



PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF NORTH CAROLINA

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION | June St. Clair Atkinson, Ed.D., *State Superintendent*

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TO LEA Superintendents
Charter School Directors
Principals
Student Services, Data Managers

FROM June St. Clair Atkinson *JSA*

MILITARY STUDENT IDENTIFIER COLLECTION

The first mandatory school level collection of military student identifier data has been underway since the beginning of this school year. The purpose of school staff having the identifier information is to better serve the unique needs of military connected students.

- The deadline for all LEAs to complete their collection for this school year is June 30, 2016.
- For the next school year (SY16-17), the deadline for annual collection will be January 31, 2017.
- Charter schools utilizing PowerSchool may participate but the collection is optional for those schools.
- Statutory Reference is §115C-12(18)(f)

A few lessons and reminders derived from interactions this year:

Security

- Please follow all applicable federal and state law regarding disclosure and data privacy of student information including military connection. (i.e. no disclosure of military-connected status to external parties). If you have non-PII data inquiries of this type and the request may have merit please contact doug.taggart@dpi.nc.gov, 919-807-3346.
- Please communicate or reiterate the sensitive nature of this requirement to your staff.
- The purpose of school staff having the information is to better serve the unique needs of military connected students.
- Discussion around a student's military connection is encouraged in appropriate settings.

Process

- Some military families are reluctant to provide their military connection details to schools. Due to this concern, pay grade and installation have been made optional within PowerSchool after the initial roll-out to encourage participation by these families.
- Relationship, branch, and status are required to have a valid military relationship in PowerSchool. If you have a family expressing concerns over what is being collected, please direct them to Doug Taggart at doug.taggart@dpi.nc.gov, 919-807-3346.

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AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY/AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER

- Some parents reported that their schools made the student feel they were being punished for not returning a form. While it is a mandatory collection on the school system's part, a parent/guardian can still choose not to provide the form back even if they are military connected. However, they should be encouraged to do so as it is in the best interest of the school to know the military communities they serve.

JSA:DT:mw