# McConnell AFB Military Child Education Guide

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# Welcome to McConnell Air Force Base

Welcome to Wichita, home of McConnell Air Force Base and the 22d Air Refueling Wing! Wichita is a great area for families and you have a lot of choice when it comes to the education of your children. There are numerous school systems serving Team McConnell families. Families residing on base are zoned for the Derby School District (Wineteer Elementary, Derby Sixth Grade Center, Derby Middle School and Derby High School).

Families residing off-base have the opportunity to send their children to school in Wichita and the surrounding cities and counties. Private school options are numerous in this area including parochial and secular schools.

There are several active Homeschool groups in the area, including a sports league. Virtual school is also taking off in Kansas. Many of the local districts offer students the opportunity to take classes from home.

While we cannot provide you with the "best school" or "best district" in the area, we will work with you to find the district and school that best meet the needs of your child or children.

Choosing a school district is an important decision. Take into consideration all the factors that are important to your family. Are you the parent of a high school student looking for a particular athletic program, or JROTC, or AP class? Are you the parent of an elementary school student who thrives with small class sizes?

It's critical that you research your options. Asking friends for their recommendations is a great start, but make sure that your final decision is based on the needs of your children. If time allows, visit schools and get a firsthand look at the educational environment. And, of course, feel free to contact the School Liaison at any time with questions or a request for information.

Hopefully you will find the information in this guide helpful. The first section focuses on public schools, followed by private schools, homeschool, and virtual schools. There are also sections on Parent Support, Preparing for College, and Useful Links on the web.

Please contact the School Liaison Officer for any assistance you may need at (316) 759-6020, DSN 743-6020, or 22FSS.SLO@us.af.mil.

School Liaison Officer
McConnell AFB

# School Liaison Officer (SLO)

The School Liaison Officer, or SLO, is the installation's advocate for military-connected children associated with McConnell. Almost all bases have both a military and civilian School Liaison. The civilian SLO is your resource for the day-to-day needs and concerns of school-age military children. The SLO has an office in the Airman & Family Readiness Center.

SLOs are intended to help ease transitions for mobile military students. We want to see all military-connected students have success in school regardless of how many schools they may attend. We provide information to families on school choices, enrollment, placement, graduation, and much more. We will not select or recommend a school or school system for your child. You know the needs of your child better than anyone. SLOs will be happy to provide you with information based on what you think the best educational options are for your child.

The SLO builds and maintains relationships with local schools serving military children. SLOs educate teachers and administrators on the unique needs of military children and military culture. They also resolve issues that affect military children in and out of the classroom.

Responsibilities of the SLO include:

- Providing information on local schools for inbound families,
- Providing information on schools at the next assignment for outbound families,
- Developing partnerships and relationships with local school districts
- Promoting parental learning and involvement, and
- Identifying local concerns regarding military child education.

# Public Schools

**GENERAL INFORMATION**
The Wichita metro area is home to a large number of public school districts. Families who choose to live off base will want to research their options using the following information and resources. Several districts allow out-of-district students to apply for enrollment. The School Liaison will be happy to provide more information on a particular school or district. We currently provide services to 14 school districts with over 175 schools local to McConnell AFB.

***Enrollment***

Your home address will determine which schools your children will attend. If you choose to live on base your children will attend the Derby School District. Off-base families can provide the School Liaison Officer with their address to verify which schools to enroll in.

School typically begins in mid-August with official enrollment starting in late July for new students. Most districts require the following at the time of registration:

- Student's original birth certificate or certified copy
- Record of Immunizations (see below for additional information)
- Kansas Health Assessment (see below for additional information)
- Proof of residence: Letter from housing, rental contract or settlement papers, utility bill, etc.
- Address of previous school or official records

When you arrive you will need to make arrangements to enroll your child in school as soon as possible. If you are living in Temporary Lodging or if you are waiting for an on-base house to become available you can enroll your children in the Derby schools.

If you are in the process of securing a home rental or sale in another area, the districts will work with you to go ahead and get your child enrolled in the correct school and limit the amount of time they are out of the classroom. Please contact the School Liaison Officer to help facilitate that process.

***Immunizations/Physicals***

Kansas requires certain immunizations for any individual who attends school or a childcare program operated by a school. The only alternatives to a valid certificate of immunization are "(1) An annual written statement signed by a licensed physician starting the physical condition of the child to be such that the tests or inoculations would seriously endanger the life or health of the child, or (2) a written statement signed by one parent or guardian that the child is an adherent of a religious denomination whose religious teachings are opposed to such tests or inoculations" (KS Dept of Health & Environment).

