Supporting Special Populations Students in CTE

A self-paced online course for CTE leaders and instructors

Module Nine

Supporting Military-Connected Students

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Who Are Military-Connected Students?

Youth with a parent who is a member of the Armed Services and is on active duty

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Challenges for Military Connected Students

- High mobility rates

- Separation from a parent or caregiver due to deployment

- Academic and social challenges attributed to frequent school changes, deployment of a parent(s), return of a deployed parent, injury to or death of a parent, etc.

- Difficulties qualifying for, receiving, or continuing special needs services due to differences in regulation interpretations, testing required to enroll in or receive special needs services, and resource availability in school districts

Challenges for Military Connected Students

Continued…

- Understanding and interpreting new school regulations and policies

- Risk for depression and anxiety due to relocation, deployment of a parent(s), etc.

- Adjusting to curriculum and instructional methods or school climate/culture that may differ from school to school

Strategies - Supporting Military Families

Get to know each family individually; no "one size fits all"

- Provide consistency and social support for children

- Make sure newly arrived kids can join sports teams and extracurriculars

- Create a welcome team; provide welcome packets of resources, supplies

- Host events for new families and clubs for kids with deployed parents

- Take advantage of military kids' leadership capabilities

- Find ways to recognize experiences of military families

Strategies - Supports & Services

- Help with admission, registration, and financial aid for students who may have increased difficulty navigating the enrollment process

- Ensure financial aid officers are informed on scholarship opportunities and financial assistance available to military connected youth

- Review enrollment policies for students who enroll mid-year

- Permit flexibility when enrolling, placing, and graduating recently relocated seniors/military students.

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Strategies - Supports & Services

- Academic and financial aid advisors need to stay abreast of benefits and supports available to all military connected students
- Connect with community organizations to provide students with access to additional assistance:
  - mental health services
  - childcare facilities
  - community action agencies
  - government benefit offices
  - housing departments
  - public health departments

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Strategies – CTE Classroom Supports

- Document any changes in behavior or activity level to determine any developing patterns

- Maintain consistency, predictability, and structure in the classroom environment

- Offer professional development opportunities to staff to raise awareness and understanding of the unique challenges faced by military-connected students

- Include a section on parent contact forms where parents can indicate their preferred forms of communication

- Allow for flexibility with parent meetings

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Module Nine Resources

Military Child Education Coalition

The Military Family Research Institute

Guide for Parents, School Officials and Public Administrators

Strategies for Serving Special Populations in CTE

Resource Guide: Publications & Electronic Resources Relating to

Special Populations

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Module Nine Resources

- <u>Military Family Education Support</u>

- <u>MIC3</u>: Military Interstate Compact Commission

- <u>Military OneSource</u>: Support for Military Personnel & Families

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Module Nine Assignment

Please complete the Module Nine Prompts (Reflection Journal):

1. How is your institution supporting military-connected students?

2. What specific strategies can you use in your classroom to support these students?

Contact/Mission

For more information on supporting special populations students in CTE, please visit PDE's website at www.education.pa.gov

The mission of the department is to academically prepare children and adults to succeed as productive citizens. The department seeks to ensure that the technical support, resources and opportunities are in place for all students, whether children or adults, to receive a high-quality education.

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