up with possible solutions to problems.
3. Allow each family member to choose a task they will be responsible for completing.
4. Always end the meeting on a positive note. This is usually planning a family fun event. It can be as small as deciding what movie to watch on movie night to as big as deciding what stops to make while driving to the new home.
5. Weekly meeting give the family a chance to stay connected during a stressful time.

CONTACT US: We'd love to hear from you!

Camp Lejeune: Julie Fulton, Bldg. 1 Office 137, 449-9915, Julie.fulton@usmc.mil
www.mccsLejeune.com/schools

Cherry Point Air Station: Donna Bagley, 252-466-4196, Donna.bagley@usmc.mil
www.cherrypoint.usmc.mil/school

New River Air Station: Courtney Buzzard, 449-4702, Courtney.buzzard@usmc.mil
www.newriver.usmc-mccs.org/MCFTB.htm#school