In addition, any student entering early childhood or kindergarten will need a school entry physical, known as a Kansas Health Assessment. This requirement also exists for students under the age of 9 enrolling in a Kansas school for the first time. Middle and high school students intending to participate in a sport will need an annual physical as required by the Kansas State High School Activities Association. Your district can provide you with both of these forms.

See the following page for a list of required immunizations.

# Immunization Requirements for the 2012 - 2013 School Year

K.A.R. 28-1-20 defines immunizations required for any individual who attends school or a childcare program operated by a school. There are changes in requirements for immunizations for the upcoming school year. Please carefully review the requirements below. The usual number of doses required are listed; however there are exceptional circumstances that could alter the number of doses a child needs. If you have questions about your child's immunization status, contact your child's primary care provider or local health department.

***Proof of receiving the immunizations must be provided to the school prior to attending the first day of school.***

**Early Childhood Program Operated by a School**
**Ages 4 years and Under**

| Vaccine | Requirement |
|---|---|
| DTaP/DT (diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis) | 4 doses |
| IPV (polio) | 3 doses |
| MMR (measles, mumps, rubella) | 1 dose |
| Varicella (chickenpox) | 1 dose* |
| Hepatitis A | 2 doses |
| Hepatitis B | 3 doses |
| Hib (haemophilus influenza type B) | 3 doses |
| Prevnar (pneumococcal conjugate) | 4 doses |

**Kindergarten - Grade 3**

| Vaccine | Requirement |
|---|---|
| DTaP/DT (diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis) | 5 doses |
| IPV (polio) | 4 doses |
| MMR (measles, mumps, rubella) | 2 doses |
| Varicella (chickenpox) | 2 doses* |
| Hepatitis B | 3 doses |

**Grades 4 - 6**

| Vaccine | Requirement |
|---|---|
| DTaP/DT (diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis) | 5 doses |
| IPV (polio) | 4 doses |
| MMR (measles, mumps, rubella) | 2 doses |
| Varicella (chickenpox) | 1 dose** |
| Hepatitis B | 3 doses |

**Grades 7 - 8**

| Vaccine | Requirement |
|---|---|
| Tdap | 1 dose*** |
| IPV (polio) | 4 doses |
| MMR (measles, mumps, rubella) | 2 doses |
| Varicella (chickenpox) | 2 doses* |
| Hepatitis B | 3 doses |

**Grades 9 - 10**

| Vaccine | Requirement |
|---|---|
| Tdap | 1 dose*** |
| IPV (polio) | 4 doses |
| MMR (measles, mumps, rubella) | 2 doses |
| Varicella (chickenpox) | 1 dose** |
| Hepatitis B | 3 doses |

**Grades 11 - 12**

| Vaccine | Requirement |
|---|---|
| Tdap | 1 dose**** |
| IPV (polio) | 4 doses |
| MMR (measles, mumps, rubella) | 2 doses |
| Varicella (chickenpox) | 1 dose** |
| Hepatitis B | 3 doses |

* Varicella (chickenpox) vaccine is not required if child has had chickenpox disease ***and*** disease is documented by a physician signature.
*Without a physician signature, vaccine is required even if you believe your child has had chickenpox disease.*

** Although 1 dose of varicella is required for school attendance, 2 doses are recommended by the ACIP (Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices).

*** All 7th - 10th graders are required to have one dose of Tdap regardless of the interval since the last dose of Td (tetanus/diphtheria). This is to improve pertussis (whooping cough) immunity due to increasing outbreaks.

**** All 11th - 12th graders are required to have 1 dose of Tdap if there has been more than 10 years from the previous DTaP (pertussis containing vaccine). This is to improve pertussis (whooping cough) immunity due to increasing outbreaks.

**Additional ACIP Recommended Vaccines, NOT REQUIRED for School Entry**

- Influenza (flu) vaccine yearly for everyone 6 months and older
- Meningitis vaccine at age 11 years and a booster at age 16 years
- HPV vaccine (a three dose series) at age 11-12 years

**School Entry Physicals**

Any new early childhood program or kindergarten student will need a school entry physical completed within 12 months prior to the first day of school.
New students under the age of 9 years who are attending a Kansas school for the first time, also require a physical as described above.
***Documentation of the physical must be provided to the school prior to attending.***

## ***Fees***

Many parents enrolling their children in a Kansas school for the first time are surprised by the charging of book and activity fees. These fees are allowed by law and must be paid. They are not considered tuition. Charges include book rental, agendas, ID cards, locker rental, and parking permits. Amounts vary by age and by district. Fees increase with the grade of the student. Districts will waive or reduce fees for students who quality for free and reduced lunch.

