

Darci Hodges

School Liaison Program Manager



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I wanted to share some useful tips and resources involving school-related matters as you prepare for deployment.

Your military-connected dependents may be absent from school up to five days to spend time with you in relation to your deployment--60 days before or up to 30 days after you return from deployment. This absence is required to be excused. You will simply need to provide a note to the school stating the absence is deployment-related. For your reference, the law is as follows: *"Military Interstate Compact (MIC3) SEC. 5.105-Absence as Related to Deployment Activities (a) A student whose parent or legal guardian is an active duty member of the uniformed services, as defined by the Compact, and has been called to duty for, is on leave from, or immediately returned from deployment to a combat zone or combat support posting, shall be granted additional excused absences at the discretion of the LEA superintendent or head of school to visit with his or her parent or legal guardian relative to such leave or deployment of the parent or guardian."* Please contact me if this is an issue.

You may be concerned with your child's academic success in your absence. Perhaps you are primarily charged with homework duties and now you may not be as readily available to support that need. Tutor.com is a perfect resource to assist. It offers FREE, LIVE homework and studying help for all ages and subjects from a professional tutor 24/7. Go to https://www.tutor.com/cmspublicfiles/WWW/2019_HandOut_HowItWorks.pdf to begin.

Are you are planning on taking a laptop that your family typically uses at home for school work. No worries. You can check out a brand new Chromebook from the School Liaison Office for your children to use during and after your deployment. Go to <https://forms.gle/9NAWfXjneJ4j7qUj6> to request one today.

If your Pre-K-12 grade child needs additional at-home practice to improve their reading and/or math skills, you can request a FREE IXL Learning subscription (<https://forms.gle/5wJDCu2zaXCytBi49>) to assist with filling educational gaps. IXL is an online learning platform that assesses your child's current levels to create individualized lesson recommendations and practice.

There are several mental health support services available for families. Military Family Life Counselors and Military One Source (militaryonesource.mil/non-medical-counseling) offer free, confidential non-medical counseling for families. We currently have school-embedded MFLCs at Dyess Elementary, Clack Middle School, ATEMS HS, Cooper HS, and Abilene HS. You can complete the attached parent consent form and email it to me to have your child seen on any of those campuses. Sensible Care (sensiblecare.com) offers personalized teletherapy and telepsychiatry for patients 9+ in CA, TX, FL, NV, NC, VA, and WA. They are Tricare approved and do not require a referral for dependents.

Deployments don't have to interrupt story time. Record stories anywhere, anytime with United Through Reading's fun, free, and secure app. Record yourself reading a book on the app, and UTR will send your child a free copy of the book with the recorded reading. Go to <https://unitedthroughreading.org/how-it-works/overview/> to sign up.

Please reach out to me with any questions you have regarding school-related issues. It is my privilege to support your family.

Sincerely,

Darci Hodges

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