# ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE OF MILITARY–CONNECTED STUDENTS

## Annual Report for 2019–20

**SC EDUCATION**
**OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE**

*Reporting facts. Measuring change. Promoting progress.*

# Educational Performance of Military-Connected Students, 2020

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## Introduction

In 2014, the General Assembly passed Act 289, the Military Family Quality of Life Enhancement Act. The Act's purpose is to "enhance quality of life issues for members of the armed forces" (Act 289 Preamble). Part V requests the SC Education Oversight Committee (EOC) to develop an annual report on the educational performance of military-connected children:

> The Education Oversight Committee, working with the State Board of Education, is directed to establish a comprehensive annual report concerning the performance of military-connected children who attend primary, elementary, middle, and high schools in this State. The comprehensive annual report must be in a reader-friendly format, using graphics wherever possible, published on the state, district, and school websites, and, upon request, printed by the school districts. The annual comprehensive report must address at least attendance, academic performance in reading, math, and science, and graduation rates of military-connected children.[1]

The EOC evaluation team worked closely with the military and education community as it developed this report. Professionals, who directly support military families, provided input. Both the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) and Defense Manpower Data Center provided data. The 2020 report provides:

- An overview of the federal Impact Aid program.
- Details regarding the demographics of military-connected students.
- An update on the academic performance and school attendance of military-connected students as reported for school year 2019-20; and
- A summary of the trainings for educators and families to enhance support of military-connected students at home and in school.

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[1] Section 59-18-900(H) of the South Carolina Code of Laws.

## Acknowledgements

## Summary of Findings

1. Due to COVID-19 school closures and the resulting waiver of end-of-year assessments by the U.S. Department of Education, South Carolina end-of-year summative assessments were not administered in elementary and middle schools, and data is not available for reporting. Military-Connected Students (MCS) data for the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (KRA), the South Carolina End-of-Course Evaluation Program (EOCEP), Advanced Placement (AP) assessments, Career Technology Assessments, graduation rates, and attendance are included in this report .

2. Data reported by the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) regarding military-connected students are based on district entry of student information into PowerSchool.  As a state, South Carolina's reporting of the number of military-connected students has improved over time. Data provided by the SCDE to the Education Oversight Committee (EOC) indicate there were 18,237 military-connected students in South Carolina's public schools in school year 2019-20. Almost 70 percent of military-connected students have at least one parent who is active duty, a slight increase from the prior school year.

3. Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) requires the identification and collection of military-connected student data, and South Carolina has an established mechanism for collecting this information. SCDE manages PowerSchool, the student data information system that is provided to school districts.  It is the primary source for student data and is often used for state and federal reporting requirements.  In PowerSchool, a "Parent Military Status" field includes a list with seven possible student status options, as shown below.

**Military-Connected Student Data Collected in PowerSchool,
as of May 13, 2021[2]**

| Values |
|---|
| **(blank) – Neither Parent nor Guardian is serving in any military service.** |
| **01 - A Parent or Guardian is serving Full-time in the National Guard and is not currently deployed.** |
| **02 - A Parent or Guardian is serving Full-time in the Reserves and is not currently deployed.** |
| **03 - A Parent or Guardian is serving Full-time in the National Guard and is currently deployed.** |
| **04 - A Parent or Guardian is serving Full-time in the Reserves and is currently deployed.** |
| **05 - A Parent or Guardian is serving in the military on active duty and is not deployed.** |
| **06  - A Parent or Guardian is serving in the military on active duty and is currently deployed.** |

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[2] SC State Reporting Updates, Update dated May 13, 2020. Accessed at
https://ed.sc.gov/data/information-systems/power-school/sc-state-reporting-updates/.

In response to ESSA, the SCDE provides more detailed academic performance data on military-connected students that can be disaggregated by gender, economic status, English learner status, disability status, gender, homeless status, gifted and talented status, and foster care status.

4.  Of the 18,237 military-connected students reported by school districts to SCDE in school year 2019-20, approximately 83 percent of the students attended one of the eleven school districts listed in the table below. Appendix B provides additional detail for all school districts.

**School Districts with Highest Military-Connected Student Populations, School Year 2019-20**

| District | Students | Percent |
|---|---|---|
| Richland 2 | 4,060 | 22.26 |
| Horry | 2,285 | 12.52 |
| Dorchester 2 | 2,032 | 11.14 |
| Beaufort | 1,386 | 7.59 |
| Berkeley | 1,173 | 6.43 |
| Lexington 1 | 1,091 | 5.98 |
| Sumter | 796 | 4.36 |
| Kershaw | 764 | 4.18 |
| Aiken | 610 | 3.34 |
| Lexington/Richland 5 | 568 | 3.11 |
| Anderson 1 | 357 | 1.95 |
| **Total** | **15,122** | **82.91** |

Source: SC Department of Education, February 2021 data provided to EOC.

5.  About 70 percent of military-connected students have at least one guardian or parent who is on active duty or deployed. Approximately 1,992 military-connected students had at least one parent who was deployed in school year 2020, representing an increase of 360 from 2019. An additional 151 military-connected students were reported to have a parent who was on active duty but died within the last year.  Another 1087 military-connected students reported having a parent who was on active duty and wounded in 2020.  While this category is a small percentage of the total number of military-connected students, the number of military-connected students with a parent who was wounded in 2020 is 38 percent greater than in 2019.

6.  Military-connected student data for the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (KRA) results show that of the 1,235 Military-connected students assessed 47.5% scored ready for Kindergarten, compared to 39.0% of all students tested on this assessment statewide.

