Educators and Parents Gather To Learn Ways to Smooth School Transitions for Students

Teachers, pupil personnel and parents from the Welcoming Practices districts learned new strategies for supporting students when they change schools at a recent transition workshop led by the Military Child Education Coalition.

The two-day training also drew representatives from some surrounding districts in the San Diego area.

"There's always something to learn," said Nicole Webb, a parent liaison in the Fallbrook schools. "I really want to get the tools to help all parents."

Teams at each table reviewed different documents focusing on transition.

Trainers Susan Heiligman and Sally Patterson covered the multiple ways that transition affects children and stressed that just because a student...
* The Military Child Education Coalition will hold a one-day workshop **March 4** on Helping Military Children Find their SPARC, which stands for strength, potential, aspiration, resourcefulness and confidence. The training will be held at the Marina Village Conference Center at 1936 Quivira Way in San Diego, beginning at 8 a.m. For information contact Joe.Clever@MilitaryChild.org, or visit MCEC’s [website](#) to register.

* The San Diego Parent-to-Parent team is scheduling parent workshops and training opportunities in Consortium schools. Email ptop.sandiego@militarychild.org for more information.

**Special Offer**

**Free Guidebooks**

Free copies of our military resource guides for educators and parents are available. Please click [here](#) to request a copy.

If you have already provided us feedback on the books, thank you. If you haven't we still want to hear from you. Click this [link](#) to

Participants played games to help them understand the
answer a few questions, and use a computer or a laptop instead of a smart phone.

*Welcoming Practices* is a Partnership Consortium involving five Southern California school districts and the University of Southern California, funded by the Department of Defense Education Activity's partnership program. Grant #HE-1254-13-1-0017

For more information, please visit our [website](#).

**Quick Links...**

Our Website

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**Districts Increase Efforts to Connect With Parents, Share Resources**

Consortium districts are creating new opportunities to welcome families into their schools and demonstrating that building connections with families occurs all year--not just at the beginning of the school year.

The Temecula Valley Unified School District's [Welcome Center](#) hosted a gathering for military parents last month, providing resources and informing them about upcoming workshops provided by the San Diego Parent-to-Parent (PtoP) team, as well as the work of the Student-to-Student (S2S) groups. Belisa Guerrero, TVUSD's family engagement specialist organized the event.

Meanwhile, at Fallbrook High School, Nicole Webb, a military parent, used the school's orientation for incoming freshmen to provide resources to families and make them aware of PtoP and S2S events.

Read more about PtoP and S2S in our 2014 *Welcoming Practices Annual Report*.

TVUSD parent Michelle Burnette picks up one of our free guidebooks for military parents.
Reminder: California Healthy Kids Survey Now Under Way

Every year, the California Healthy Kids Survey (CHKS) gathers students' views on a wide range of health behaviors and school climate issues. The survey is considered a critical piece of identifying areas of strength and needs among students.

Consortium districts are currently administering the survey. Students in the Temecula Valley Unified School District (TVUSD) began taking the surveys the week of Feb. 23, with the Bonsall Unified and Oceanside Unified school districts following the week of March 2.

Fallbrook Union High School District will begin giving the survey the week of March 16, and the Chula Vista Elementary School District is scheduled for the week of April 13.

The California School Parent Survey is a companion to the CHKS and gathers parents' input on the same issues. Schools should remind parents to take the survey, which will available through a link on districts' websites. Schools can also encourage staff members to take the California School Climate Survey.
For more information, contact these district representatives:

- Dan Daris, OUSD, dan.daris@oside.us
- Cheryl Langley, TVUSD, clangley@tvusd.k12.ca.us
- Lori Cummins, BUSD, lori.cummins@bonsallusd.com
- Kim Gage, FUHSD, kgage@fuhsd.net
- Melissa Minas, CVESD, melissa.minas@cvesd.org

Crowdsourcing Effort Kicked Off To Support USC Summer Program Scholarships for Military Students

The USC Provost’s office is raising money to support two scholarships for military-connected high school students to attend Summer@USC. The scholarship program for military youth to attend the long-running summer program began last summer. The pre-college experience offers 25 courses in the arts, humanities, business, engineering, health and biological sciences, journalism, law and the social sciences. This program is often the first exposure to a college-level education and inspires these students to plan on attending college, many of whom would be the first in their family to do so.

Donations can be made at this link.

Headlines and Resources

We regularly feature stories, reports and resources related to military children on our website. Check back often for new additions, such as these:

- This Fayette Observer story highlights Camp Corral, which is expected to serve military children in 19 states this year.
- Tobacco-Use Prevention Education funds support health education efforts in grades 6-12 in an effort to prevent and reduce tobacco use.
Click here to learn more about the application process. The deadline is April 10.

- Click here for the latest issue of Academic Anchor, a publication of the Navy Region Southwest’s school liaison officers.