

Military-Connected Students Policy

Match Charter Public School

Match Charter Public School (“Match”) is committed to easing the transition for children of military families so that they are afforded the same opportunities for educational success as other children and are not penalized or delayed in achieving their educational goals. Match will follow all requirements set forth in the military connected student provisions of Title I, Part A of Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and The Massachusetts VALOR Act of 2012, Mass. General Laws c.71 § 6B as amended by St.2022, c.154, § 9, the HERO Act, St. 2024, c. 178, § 30 (codified at G.L. c. 69, § 38), as well as guidance related to Massachusetts joining the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children and other guidance from the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (“DESE”).

Eligible Student

“Military connected students” are defined as children of a parent who is a member of the armed forces, including the following:

1. Active duty members of the uniformed services. “Active duty” refers to full-time duty status in the active uniformed service of the United States, including members of the National Guard and Reserve on active duty orders. “Uniformed services” means the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Space Force, Coast Guard, including the Commissioned Corps of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and Public Health Services;
2. Members or veterans of the uniformed services who are severely injured and medically discharged or retired for a period of one year after medical discharge or retirement;
3. Members of the uniformed services who died on active duty or as a result of injuries sustained on active duty for a period of one year after death.

For purposes of this policy, the definition of “military connected students” does not extend to children of the following:

1. Members of the National Guard and Reserves who are not on active duty orders, full-time National Guard duty, or part-time National Guard or Reserve duty;
2. Members of the uniformed services who are now retired (except as defined above);
3. Veterans of the uniformed services (except defined above); or
4. Other United States Department of Defense personnel or other civilian and contracted employee not defined as on active duty.

Enrollment and Placement

Match will follow all applicable laws and guidance related to military-connected students, including, but not limited to, the enrollment and placement of military connected students (including the option to enroll military-connected students remotely), the transfer of records for military-connected students, the provision of special education services and accommodations under the Individuals with Disabilities Educational Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act and the student’s current Individualized Education Plan. For more information, please see the DESE Guidance on the Military Interstate Children’s Compact Commission.

Support Services

Pursuant to G.L. c. 69, § 38, Match shall provide information about available support services to a military-connected student if the student's parent or guardian is called or ordered to active duty pursuant to Title 10 or 32 of the United States Code and said parent or guardian notifies Match of such active duty, or if the student's parent or guardian is a member of a military or reserve force who was killed in the line of duty. For purposes of this section, "military-connected student" means a student who is an unemancipated person whose parent or guardian is a current or reserve member of the United States Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Space Force, Army Nurse Corps, Navy Nurse Corps, Air Force, Air National Guard, or Army National Guard, or a member of such a force who was killed in the line of duty.

At the request of a military-connected student's parent or guardian, Match may notify the student's teacher(s) of the student's enrollment as a military-connected student in order to provide the teacher(s) with the opportunity to monitor the student's level of academic engagement and provide support as needed.

Resources:

DESE Guidance <https://www.doe.mass.edu/sfs/mic3/>

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