7.  Military-connected students continue to perform better than their peers (tested students of their same age and grade level). During the 2019-20 school year, military-connected students outperformed all students statewide on the End-of-Course Examination Program (EOCEP)

exams (Algebra 1, Biology, and U. S. History) administered at the end of the fall 2019 semester. On average, military-connected students' average scores for the three courses tested were 6.2 points higher. EOCEPs were not administered at the end of the semester in spring 2020.

8. During the 2019-20 school year, the high school graduation rate for military-connected students was 92.5 percent, up from the reported 86.9 percent in 2018-19. The state on-time graduation rate was 82.01 percent, up from 81.05 percent in 2018-19.

9. In 2019-20, of the 68 districts reporting MCS, only 32 districts provided attendance reports. From available data, the average number of days absent for military-connected students was 3.7 days. Thirteen school districts with at least 30 military-connected students reported that military-connected students were absent for more than 3.7 school days. The highest average absence rate was (4.3 days), and the lowest absence rate was 0 days.

# I. Identification and Data Reporting on Military-Connected Students

In December 2015, changes to Impact Aid and the identification of military-connected students were enacted due to the congressional passage of Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Under ESSA, the disaggregation of student-level data is required, including the identification, collection and reporting of military-connected students. ESSA also addresses Impact Aid. Funding authorization for Impact Aid remains stagnant. However, some changes to Impact Aid were made:

- technical and formula changes to federal properties that have already reduced program subjectivity and increased timeliness of payments were made permanent.

- the federal properties "lockout" provision that prevented eligible federally impacted school districts from accessing Impact Aid funding was eliminated.

- the basic support formula was adjusted to ensure equal proration when appropriations are sufficient to fund the Learning Opportunity Threshold; and

- a "hold harmless" provision was included to provide budget certainty to school districts facing a funding cliff or significant changes to their federally connected student enrollment.[3]

ESSA requires the state identification, collection and reporting of military-connected students in Title I, Part A, Section 1011:

"(ii) For all students and disaggregated by each subgroup of students described in subsection (b)(2)(B)(xi), homeless status, status as a child in foster care, and status as a student with a parent who is a member of the Armed Forces (as defined in section 101(a)(4) of title 10, United States Code) on active duty (as defined in section 101(d)(5) of such title), information on student achievement on the academic assessments described in subsection (b)(2) at each level of achievement, as determined by the State under subsection (b)(1).[4]

This federal requirement will provide more consistent, easily identifiable data regarding military-connected students with a parent on active duty. As student identification improves, additional supports may be put into place to assist students who live with perpetual challenges presented by frequent moves, parental and sibling deployments, and transitions that include reintegration and dealing with profoundly changed parents. The well-being of these children depends heavily

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[3] National Conference of State Legislatures, "Summary of Every Student Succeeds Act, Legislation Reauthorizing the Elementary and Secondary Education Act." May be accessed at: http://www.ncsl.org/documents/capitolforum/2015/onlineresources/summary_12_10.pdf.
[4] Every Student Succeeds Act. More information may be accessed at: https://www2.ed.gov/policy/elsec/leg/essa/index.html.

on a network of supportive adults who are trained to identify early signs of emotional or physical challenge.

**SC Collection of Military-Connected Student Data**

ESSA requires the identification and collection of military-connected student data. South Carolina has an established mechanism for collecting this information. The SC Department of Education (SCDE) manages PowerSchool, the student data information system that is provided to school districts. It is the primary source for student data and is often used for state and federal reporting requirements. Student level data are input, validated and maintained by local school districts. The data are then transferred (pushed from districts) electronically to the SCDE through the Enrich Data Collection Tool. In PowerSchool, a "Parent Military Status" field includes a list with seven possible student status options, as shown in Table 1.[5] This field remains unchanged since the 2015 EOC report on military-connected students. In the PowerSchool Data Collection Manual for January-February 2018, SCDE emphasizes "verifying all foster, homeless, migrant or military-connected student data accurately indicating their status. If any student meets the definition at any point during the school year, that student should be counted for the entire year."[6]

In response to ESSA, the SCDE provides more detailed academic performance data on military-connected students that can be disaggregated by gender, economic status, English learner status, disability status, gender, homeless status, gifted and talented status, and foster care status.

Data reported by SCDE regarding military-connected students are based on district entry of student information into this field. As noted earlier in this report, districts may also receive federal Impact Aid funding for students who have at least one parent who is federally connected.

The October 25, 2018 update to PowerSchool modified Parent Military Status. Now only students of active or full-time military parents should be coded. The choice set reflects this change. This field determines student's status for the "Military-connected" accountability subgroup in Table 1.[7]

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[5] SC Department of Education, "PowerSchool Data Collection Manual, Fall 2016-17," p. 127. May be accessed at: http://www.ed.sc.gov/data/information-systems/power-school-administration/powerschool-manuals-for-s-c-pages/powerschool-data-collection-manual-2016-2017/.

[6] SC Department of Education, "PowerSchool Data Collection Manual, January-February 2018," p. 7. May be accessed at:
https://ed.sc.gov/scdoe/assets/File/DataCollectionSched/SC_PS_Data%20Collection-Specific_Fields_Combo%202017-18%20Winter%20Final.pdf, p. 145.

[7] SC State Reporting Updates, Update dated October 25, 2018. Accessed at
https://ed.sc.gov/data/information-systems/power-school/sc-state-reporting-updates/.

