



MCEC Professional Development Offerings

MCEC[®] believes it is important for professionals to know how to identify and respond to the complex needs of military-connected children across disciplines such as education, healthcare, childcare, and business. MCEC trains professionals to address the unique challenges children face due to the military lifestyle.

Academic Overview

MCEC is investing in professionals worldwide for the benefit of all military-connected children. We work to provide training and education to enhance current capabilities, competency, and effectiveness. Our courses are rigorous, engaging, and challenge professionals to better understand the complexity of these students' lives, their families, and the implications of military service. Professionals gain valuable insights, tools, and best practices to effectively support military-connected children and help them thrive. Our curriculum is evidence-informed and includes application components that maximize the utility of concepts learned.

Virtual or In-Person Format

Live, interactive learning sessions are led by highly qualified, skilled instructors experienced in youth development, education, counseling, social work or other related fields. Our virtual sessions are designed to engage professionals in a meaningful way in their regular learning environment to help maximize their time.

- MCEC is approved ACEP, by the National Board of Certified Counselors (NBCC), to offer Continuing Education (1 clock hour = 1 CE). Please contact pd@militarychild.org for more information.
- Each course is live, interactive, includes print resources, group work, and guided discussion.

Our course offerings are categorized into specific areas of study and further refined into detailed levels of study within each area.

Empower your professional practice with our course offerings designed for youth-serving professionals dedicated to supporting the unique needs of military-connected children and youth.

One-Hour Course Descriptions

NEW! Protective Factors for Military-Connected Youth: Social Connection

Military-connected youth often experience frequent school transitions, which can lead to feelings of isolation and anxiety. With the right strategies and tools, professionals can play a pivotal role in fostering a sense of belonging and promoting positive social connections. Explore protective factors to support social development and emotional resilience in this engaging course.

Gone Is Gone: Supporting Military-Connected Children During Parental Absence

Every military family experiences times when the service member will be away. Strong communication and a web of support comprised of other caring adults is essential to help children and youth adapt and tackle the multitude of challenges that can occur when a parent or caregiver is gone. This session equips professionals with effective strategies to support children and youth in overcoming challenges related to absences and staying on track.

Military-Connected Youth in Caregiver Roles

Children who are serving in caregiver roles for service members or veterans are a unique set of military-connected children. This session is designed to assist youth-serving educators, professionals and parents in recognizing the impacts and needs of children in caregiver roles. Learn ways to support the well-being of these youth and discover supportive structures and services to add to the professional toolbox.

Responding to Military Children with Exceptional Needs

An individualized approach to education is critically important for all students with exceptional needs and an even greater need for military-connected students. This dynamic course takes a balanced and informative approach to enrich professionals by learning the challenges unique to students with exceptional needs, common hurdles encountered when transitioning a student with special needs, and the power of collaborative teamwork.

Serving Military-Connected Students

Who are military-connected students? Understand the complexities of the military lifestyle. Explore the unique strengths and challenges of students with a focus on academics, social, and emotional aspects. Discover strategies, programs, and resources to support these students.

Practical Approaches to Supporting Military-Connected Students' Well-being

Discover how fostering cognitive, emotional, and behavioral skills can positively impact the academic achievement of military-connected children and youth. Learn unique and creative ways to integrate engaging activities into your professional practice, empowering students to thrive, both in and out of the classroom.

MCEC offers Continuing Education credits. MCEC has been approved by the National Board of Certified Counselors (NBCC).

Supporting Military Children Through School Transitions: Foundations

This course helps youth-serving professionals recognize the complexity of military-connected students' lives, their families, and the implications of military service. Discover effective practices and programs designed to support students during school transitions and explore the critical role of supportive schools in fostering their success.

Supporting Military-Connected Students During Deployments

When a parent deploys or is activated for service, it affects their children, impacting academic performance, behavior, and overall well-being. This session offers youth-serving professionals valuable insights into the unique challenges military-connected families face during separations. Discover strategies to create a supportive school environment and gain practical tools to help students navigate these challenges and thrive.

When Military Service Ends: Supporting the Children of Veterans

When service members leave active duty service, the family leaves, too. Explore the unique academic, social, and emotional challenges children often face when their family transitions from military to civilian life. Discover new resources and positive strategies to successfully support veterans' children through these unfamiliar transitions.

