




Darci Hodges

School Liaison Program Manager

 325-696-4591

 dyessfss.com/school-liaison/

 darci.hodges@us.af.mil

Welcome to Dyess Air Force Base-- America's Only Lift & Strike Base! We are excited for you to join us in Abilene, Texas.

I want to introduce myself as your new School Liaison. In this position, I serve as your advocate and subject-matter expert on Pre-K through 12th grade education-related matters. This includes school selection, enrollment, school transfer requests, college and career readiness, scholarships, special education, homeschooling, deployment support, and Military Interstate Compact (MIC3) compliance.

The Military Interstate Compact (MIC3) exists to strengthen transitions, close educational gaps, and provide uniform treatment as military children move to a new school district in another state. MIC3 addresses the key issues encountered by military families such as eligibility, enrollment, placement, and graduation due to their frequent relocations. The Compact is codified in state law in Texas Education Code, Chapter 162 (<https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/ED/htm/ED.162.htm>). Note: The Compact only applies to public schools and the Department of Defense schools. I recommend that you attend a free MIC3 webinar (mic3.net/events-calendar) and familiarize yourself with the rulebook at mic3.net.

Military Family Life Counselors (MFLCs) are available to meet with your children as needed. Dyess EL, Clack MS, ATEMS HS, Cooper HS, Abilene HS, Wylie East EL, Wylie West EL, Wylie East Intermediate, and Wylie West Intermediate have school-embedded MFLCs. All other children may utilize the MFLC at the Dyess AFB Youth Center. Parent consent forms are required.

House Bill 2892 allows active duty service members to transfer their children to a preferred school, regardless of zoned residency. However, out-of-district transportation is not provided. UIL eligibility for extracurricular activities should be considered when transferring. You may review State Accountability Ratings & Federal Report Cards at txschools.gov.

When you registered your child for school, you were asked to complete a State of Texas Military Student Identifier (MSI) form identifying your family as being military-connected. Later in the year, you will be asked to complete the Federal Impact Aid Survey, identifying your family's military status. Completing the Impact Aid Survey results in additional funding for your child's school. While it may seem redundant to let the school know your military affiliation twice, one form is state and the other is federal. Please complete both because they help the district and staff meet your child's needs.

Something to keep in mind if you are new to Texas is the state's academic grading scale: 90-100=A, 89-80=B, 79-70=C, and anything under a 70 is failing. Some high school courses are weighted, but this is the general scale for all grades. The four [graduation plans](#) currently in use in Texas require students to earn 22 to 26 course credits (tea.texas.gov). Also, the Texas attendance rules state that a student must be in a class at least 90% of the time if they want to get credit for that class. A student should not be absent more than 18 days; this includes excused absences. MIC3 affords military kids an opportunity to take up to 5 days to spend with a deploying parent. These are excused. Email the school in advance and note the reason.

There are loads of educational resources available to your children. Many have been featured below:

NEWSLETTER



bit.ly/SLOnews

RESOURCES



bit.ly/48mVd2c

COLLEGE PREP



tinyurl.com/5n85kcwm

The 7FSS Dyess School Liaison website and Facebook page are also extremely informative. All of the referenced documents can be found there as well. Please reach out to me with any questions or concerns at any point of the school year. No question is too small. It is my privilege to serve your family!

Sincerely,

Darci Hodges

School Liaison Program Manager