**Table 1**
**Military-Connected Student Data Collected in PowerSchool**

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| **06 - A Parent or Guardian is serving in the military on active duty and is currently deployed.** |

# II.    Demographics of Military-Connected Students

National, state, and local district collection of military-connected student data continues to be inconsistent. ESSA requires the disaggregation of student-level data, including military-connected students. When this requirement is fully implemented, data collection should become more consistent and accurate.

## Number of Military-Connected Students

Data related to military-connected students are collected and reported by districts in PowerSchool. Table 2 below shows 2020 data provided by SC Department of Education in February 2020 (for 2018 through 2020 school years) and includes National Guard, Reserves, and active duty military personnel.  About 70 percent of military-connected students have at least one guardian or parent who is on active duty or deployed. Approximately 1,992 military-connected students had at least one parent who was deployed in school year 2020, representing an increase of 360 students from 2019.  An additional 151 military-connected students were reported to have a parent who was on active duty but died within the last year.  Another 1,087 military-connected students have a parent who was on active duty and wounded in 2020.  While this category is a small percentage of the total number of military-connected students, the number of military-connected students with a parent who was wounded in 2020, is 38 percent greater than in 2018.

There has been a significant improvement in district reporting of military-connected students since 2016-17.  Families and educators continue assisting with the reporting of this data, so district and school staff can identify students who may need additional support services. Military-connected students live with perpetual challenges presented by frequent moves, parental and sibling deployments, and additional transitions that include reintegration and dealing with profoundly changed parents. The well-being of these children depends heavily on a network of supportive adults who are trained to identify early signs of emotional, physical, and academic challenges.

**Table 2**
**Military-Connected Students,**
**by Parental Military Branch and Deployment Status, 2018-20 School Years**

| Military Connection | School Year 2018 | | School Year 2019 | | School Year 2020 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Number | Percent | Number | Percent | Number | Percent |
| **National Guard - Not Deployed** | 2,116 | 14.6 % | 2631 | 15.93% | 3,027 | 16.60% |
| **Reserves - Not Deployed** | 1,784 | 12.34% | 2075 | 12.56% | 2308 | 12.66% |
| **National Guard – Deployed** | 326 | 2.26% | 506 | 3.06% | 543 | 2.98% |
| **Reserves – Deployed** | 227 | 1.57% | 295 | 1.79% | 368 | 2.02% |

| Military Connection | School Year 2018 | | School Year 2019 | | School Year 2020 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Number | Percent | Number | Percent | Number | Percent |
| Active Duty Military - Not Deployed | 8,530 | 59.01% | 9,314 | 56.40% | 9,672 | 53.04% |
| Active Duty Military – Deployed | 997 | 6.90% | 1,021 | 6.18% | 1,081 | 5.93% |
| Active Duty Military - Deceased in last year | 62 | 0.43% | 82 | .50 % | 151 | .83% |
| Active Duty Military - Wounded in last year | 414 | 2.86% | 591 | 3.58% | 1,087 | 5.96% |
| Subtotal Active Duty | 10,003 | | 11,008 | | 11,992 | |
| Total | 14,456 | | 16,515 | | 18,237 | |

Source: SC Department of Education, data reported to EOC.

Of the 18,237 military-connected students reported by school districts to SCDE, approximately 81 percent of the students attend one of the eleven school districts listed in Table 3.

The Charleston Air Force Base and the Naval Weapons Station in Goose Creek comprise Joint Base Charleston (JB CHS). The installation covers almost 24,000 acres, and includes: three seaports, two civilian-military airfields, 39 miles of rail, and 22 miles of coastline. The Charleston Air Force Base Houses C-17 aircraft, and is home to the 437th Air Base Wing, the 628th Air Base Wing, and the 315th Air Wing. The Naval Weapons Station houses several programs, including the Navy's Nuclear Power Training Program, the Naval Information Warfare Center (NIWC) Atlantic, and several other tenant commands. The Naval Health Clinic, and the Air Force Military Treatment Facility, provide many medical services for military members and their families. The base is host to more than 60 Department of Defense and Federal agencies and is associated with approximately 50,000 jobs. The installation provides $3.6 billion in labor income, and an economic impact of $8.7 billion per year.

Both the Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort and Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island/Eastern Recruiting Region are in Beaufort County. Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort, home of the Marine Corps' Atlantic Coast fixed-wing, fighter-attack aircraft assets, is in the heart of the South Carolina Lowcountry and is among the United States military's most important and most historically colorful installations. Consisting of some 7,000 acres 70 miles southwest of Charleston, South Carolina on Highway 21, the installation is home to five Marine Corps F/A- 18 squadrons and one F-35B Fleet Replacement Squadron. Two versions of the F/A-18 Hornet are found aboard MCAS Beaufort, the F/A-18C Hornet and the F/A-18D Hornet. The F-35B squadron is also the only location in the world where pilots train to fly the F-35B. The squadron also trains the United

Kingdom's future F-35B pilots and maintainers. The Marine Corps Recruit Depot is located on Parris Island and is one of the most visited military facilities in the world, hosting more than 120,000 guests each year. It is the headquarters of the Eastern Recruiting Region and for recruit training for all females and males east of the Mississippi River.

Fort Jackson and Shaw Air Force Base are in the Midlands. Located in Richland County, Fort Jackson is the Army's main production center for Basic Combat Training.  Approximately 50 percent of the Army's Basic Combat Training is completed at Fort Jackson, with more than 48,000 basic training and 12,000 additional advanced training Soldiers every year.  Fort Jackson is home to the U.S. Army Soldier Support Institute, the Armed Forces Army Chaplaincy Center and School, the National Center for Credibility Assessment (formerly the Department of Defense Polygraph Institute, and the Drill Sergeant School, which trains all Active Duty and Reserve instructors.