The Journey from “Welcome Home” to Now: Reunion, Reconnecting, Routine™

This course is designed for professionals who support military-connected children and youth. It focuses on the challenges and joys that these children experience during reintegration after a family member's extended absence. Discover effective strategies to support students as they navigate the reunion process, rebuild connections, and reestablish routines.

We Serve, Too – National Guard and Reserve Children™

Explore the unique challenges faced by children of National Guard and Reserve families in this insightful course. Discover practical strategies, tools, and resources to effectively support these children, helping them build resilience and thrive in the face of change.

Six-Hour Course Description

Purple Star School Support

In this course, participants who are seeking the designation will learn about each key component of the Purple Star School initiative. Topics such as understanding the need, identifying military-connected students, connecting to local or national resources, welcome and exit planning, as well as how to set up exemplary processes, procedures, and resources at each location will be addressed. By using the Purple Star School framework, schools will not only learn how to meet the requirements to complete an application but will also identify best practices for welcoming and supporting military-connected students and families.

This six-hour course can be segmented for delivery to accommodate scheduling needs (delivered in six 1-hour training sessions or two 3-hour segments)

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MCEC Learning HUB

(Asynchronous Trainings)

In the dynamic field of education, staying up to date with the latest practices and approaches is crucial for professionals dedicated to supporting military-connected children. The MCEC Learning Hub offers professional development courses tailored to support the unique needs of military-connected children and youth. Drawing upon the latest research and best practices, the free, asynchronous trainings provide actionable insights and strategies that professionals can implement directly into their field of practice. Participants can download their Certificate of Completion after completing the course requirements.

Estimated completion time: 1-1.5 hours. Participants can download their Certificate of Completion upon course completion and survey submission.

Gone Is Gone: Supporting Military-Connected Children During Absences

When a service member is gone, the entire family is affected. This training guides youth-serving educators and professionals in identifying the impact of parental or caregiver absences on children of different age groups. Explore positive support strategies and discover resources and tools to add to your professional practice.

Purple Star Schools Exemplary Practices

This course provides educators and school leaders with the knowledge and tools needed to implement the best practices of Purple Star Schools. Participants will learn how to apply these practices to meet program requirements and prepare staff for the application process for both initial and renewal Purple Star School designations. Additionally, the course focuses on enhancing support for military-connected students and their families.

Practical Approaches to Supporting Military-Connected Students' Well-being

Discover how fostering cognitive, emotional, and behavioral skills can positively impact the academic achievement of military-connected children and youth. Learn unique and creative ways to integrate engaging activities into your professional practice, empowering students to thrive, both in and out of the classroom.

When Military Service Ends: Supporting the Children of Veterans

This course empowers educators, professionals, and parents to navigate the unique challenges children face when their parents transition from military to civilian life. Whether the separation is voluntary or involuntary, professionals gain insights into the educational, emotional, and social impacts on children and learn evidence-informed strategies to support their well-being. Join us to build understanding, foster resilience, and create stability during this significant life transition.

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We Serve, Too - National Guard and Reserve Children™

This course equips educators and professionals with the knowledge and tools to understand and address the unique experiences of children with a parent or caregiver serving in the National Guard or Reserve. Explore strategies and resources to provide meaningful support, particularly during extended periods of a parent's or caregiver's absence.

MCEC Professional Learning Communities

MCEC Purple Star Readiness ECHO®

Find a community of learners to help you with every step of your application or redesignation process with our MCEC Purple Star Readiness (ECHO format).

Each cohort meets monthly online to address best practices and common challenges. This professional learning community is unlike others you have experienced. The benefits of ECHO include collaboration, idea sharing, and problem solving with subject matter experts and peers.

MCEC Student 2 Student ECHO

The MCEC Student 2 Student® (S2S™) ECHO format series is designed for MCEC S2S advisors and helping professionals within schools to address student behavioral health and well-being through components of the S2S program and build a professional learning community (PLC). Each session provides evidence-informed practices aligned with S2S core values, group discussion, and a case study featuring a current S2S advisor or educator.

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