Another group of fees is for participation in sports, music and other non-required school activities, referred to as "Pay to Play" or "Pay to Participate." Any student wishing to participate in an athletic team will be charged a one-time fee. In most districts this will cover them for the entire year no matter how many athletic activities they participate in. Students may also be charged fees to participate in activities (Debate, Forensics, Scholars Bowl, etc.) or in classes that require additional materials (Driver's Education, Family and Consumer Sciences, Technology, Art, etc.).

You should check each district's website prior to enrollment to determine the total cost of fees for students. Many parents experience "sticker shock" when they enroll their children and total up the fees for the first time.

## ***KIDS/Impact Aid***

Kansas Individual Data on Students (KIDS) and Impact Aid are the two ways districts can track military children. It is important for parents to fill out these forms correctly and completely.

**KIDS:** KIDS is the state's student-level data collection that tracks students as they move from school to school and also allows the state to gather data on groups of students. KIDS data is the basis for state and federal funding. This data will become more of a focus in Kansas over the next few years. Please be sure that any enrollment forms accurately reflect the military member's active duty service.

**Impact Aid:** Impact Aid is money from the federal government for school districts charged with educating military children. It is an opportunity for you to help provide much-needed funds for school districts serving high numbers of federally connected children.

Impact Aid is intended to compensate public schools for the constant fluctuation in enrollment and the loss of property tax revenue due to the presence of tax-exempt federal property (such as military installations, Indian lands and low-rent federal housing).

Districts who intended to apply for Impact Aid will provide parents with Federal Impact Aid Surveys at the beginning of each school year. It is critical that you accurately complete this form and return it to your district in a timely manner. The numbers of students are sent to the Department of Education for them to determine if the school district meets the minimum requirements for educating federally-connected students. Failing to complete and return the form means a loss of money for your child's school district. Please complete the entire form, especially the section that asks for name, branch of service, and rank. The district will keep this information confidential. Currently, only Derby Public Schools ask families to complete these surveys.

## ***Interstate Compact***

Military children will attend an average of six to nine schools during their K – 12 years. This presents significant challenges for the students and their families as public schools systems vary widely from state to state, not to mention country to country.

The Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children, typically referred to as simply "The Interstate Compact," provides for the uniform treatment of military children transferring between public school districts in states that have adopted the compact through their legislative process. Kansas was the first state to sign the Interstate Compact. As of April 2012, 42 states have signed the document and it covers a majority of the military children in this country.

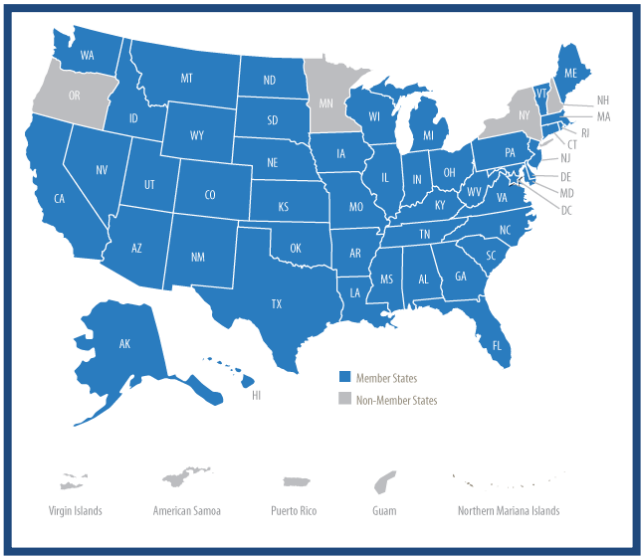
The compact seeks to make transition easier for military children, promote their educational success and make sure they are not penalized or delayed in achieving their educational goals.