Shaw Air Force Base in Sumter County is home to Air Force's largest combat F-16 wing, the 20th Fighter Wing. Shaw also serves as home to Headquarters Ninth Air Force, U.S. Air Forces Central, Third Army, U.S. Army Central and many other tenant units.[8]

**Table 3**
**Districts with Highest Military-Connected Student Populations,**
**School Years 2018-19 and 2019-2020**

| School Year 2018-19 | | | School Year 2019-20 | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **District** | **Students** | **Percent** | **District** | **Students** | **Percent** |
| Richland 2 | 4,101 | 24.83 | Richland 2 | 4,060 | 22.26 |
| Dorchester 2 | 1,521 | 9.21 | Horry | 2,285 | 12.52 |
| Horry | 1,575 | 11.22 | Dorchester 2 | 2,032 | 11.14 |
| Beaufort | 1,360 | 8.23 | Beaufort | 1,386 | 7.59 |
| Berkeley | 1,075 | 6.51 | Berkeley | 1,173 | 6.43 |
| Lexington 1 | 1,041 | 6.30 | Lexington 1 | 1,091 | 5.98 |
| Sumter | 846 | 5.12 | Sumter | 796 | 4.36 |
| Kershaw | 693 | 4.20 | Kershaw | 764 | 4.18 |
| Lexington 5 | 570 | 3.45 | Aiken | 610 | 3.34 |
| SC Public Charter School District | 371 | 2.25 | Lexington/Richland 5 | 568 | 3.11 |
| Aiken | 409 | 1.47 | Anderson 1 | 357 | 1.95 |
| **Total** | **12,705** | **82.65** | **Total** | **15,122** | **82.91** |

Source: SC Department of Education, data reported to EOC.

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[8] Information regarding South Carolina's military installations gathered from military installation websites and school liaison officers.

# III. Student Performance

This section provides academic and attendance data for military-connected students for school year 2019-20 including:

- student achievement as measured by the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (KRA)
- student achievement as measured by the End-Of-Course Examination Program (EOCEP)
- student achievement as measured by Advanced Placement Examinations
- student achievement on Career Ready Certification Areas
- high school graduation rates; and
- student attendance.

## Academic Data

The end-of-year academic achievement of students, including MCS, in South Carolina was not available for 2019-20 due to COVID-19 school closures. This includes students in third through eighth grades on SC READY for English language arts (ELA) and mathematics and SC PASS for science for students in grades 4, 6 and 8.   Statewide student performance on the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (KRA), the South Carolina End-of-Course Evaluation Program (EOCEP) during the fall 2019 semester, Advanced Placement Examinations, and Career Readiness certifications and credentials are provided in this report.
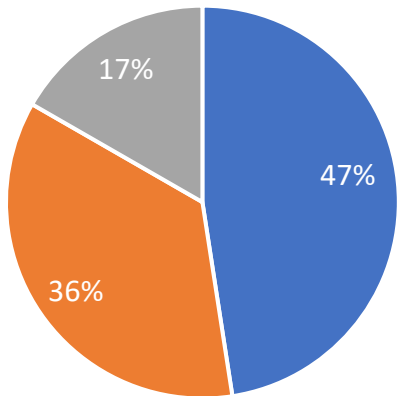
### Student Performance on Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (KRA)

The EOC analyzed student performance in school year 2019-20 of  all students enrolled in publicly funded kindergartens S.C. Code § 59-155-150 .   The KRA is a developmentally appropriate instrument that measures a child's school readiness across multiple domains.  KRA determines each child's readiness level from an evaluation of four domains: Social Foundations, Language/Literacy, Mathematics, and Physical Well-Being.   According to the SCDE website, the KRA provides a snapshot of students' abilities at the beginning of the school year. Understanding a child's school readiness helps kindergarten teachers best meet the child's needs, and it helps schools, families, communities, and policymakers.
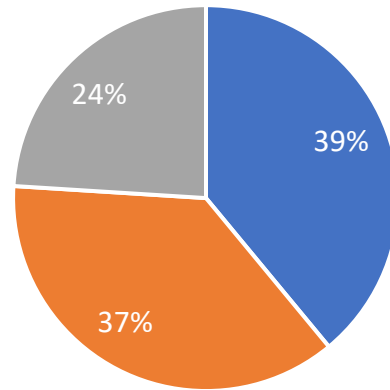
Scores from the 2019 KRA administration showed that 31 districts met or surpassed the overall state average (39%) for Demonstrating Readiness. The percentage of MCS students demonstrating readiness in 2019 was 47.5% (Table 4).

**Figure 1**

**2020 KRA Performance of Military-Connected Students (MCS)**

**2020 KRA Performance of All SC students**



- ■ Demonstrating Readiness   ■ Approaching Readiness   ■ Emerging Readiness

**Student Achievement in Grades Three through Eight (Suspended by Act 142 )**

The South Carolina College-and Career-Ready Assessments (SC READY) are statewide assessments in English language arts (ELA) and mathematics that measure the academic performance of students in grades 3-8. The South Carolina Palmetto Assessment of State Standards (SCPASS) is a statewide assessment administered in science to students in grades 4 and 6. Administration of both SC READY and SCPASS were suspended in the 2019-20 school year due to school closures.

