

Increasing the Focus on Military-Connected Students
Amendment to the Strengthening America’s Schools Act of 2013
Offered by Senator Patty Murray

The Challenge

Today, over one million military-connected children live with perpetual challenges presented by frequent moves, parental deployments, and a host of life 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 or physical challenges.

However, there is currently no reliable, consistent school-based data on the academic well-being of these students. Without a military-connected student identifier, school districts cannot track their military-connected students’ performance, educators cannot as effectively prepare transitioning students for their new school, and there are no performance indicators for the local districts to discover practices and processes worthy of attention and replication to ensure success for these vulnerable students.

The Solution

The Elementary and Secondary Education Act already requires reporting on student populations under Section 1111. To comply with these reporting requirements, school districts and states already collect and report student demographic and performance data on identifiers including gender, ethnicity, and low-income status.

The Murray amendment creates a report-only subgroup for military-connected children to generate precise data about where our military-connected children attend school and how they are performing. This information will assist federal, state, and local entities to best target resources for this vulnerable population. The data generated by this amendment will not be used for accountability purposes.

Groups Supporting the Amendment

American Association of School Administrators
America’s Promise Alliance
Association of the U.S. Army
Military Child Education Coalition
Military Officers Association of America
National Association of Elementary School Principals
National Association of Secondary School Principals
National Association of State Boards of Education
National Guard Association of the United States
National Military Family Association

The policy in this amendment is also included in the White House “Strengthening Our Military Families: Meeting America’s Commitment” report released in January 2011.