

# WE WELCOME OUR MILITARY FAMILIES



Dear Military Families, we are thrilled to welcome you to South Dade Senior High School, which serves over 3600 students.

Our school offers a wide range of schooling options, services, and resources to meet the diverse needs of all learners, making it an excellent choice for your family.

We hope you find the resources listed below helpful in getting acquainted with South Dade Senior High School and the Miami-Dade County Public School System. Remember, we are here to help.

[Transition Planning for Military Families](#)

[Getting Started](#)

[Resources and Educational Opportunities for Military Students](#)

[Academic Planning for Military Families](#)

[Student-Led Transition Services](#)

[Exceptional Student Educational Services](#)

[Military Recognition Events](#)

[Mental Health Challenges](#)





# TRANSITION PLANNING FOR MILITARY FAMILIES

## School Parent Liaison

Mrs. Charmaine Underwood is our School Magnet Lead.

She helps establish positive relationships with children and their families and works on developing and enhancing parental engagement with the school and other agencies.

When she receives referrals, she communicates with children experiencing difficulties and collaborates with families to address the children's concerns.

You can contact [Mrs. Charmaine Underwood](#), 305-247-4244 Ext: 2265 or visit her office at South Dade Senior High School 28401 SW 167th Ave Homestead, FL 33030.





Miami Dade County Public Schools serve every address in our school district with one residentially zoned elementary school, one residentially zoned middle school, and one residentially zoned high school.

If you are interested in enrolling your child in South Dade Senior High School, please get in touch with Mrs. Underwood in our school magnet lead at (305) 247-4244 Ext 2265 or [cunderwood@dadeschools.net](mailto:cunderwood@dadeschools.net).



To enroll your child in our school system, you may need to complete an online enrollment application if your child has never received public school services in Miami Dade County Public Schools.

Please do not create an additional record if your child already exists in our school district’s student information system.

If your child still needs to be added to our system, proceed to the online enrollment application to begin the process. If you have any questions or need assistance, our Enrollment Services team is here to help.



The documents you’ll need to have with you to register at the school include:

- Proof of Address (such as current utility bill, a signed lease, or a housing agreement)
- Recent Physical (within the past 12 months)
- Current immunization records
- Verification of Age (an authorized copy of the child’s official birth certificate)
- Social Security Number (if applicable)
- State- or Government-Issued Photo ID of the parent/guardian enrolling the child or exceptional students, including those with disabilities, it is the mission of the Exceptional

Student Education Department to support and sustain educational structures and practices, to be inclusive of all students with or without disabilities, and to empower them to become responsible and productive citizens in today’s global society.

Each student will be welcomed, valued, given access to rigorous teaching, appropriately supported teaching, and appropriately supported to access the general education curriculum.





# RESOURCE AND EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR MILITARY STUDENTS



## OneSource Military:

OneSource is your 24/7 connection to information, answers, and support to help you reach your goals, overcome challenges, and thrive. As a military family member, you can utilize this Department of Defense-funded program anytime and anywhere. Rely on Military OneSource for tax services, spouse employment assistance, webinars, online training, relocation and deployment tools, and more.

<https://www.militaryonesource.mil/>

## Military Kids Connect:

Military Kids Connect (MKC) is an online community for military children aged 6-17, providing access to age-appropriate resources to support children dealing with the unique psychological challenges of military life. MKC offers informative activities, helpful videos, and an online community that can help build and reinforce understanding, resilience, and coping skills in military children and their peers.

<https://militarykidsconnect.>

## Military Child Education Coalition:

Military Child Education Coalition (MCEC) ensures that every military-connected child is prepared for college, the workforce, and life through inclusive and quality educational opportunities. MCEC delivers programs and services to meet the needs of military students and parents, providing educational resources, support, and connections to empower military children.

<https://www.militarychild.org/>

## ASVAB:

The Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) Career Exploration Program assists you in identifying and exploring occupations and developing an effective strategy to achieve those goals. The ASVAB Career Exploration Program includes a validated aptitude test and interest assessment. <https://www.asvabprogram.com/>

## Fischer House:

Discover more scholarships for families of the military (active/reserve/retired) and veterans.

<https://fisherhouse.org/programs/scholarship-programs>



# ACADEMIC PLANNING FOR MILITARY



Tutor.com

- Available for military families at no cost.
- Get homework help after school at the FIU Academy.