**South Carolina End-of-Course Examination Program (EOCEP)**

The End-of-Course Examination Program (EOCEP) is a statewide assessment program of end-of-course tests for gateway courses awarded units of credit in English/language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies. The EOCEP encourages instruction in the specific standards for the courses, encourages student achievement, and documents the level of students' mastery of the academic standards. EOCEP examination scores count 20 percent in the calculation of the student's final grade in gateway courses, although the use of grades in the calculation of student grades was suspended for the 2020-21 school year. Defined gateway courses currently include Algebra 1, Intermediate Algebra, Biology 1, English 1, English 2, and United States History and the Constitution, or courses with other names and activity codes in which the academic standards corresponding to these subjects are taught.

To meet federal accountability requirements, the EOCEP in English/language arts, mathematics, and science must be administered to all public school students, including those students as required by the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA) and by Title 1 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). The English 1 EOCEP was not administered in school year 2019-20 school year; this course is year-long, and the exam could not be administered in the Spring.

To receive a South Carolina high school diploma, students are required to pass a high school credit course in science, and a high school credit course in United States history in which the state's end of course examinations are administered. Currently these courses are Biology 1 (science) and United States History and the Constitution (social studies). [End-of-Course Examination Program (EOCEP) - South Carolina Department of Education (sc.gov)](#)

Table 4 shows the of MCS performance on end-of-course exams. During the 2019-20 school year, military-connected students continued to outperform all students statewide on the End-of-Course Examination Program (EOCEP) exams in Algebra 1, Biology, and United States History. On average, military-connected students' mean scores for the three courses tested were 6.2 points higher.

**Table 4**
**South Carolina End-of-Course Examination Program (EOCEP)**

| Academic Year | Military-Connected Students | | | All SC Students | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Number of MCS | Mean Score | Letter Grade | Mean Score | Letter Grade |
| **Algebra 1** | | | | | |
| 2015 | 668 | 85.7 | B | 82.6 | C |
| 2016 | 857 | 85.2 | B | 81.9 | C |
| 2017 | 1,000 | 72.2 | C | 69.4 | D |
| 2018 | 1,043 | 71.9 | C | 68.2 | D |
| 2019 | 841 | 72.4 | C | 69.8 | D |
| **2020** | **179** | **69.1** | **D** | **63.7** | **D** |
| **English 1*** | | | | | |
| 2015 | 636 | 83.6 | C | 79.4 | C |
| 2016 | 827 | 83.7 | C | 79.8 | C |
| 2017 | 1,024 | 75.9 | C | 71.4 | C |
| 2018 | 994 | 78.1 | C | 74.1 | C |
| 2019 | 724 | 77.5 | C | 74.6 | C |
| **Biology** | | | | | |
| 2013 | 310 | 84.2 | C | 78.1 | C |
| 2014 | 451 | 85.4 | B | 79.2 | C |
| 2015 | 580 | 86.5 | B | 82.3 | B |
| 2016 | 795 | 86.9 | C | 81.6 | C |
| 2017 | 943 | 81.5 | C | 75.3 | C |
| 2018 | 921 | 72.8 | C | 69.2 | D |
| 2019 | NA** | NA | NA | NA | NA |
| **2020** | **406** | **72.2** | **C** | **67.9** | **D** |
| **U.S. History and the Constitution** | | | | | |
| **2020** | **317** | **69.05** | **C** | **67.6** | **D** |
| *2020: No results for English 1: year-long classes, and EOCEP given in Spring<br>**2019 results for Biology EOCEP were not reported to the EOC. | | | | | |

## Advanced Placement Course Performance

Advanced Placement is a program in the United States and Canada created by the College Board which offers college-level courses and examinations to high school students. American colleges and universities may grant placement and course credit to students who obtain high scores on the examinations. Advanced Placement classes give students an opportunity to take college-level courses and exams while still in high school. Students enjoy the challenge of taking Advanced Placement courses with enthusiastic classmates and teachers; high school faculty find that Advanced Placement courses enhance their students' confidence and academic interest as well as their school's reputation; and college faculty report that Advanced Placement students are far better prepared for serious academic work. South Carolina state regulations require teachers of Advanced Placement courses to be endorsed to teach the courses . www.ed.sc.gov/instruction/standards-learning/advanced-academic-programs/advanced-placement/

**Table 5**
**Advanced Placement (AP) Course Examination Performance of Military-Connected Students (MCS) with Active Duty Parents and All Students in South Carolina 2019-20 Passing Rates AP Courses with Highest Number of Tests**

| | Course Title | Number of Tests | Percentage Passing: Military-connected students | Percentage Passing All Students in SC |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Human Geography | 298 | 67% | 59% |
| 2 | *English Language & Composition | 242 | 62% | 63% |
| 3 | U. S. History | 215 | 60% | 58% |
| 4 | Psychology | 121 | 58% | 65% |
| 5 | *English Literature & Composition | 108 | 53% | 61% |
| 6 | European History | 105 | 56% | 51% |
| 7 | World History | 99 | 65% | 62% |
| 8 | *Biology | 77 | 57% | 71% |
| 9 | *Calculus AB* | 63 | 57% | 78% |
| 10 | U. S. Government | 56 | 38% | 61% |

*English, Science or Mathematics courses                    *Table shows the percentages

A total of 560 Advanced Placement Examinations were taken by Military-Connected Students (MCS) in grades 10,11 and 12 during the 2019-20 school year. MCS high school juniors (11) took the most exams (217) with seniors taking (193). Table 5 provides information on Advanced Placement courses (10) with the highest number of AP tests taken and passage rates for those courses. In school year 2019-20, Human Geography was the AP course with the highest number of tests administered and passing percentage (67 percent). For 9 of the 10 courses in the chart, MCS passing rates were above 52 percent. The passage rates for *English, Math, and science

AP courses ranged from 61.9 to 52.7 percent.  MCS students had higher AP percentage passing for rates for Human Geography and U.S. History.

