



KEY MESSAGE: Military families seek continuity and stability for their children’s education. Virtual schools can provide a bridge for military children transitioning between school districts where they may no longer have access to specific curricula. Eligible military children could participate without a residence requirement, if moving to/from the school within impacted states and for the gaining school, to accept credits taken through the virtual program.

PRINCIPLES:

- When children move midterm as a result of their parents’ military service, they are often disadvantaged due to missed deadlines for course completion or registration. A child could anticipate a midterm move and alleviate disruptions by registering for virtual classes in the receiving state for the transition semester.
- States can assist military families by modifying eligibility criteria to enable their children to participate in virtual school programs while stationed in another state. This would allow military families to:
 - Enroll children in the receiving state virtual school network so that credits will transfer to any district near the assigned location.
 - Receive a sense of comfort that their credits will transfer and they will not incur a setback in education.

EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE LEGISLATION:

Texas Education Code

The Texas Education Code provides that a student who is a dependent of a member of the U.S. military, who has been deployed or transferred to Texas, and who has enrolled in a publicly funded school outside of Texas in the preceding school year, may enroll full-time in the Texas Virtual School Network without having been enrolled in a public school in Texas in the preceding school year:

Title 2, Subtitle F, Chapter 30A State Virtual School Network:

Sec. 30A.002. STUDENT ELIGIBILITY.

- (a) A student is eligible to enroll in a course provided through the state virtual school network only if the student:
- (1) on September 1 of the school year:
 - (A) is younger than 21 years of age; or
 - (B) is younger than 26 years of age and entitled to the benefits of the Foundation School Program under Section 42.003;
 - (2) has not graduated from high school; and
 - (3) is otherwise eligible to enroll in a public school in this state.



EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE LEGISLATION (CONTINUED):

Texas Education Code

Sec. 30A.002. STUDENT ELIGIBILITY.

(b) A student is eligible to enroll full-time in courses provided through the state virtual school network only if the student:

- (1) was enrolled in a public school in this state in the preceding school year;
- (2) is a dependent of a member of the United States military who has been deployed or transferred to this state and was enrolled in a publicly funded school outside of this state in the preceding school year; or
- (3) has been placed in substitute care in this state, regardless of whether the student was enrolled in a public school in this state in the preceding school year.

(c) Notwithstanding Subsection (a)(3) or (b), a student is eligible to enroll in one or more courses provided through the state virtual school network or enroll full-time in courses provided through the network if the student:

- (1) is a dependent of a member of the United States military;
- (2) was previously enrolled in high school in this state; and
- (3) does not reside in this state due to a military deployment or transfer.