# STUDENT-LED TRANSITION SERVICE



## South Dade Senior High School Military Ambassador Peer Support Program

Sponsored by the school's military point of contact, CW3 (R) Alex Pena and SFC (R) Victor Quinones, and supported by the School Counselor, Veronica Rivera, South Senior High School offers a Military Junior Reserves Officer Training Corps (JROTC) Ambassador peer support program to help new students transition and become familiar with the campus.

For more information, don't hesitate to contact CW3 Pena at [alexpena@dadeschools.net](mailto:alexpena@dadeschools.net).



# EXCEPTIONAL STUDENT EDUCATIONAL SERVICES



At South Dade Senior High School, we aim to support and include all students, regardless of disabilities, and empower them to become responsible and productive citizens in today's global society. We are committed to providing a welcoming and inclusive environment, rigorous teaching and appropriate support for all students.

Students with disabilities have two additional standard diploma options, which are unavailable to other students. These options allow students to substitute a CTE course with related content for one credit in ELA 4, mathematics, science, and social studies (excluding Algebra 1, Geometry, Biology 1, and U.S. History). Visit the Florida Department of Education for updated graduation requirements.

The two options are:

1. Students with the most significant cognitive disability may earn credits via access courses and be assessed via an alternate assessment.
2. Students enrolled in the academic and employment option must earn at least 0.5 credit via Pai School-Based Transition Learning.

For further information, please contact: Dr. Natasha Mark, Chair of the ESE Department, at [nathasiamark@dadeschools.net](mailto:nathasiamark@dadeschools.net) or by calling (305) 247-4244 Ext 2130. Additionally, the Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP) provides comprehensive and coordinated community support, housing, educational, medical, and personnel services to Families with special needs.

Please contact Mrs. Ana Barreto, the [Administrative Director of Exceptional Student Education](#), Programs, and Related Services, at [barreto@dadeschools.net](mailto:barreto@dadeschools.net) or by calling (305) 649-9800 Ext 2276 for more details regarding EFMP. For compliance-related inquiries, please get in touch with Ms. Yvonne Leon, the District Director of Exceptional Student Education, at [yvonneleon@dadeschools.net](mailto:yvonneleon@dadeschools.net) or call (305) 995-2037. Fax: (305) 995-2049.



# MILITARY RECOGNITION EVENTS



South Dade Senior High honors our military students and their families and recognizes our military through several events during the school year:

- Veteran's Day: November 11th
- Military Appreciation Night at South Dade Senior High School Football Games
- Month of the Military Child: April
- Memorial Day: May 27th
- POW/MIA Table Ceremony
- Military Ball: April
- Armed Forces Day - May 18th
- National Military Appreciation Month - May
- Military Family Month, Warrior Care Month - November





# MENTAL HEALTH CHALLENGES



Positive mental wellness is crucial for a child’s healthy development. School and community mental health services can enhance academic performance, provide access to social skills development, foster leadership, increase self-awareness, and help children form positive connections in school and the community.

Children from military families often face multiple stressors before, during, and after their parents’ deployment. Without adequate mental health support systems, children of military personnel may be at a disadvantage compared to their peers from non-military families. While military students are resilient, there are resources available to assist them. Counselors play a vital role in the school environment. They are involved in everyday school activities and events, providing support related to deployment and reintegration, family dynamics, positive coping mechanisms, staff support and education, parent education, and stress reduction. Additionally, they facilitate groups and training sessions to develop leadership skills, manage anger, build self-esteem and confidence, and improve communication. They are also responsible for individual student academic planning and goal setting, school counseling classroom lessons, short-term counseling, referrals for long-term support, collaboration with families, teachers, administrators, and the community, advocating for students, and analyzing data to identify student issues and challenges.

Counselors keep private and confidential records about students and families, except for mandatory federal and military reporting requirements for situations such as child abuse, domestic violence, and other life-threatening scenarios. However, no counseling records are maintained.

Other support resources include Military One Source Military and Family Life Counseling and mental health coordinators in M-DCPS to support students in schools. The district has also contracted with community mental health agencies to provide additional support, such as screenings and assessments, individual and group counseling, family counseling, substance abuse intervention, and parent-school-agency consultation.

For more information, contact your child’s school or the Parent Assistance Line at (305) 995-7100 or visit the website at <http://mentalhealthservices.dadeschools.net>