**Career and Technology Education Certification**

The Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act (Perkins V) was signed into law on July 31, 2018, citing a mission that all students will achieve challenging academic and technical standards and be prepared for high-skill, high-wage, or high-demand occupations in current or emerging professions.  The Act also provides an increased focus on the academic achievement of Career and Technical Education (CTE) students, an emphasis on improving State and local accountability, and strengthens the connections between secondary and postsecondary education. Technical skill assessments are tools that can be used to improve and prepare students to enter the workplace by demonstrating career readiness.

**Table 6**
**MCS Top Career and Technology Certification/Credential Areas**

| Area of Certification/Credential | Number of Military-Connected Students | Number of High Schools/Career Centers Represented Statewide |
|---|---|---|
| OSHA10 | 77 | 34 |
| Health Providers Basic Life Support (BLS) | 69 | 8 |
| Micro Burst EMPLOYABILITY Soft Skills Certification | 55 | 20 |
| OSHA 10-Healthcare-On line Modules | 24 | 4 |
| Digital Literacy | 21 | 15 |
| ServSafe® Food Handler | 20 | 6 |

Table 6 includes a listing of certifications or credentials with the largest number of MCS students receiving them and the number of programs they represented statewide in 2019-20. These certifications/credentials are currently accepted as career readiness measures in the accountability system.

**High School Graduation Rate**

The federally approved on-time graduation rate identifies a cohort of students who were ninth grade students in a specific year and calculates the percentage of that cohort that graduates four years later. Students are removed from the cohort when they transfer to other degree-granting institutions or programs.  Students who transfer into a district are added to the cohort.

Available data identifies students by grade level and graduation status.  For students who were identified as being in twelfth grade during the 2019-120  timeframe, the EOC evaluation team could identify: (1) those students who graduated, (2) those who received a certificate or did not graduate, and (3) those students who transferred to other degree-granting institutions and were removed from the graduation cohort.  Based on this information, the graduation rates for military-connected students are included below.  Table 7 shows during the 2019-20 school year, the high school graduation rate for all military-connected students was 90.75 percent up from 86.9 in 2019. The state on-time graduation rate was 82.01 percent, slightly higher than 2019 (81.05).

**Table 7**
**2019 and 2020 High School Graduation Rates for**
**Military-Connected Students (MCS) and State Avg.**

| Year | Total Number of MCS | MCS Graduate Avg. | State Avg. |
|------|---------------------|-------------------|------------|
| **2019** | 868 | 86.9 | 81.1 |
| **2020** | 942 | 90.8 | 82.0 |

Source: SC Department of Education, March 2020 data reported to EOC.
https://www.screportcards.com/files/2020//data-files/

**Attendance Data**

[9]Student attendance rate is defined as the number of students present (as opposed to enrolled in) a school during the time it is in session, were computed using information provided by the South Carolina Department of Education. The attendance data for the 2019-20 school year was impacted by school closures due to COVID; for that reason, caution is urged when interpreting these data.

 During the 2019-20 school year, the average number of days absent for military-connected students was 3.7 days.  Table 8 shows the average number of days absent in South Carolina school districts with at least 30 military-connected students. Thirteen of these districts reported that military-connected students were absent for more than 3.7 school days.  In 2019-20, York 3 and Chesterfield had the highest average absence rate (4.3 days), and Lexington 2 and

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[9] For more information, refer to Military Child Education Coalition's "Military-Connected Students and Public-School Attendance Policies."  May be accessed at
http://www.militarychild.org/public/upload/files/SchoolAttendancePoliciesFINAL.pdf.

Spartanburg 2 had the lowest absence rate of 0 days. Districts in **bold** exceeded the average of 3.7 days absent in this grouping.

**Table 8**
**Average Number of Days Absent in School Districts with**
**at least 30 Military-Connected Students (MCS), 2019-20 School Year**

| District | Number of MCS | Average Number of Days Absent |
|---|---|---|
| Colleton | 39 | 3.7 |
| **Chesterfield** | 275 | 4.3 |
| Dillon 4 | 54 | 2.4 |
| Aiken | 609 | 3.6 |
| Horry | 2,285 | 3.1 |
| **Spartanburg 7** | 88 | 4.2 |
| Darlington | 314 | 3.7 |
| **Edgefield** | 80 | 3.8 |
| York 1 | 45 | 3.2 |
| Greenville | 135 | 3.5 |
| Kershaw | 763 | 3.4 |
| Oconee | 154 | 3.6 |
| Anderson 1 | 357 | 3.6 |
| Charleston | 355 | 2.9 |
| **Lexington 1** | 1,091 | 4.2 |
| **Sumter** | 795 | 3.9 |
| **York 3** | 221 | 4.3 |
| **Lexington 5** | 567 | 4 |
| Richland 2 | 4,058 | 3.2 |
| Spartanburg 2 | 104 | 0 |
| Berkeley | 1,171 | 3.3 |
| **Dorchester 2** | 2,032 | 3.8 |
| Lancaster | 142 | 2.7 |
| Georgetown | 160 | 2.8 |
| Beaufort | 1,386 | 3.6 |
| **Florence 1** | 186 | 3.8 |
| **Hampton** | 46 | 4.2 |
| SC Public Charter School | 281 | 2.4 |
| Florence 2 | 33 | .6 |
| York 1 | 45 | 3.6 |
| **Pickens** | 137 | 4.0 |
| Charter Institute at Erskine | 45 | 0.2 |
| Lexington 2 | 77 | 0 |

Note: Statewide attendance data not sent to EOC prior to report publication.

