

113,000

cumulative responses
to date!

Blue Star Families
annual Military Family
Lifestyle Survey has been
providing a comprehensive
understanding of what it
means to serve as a military
family since 2009.



Blue Star Families

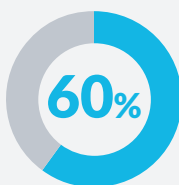
Military Family Lifestyle Survey

The Military Child Experience

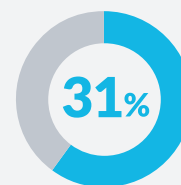
Military children relocate and change schools frequently, and are often separated from their service member parent(s).



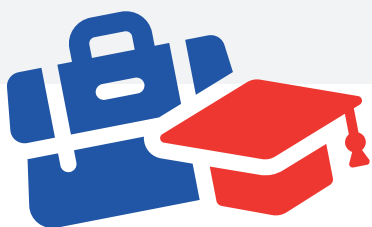
of active-duty families have been separated for at least one month due to military service in the 12 months prior to survey fielding.¹



A majority of active-duty families report they have moved four or more times due to their service member's orders.²



of active-duty family respondents reported their oldest child in K-12 has attended five or more schools.³



Many parents are not aware of resources like the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children.



of active-duty respondents with at least one child enrolled in K-12 education did not know about the Interstate Compact.⁴

Blue Star Families annual Military Family Lifestyle Survey provides a comprehensive understanding of what it means to serve as a military family. For that reason, it is a blueprint for strengthening America and identifying how we can continue to enhance military family life.

Most parents report their schools do a good job of welcoming their military kids.

The proportion of active-duty family respondents who agreed that their child's school ...

65% did an excellent job of welcoming my child.

63% was receptive when I advocated for my child.

52% understands the unique challenges of military families.

51% understands the impacts of frequent moves on my child.

But a smaller proportion — only **49%** — agree that their child's school was flexible when it came to course placement.



**Blue Star
Families**

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¹ Blue Star Families (2026). 2025 Military Family Lifestyle Survey Comprehensive Report. [Unpublished data].

² Ibid.

³ Blue Star Families (2023). 2022 Military Family Lifestyle Survey Comprehensive Report. https://bluestarfam.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/BSF_MFLS_Spring23_Full_Report_Digital.pdf

⁴ Blue Star Families (2023). 2022 Military Family Lifestyle Survey Comprehensive Report.



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Military Family Lifestyle Survey

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Military families find schools to be an important connection point

22%

According to active-duty families, the top-reported method for meeting and connecting with new friends after relocating was their child(ren)'s activities.⁵

But many military families wish their children's teachers knew more about how the military lifestyle can impact their education.

Top Three Issues Military Families Would Want Their Child(ren)'s Teachers to Receive Training On:⁶

59%

General understanding of the impact of frequent moves on my child

54%

Strategies for how to work with parents to help children fill in educational gaps that have emerged due to moves, or to pursue advanced curriculum if the child is "ahead" of their new class

40%

Insight into how children may respond to prolonged service member absence

Most military kids are thriving and feel like they belong.

68%

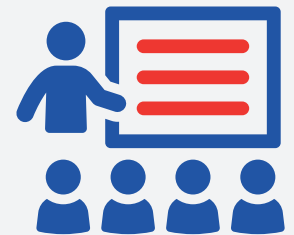
of active-duty family respondents reported their oldest child in K-12 was thriving in school.⁷

63%

of active-duty family respondents reported their oldest child in K-12 seems to feel a strong sense of belonging to his/her school.⁸

Military children are found in a variety of school settings

71%



17%

10%

10%

Public School

Homeschool

Private School

DODEA

School Attendance for Child(ren) in 2024-2025 Academic Year⁹



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⁵ Blue Star Families (2024). 2023 Military Family Lifestyle Survey Comprehensive Report. [Unpublished data].

⁶ Blue Star Families. (2020). 2019 Military Family Lifestyle Survey Comprehensive Report. <https://bluestarfam.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/BSF-2019-Survey-Comprehensive-Report-Digital-rev200305.pdf>

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ Blue Star Families. (2026). 2025 Military Family Lifestyle Survey Comprehensive Report. https://bluestarfam.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/2025-MFLS_Finding-2_FINAL_02022026.pdf

Interested in learning more about how to support military children and families in your community? Reach out to Leah Love, Director, Brand Marketing and Community Engagement, at llove@bluestarfam.org.