During the 2019-20 school year, the average number of days absent among all schools was 3.7 days, representing a 1.5 percent decrease from the 2018-19 school year average of 5.2 days. Table 9 lists nine school districts with military-connected students exceeding the average number of days absent among all school districts listed reported more days absent than the MCS 3.7 days absent average. The average number of days absent among military students remained constant at 4.7 days in 2018-19. Chesterfield and York 3 had the highest number of average days absent for military-connected students (4.3 days), in 2019-20.

**Table 9**
**School Districts with at least 30 Military-Connected Students (MCS),**
**Exceeding Average Number of Days Absent Among All SC Districts)**

| District | Number of MCS | Average Number of Days Absent |
|---|---|---|
| Chesterfield | 275 | 4.3 |
| York 3 | 221 | 4.3 |
| Spartanburg 7 | 88 | 4.2 |
| Lexington1 | 1091 | 4.2 |
| Hampton | 46 | 4.2 |
| Pickens | 137 | 4.0 |
| Sumter | 795 | 3.9 |
| Edgefield | 80 | 3.8 |
| Dorchester 2 | 2032 | 3.8 |

## Appendix A
## Resources for Military-Connected Students and Families

**Military Child Education Coalition (MCEC)**

During the 2019-20 school year, the South Carolina Military Child Education Coalition (MCEC) was relocated to the Division of Veterans Affairs and Department of Commerce (budget).

In 2019, the Military Child Education Coalition (MCEC) updated and revised its portfolio to include additional course offerings, professional offerings, and support to military-connected families. This past year, MCEC trainers presented 80 courses to over 1500 professionals with an extended reach impact on nearly 21,000 adults. Support was continued to over 25,000 military-connected students, their parents, and education professionals across 20 school districts nationwide. Affiliates saw encouraging expansion in 2019, extending across Alabama, Texas, Virginia, Florida, and South Carolina.

**South Carolina School Support Resources**
School liaison officers continue to provide support and guidance about workshop content and family enrichment offerings to Military-connected families.

**School Liaison Officers** serve as a primary point of contact for students and their families transitioning to new communities and schools. They are also a resource for schools and school districts. To view a list of school liaison officers by branch, go to:
https://www.dodea.edu/Partnership/schoolLiaisonOfficers.cfm.

**Fort Jackson School Liaisons** provide ongoing educational support for military-connected schools.  This comprehensive website provides information about public and private schools, homeschooling, and local school districts.

https://jackson.armymwr.com/programs/school-liaison-officer

https://www.facebook.com/Jackson-CYS-School-Liaison-Officer-152018352105106/

**Shaw Air Force Base** is home to the 20th Fighter Wing, Headquarters Nine Air Force/United States Central Command of Air Forces, and several associate units.  Shaw's units are assigned to Air Combat Command, Langley Air Force Base, Virginia. School Liaison information may be found at the website below.

https://www.shaw.af.mil/About-Us/Newcomer-Information/

**Marine Corps Air Station and the Marine Corps Recruit Depot** are in Beaufort.  School support information may be accessed at the website below.

http://www.mccs-sc.com/mil-fam/slp.shtml

**Joint Base Charleston** School information may be accessed under the "Charleston Area Schools" link at:

https://www.jbcharleston.jb.mil/About-Us/Library/Newcomers

## South Carolina Program Resources

The **International Baccalaureate** Program helps students develop skills to create a better and peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect.  For more information, including a list of South Carolina schools participating in the IB Program, go to https://www.ed.sc.gov/instruction/standards-learning/advanced-academic-programs/international-baccalaureate-programs-ib/.

**Four-year-old kindergarten** is available in the state and is offered in public schools and private childcare centers.  State-funded prekindergarten for four-year-olds serves children in the "most at-risk" category, where family income falls 185% below poverty level or the family is Medicaid eligible.  Families may also be eligible for other services such as Even Start, Head Start, state-funded family literacy programs, Social Security, food stamps, Medicaid, or temporary assistance to needy families (TANF).

Children also qualify in case of a documented developmental delay, an Individual Education Plan (IEP) requiring pre-kindergarten, incarceration of a parent, placement in a foster home, or a child who is homeless.  Documentation of family or child "most at-risk" conditions must be kept on file for review. Children who participate in free and reduced meal programs at the center/school they attend may also qualify if income eligibility is verified on each child and records are kept on file for review.

Some districts use local funds to serve children who are not in the "at risk" category.  Several districts serve all children who request services.  A few districts charge a fee for non-qualifying children, but state regulations prohibit any fees for "at risk" children.

State law says that "students may enter kindergarten in the public schools of this State if they will attain the age of four on or before September first of the applicable school year."

https://www.ed.sc.gov/instruction/early-learning-and-literacy/cerdep/

## National Resources

**Department of Defense Education Activity** provides professional development training in a webinar format for school liaison officers.  This information is also helpful for local school districts to understand the needs of students and how to support them in a comprehensive manner.

https://www.dodea.edu/

**Military Impacted School Association** is a national organization of school superintendents. MISA supports school districts with a high concentration of military children by providing detailed, comprehensive information regarding impact aid and resources for families and schools.

http://militaryimpactedschoolsassociation.org/

The **Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission (MIC3)** provides consistent policy in every school district and in every state that voluntarily joins MIC3.  MIC3 addresses key educational transition issues such as enrollment, placement, attendance, eligibility, and graduation.

http://www.mic3.net

The **Military Child Education Coalition (MCEC)** focuses on ensuring quality educational opportunities for all military children affected by mobility, family separation, and transition.  A 501(c)(3) non-profit, world-wide organization, the MCEC performs research, develops resources, conducts professional institutes, and conferences, and develops and publishes resources for all constituencies.

http://www.militarychild.org/


**Military OneSource** is a confidential Department of Defense-funded program providing comprehensive information on every aspect of military life at no cost to active duty, National Guard, and reserve members, and their families.

Information includes, but is not limited to, deployment, reunion, relationships, grief, spouse employment and education, parenting, and childhood services. It is a virtual extension to installation services.

The program also provides free resources to schools, including books and videos with relevant topics that help students cope with divorce and deployment.

www.militaryonesource.mil


**National Military Family Association (**NMFA) a voice for military families advocating on behalf of service members, their spouses, and their children. According to NMFA's website, NMFA is the "go to" source for Administration Officials, Members of Congress, and key decision makers when they want to understand the issues facing military families.

https://www.militaryfamily.org/

**South Carolina Military-connected Student Support**

All states, including South Carolina, have joined the Interstate Compact regarding Educational Opportunity for Military Children to ease the transition for students and to ensure that there are no barriers to educational success imposed on children of military families because of frequent moves and deployment of their parents. Former Governor Mark Sanford signed the Compact on June 11, 2010 and it became law in South Carolina on July 1, 2010. For a list of the Compact member states, please visit the Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission (MIC3).

As a member of the Interstate Commission, South Carolina has a seat at the table to discuss with other member states the Articles of the Compact and identify best practices to ensure the educational issues associated with military families during their transitions are successfully addressed.

**Council Members**
Yolande Anderson State Chair, Education Dept. Appointee
LTC Felix Childs, Governor Appointee
Wanda Davis, Military Family Education Liaison
Sen Paul Campbell, State Senator
Sen Darrell Jackson, State Senator Rep
. Robert Brown, State Representative Rep.
Joseph Daning, State Representative
Dr. Baron Davis, Richland Two Superintendent
Dr. Sharon Wall, St. Board of Education
Beth Shwedo, Military Family Member LTC
Clarence Bowser, SC National Guard
Charlie Farrell, Military Installations Representative
Sheila J Spouse, Representative of CG at Fort Jackson

**School Liaison Officers**
Sharon Gardner, Charleston AFB
John F. Kennedy, Shaw AFB
Kimberly Wiley, MCAS Beaufort/Parris Island
James E. Harris, Jr., SC National Guard
Tina Paulson, Marine Corp.
Chris Gerry, USAF

https://ed.sc.gov/newsroom/military-interstate-children-s-compact-commission/sc-mic3-council-members/

## Appendix B: Number of Military-Connected Students Reported by Districts, February 2020

| District Name | Military-Connected Student Enrollment | District Name | Military-Connected Student Enrollment | District Name | Military-Connected Student Enrollment |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Richland 2 | 4060 | Edgefield | 80 | Anderson 04 | 6 |
| Horry | 2285 | Lexington 2 | 77 | Fairfield 01 | 5 |
| Dorchester 2 | 2032 | Dillon 4 | 54 | Richland 01 | 5 |
| Beaufort | 1386 | Hampton | 46 | Saluda 01 | 5 |
| Berkeley | 1173 | Charter Institute at Erskine | 45 | Williamsburg 01 | 5 |
| Lexington 1 | 1091 | York 1 | 45 | York 02 | 4 |
| Sumter | 796 | Lancaster | 41 | Spartanburg 01 | 3 |
| Kershaw | 764 | Colleton | 39 | Anderson 02 | 2 |
| Aiken 01 | 610 | Florence 2 | 33 | Barnwell 29 | 2 |
| Lexington 5 | 568 | Florence 3 | 27 | Spartanburg 05 | 2 |
| Anderson 1 | 357 | Anderson 3 | 26 | Abbeville 60 | 1 |
| Charleston | 355 | Clarendon 2 | 22 | Bamberg 01 | 1 |

| District Name | Military-Connected Student Enrollment | District Name | Military-Connected Student Enrollment | District Name | Military-Connected Student Enrollment |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Darlington | 314 | Newberry | 16 | Barnwell 45 | 1 |
| SC Public Charter School District | 281 | Orangeburg | 16 | Chester 01 | 1 |
| Chesterfield | 275 | Lexington 4 | 15 | Clarendon 03 | 1 |
| York 3 | 221 | Cherokee | 12 | Deaf & Blind School | 1 |
| Florence 1 | 186 | Greenwood 50 | 12 | Laurens 55 | 1 |
| Georgetown | 160 | Laurens 56 | 9 | Lexington 03 | 1 |
| Oconee | 154 | Spartanburg 3 | 9 | Marion 10 | 1 |
| Pickens | 137 | Union | 9 | Marlboro 01 | 1 |
| Greenville | 135 | McCormick | 8 | Spartanburg 04 | 1 |
| Spartanburg 2 | 104 | York 04 | **7** | Spartanburg 06 | 1 |
| Spartanburg 7 | 88 | Allendale 01 | 6 | | |