Children eligible for assistance under the compact include children of:

- Active duty members and National Guard and Reserve on active duty orders
- Members or veterans who are medically discharged or retired (within 1 year)
- Members who die while on active duty

Some of the issues the compact covers are:

- Educational Records
- Immunizations
- K and 1st Grade Entrance Age
- Course Placement
- Special Education Services
- Placement Flexibility
- Absence Related to Deployment Activities
- Eligibility for Extracurricular Participation
- Graduation
    - Waiving courses if similar work has been completed
    - Allowing a student to receive a diploma from the sending school
    - Flexibility in accepting alternative testing for graduation in the receiving state




**MIC3 In the United States (as of May 2013)**
Map from http://mic3.net/

For more information about the Interstate Compact, please contact the School Liaison at 316-759-6020 or 22FSS.SLO@us.af.mil. Please also contact the SLO with any concerns about compact implementation in the local area. You can also visit the national website at www.mic3.net.

## ***Pre-K and Kindergarten***

Availability of Pre-K and Kindergarten varies by school district. Neither is mandatory in the state of Kansas. For district-specific details, please contact the School Liaison.

State funding for Kindergarten only supports a half-day program. For some students, this is a great way to ease in to the daily school routine. For those parents who are interested in a full-day program, many districts now offer fee-based full-day kindergarten. Students who qualify for the free or reduced meal program will have their fees waived or reduced. Applications are available from each district.

Your child must be 5 on or before August 31 in order to start Kindergarten. Ages for Pre-K will vary based on district and programs offered (3 or 4).

Most public Pre-Kindergarten programs are targeted at early childhood disability or students considered to be "at risk." The McConnell Child Development Center also offers a Preschool Enrichment Program for 3-5yr olds on a salary-based fee schedule.

## EARLY CHILDHOOD DISABILITY (ECD) VS. AT-RISK

**Early Childhood Disability Program:** These programs are for children experiencing a significant delay in at least one developmental area. Children are eligible to begin receiving services when they turn 3. Children will be screened by the district prior to being placed. Contact the district for a list of screening dates and locations for the year.

ECD programs will also have spaces for typically developing children, referred to as "peers." Peers will still take part in a screening and will then be notified that they can apply for one of the limited peer spots available.

**At-Risk:** Schools that participate in the Kansas 4-Year-Old At-Risk program require that a child turn 4 or on before August 31 in order to attend. The goal is to support school readiness and success for children as they enter Kindergarten. Children must meet one of the following criteria to be eligible:

1. Qualifies for the free lunch program
2. Single parent family (custodial parent)
3. SRS referral
4. Teen parents (At least one parent a teen at the time of the child's birth)
5. Either parent lacking a high school diploma or GED
6. Child qualifies for migrant status
7. Limited English Proficiency
8. Lower than expected developmental progress in one of these areas: Cognitive Development, physical development, communication/literacy, social-emotional/behavior, adaptive behavior/self-help skills

Some districts may reserve spaces for military children, but not all, and it may only be at one particular school. Be sure to ask about availability when you contact the district. The Derby School District works directly with The Opportunity Project (TOP) to provide pre-k education to students considered "at-risk" under their guidelines. There is a special identifier for military-connected students to access services through TOP if there are spaces available.

## PRIVATE PRE-K

While many public school districts offer a preschool program, most have very specific requirements for admission and very few available spaces. If you are unable to obtain a spot for your child in public school, the following may be of help.

There are numerous private schools in the area offering preschool programs. Please note, preschool is referred to by several different names depending on the school including Pre-K, K-4 and Early Childhood. Some private schools may offer financial aid. You can check which private schools are accredited by the Department of Education at www.KSDE.org. Those that are not accredited by Kansas may have accreditation through another organization and you can check with the school. This is a partial list of preschool programs in the area:

- Annoor Islamic School
  www.myannoor.com/ais
- Basic Beginnings Preschool
  http://basicbeginningspreschool.com/
- Bethany Lutheran School
  www.bethanylutheranschool.com
- Bethel Life School www.blswichita.com
- Central Christian Academy
  www.ccapreschool.org
- Discovery Place
  www.discoveryplacewichita.com

- Eastminster ECE www.eastminster.org/connect/earlychildhoodeducation
- Faith Lutheran School www.flsderby.com/pre_school.html
- Holy Cross Lutheran www.lovemyschool.net
- Honey Tree Academy (Branches Academy) www.honeytreeacademy.com
- Jack & Jill Preschool www.jackandjillpreschool.org/
- KinderCare Preschool www.KinderCare.com
- La Petite Academy www.Lapetite.com/preschool
- McConnell Child Development Ctr (CDC) http://refuelmcconnell.com/child-development-center
- St. Mary School stmarysderby.com/school/preschool.html
- The Independent School www.theindependentschool.com/
- The Opportunity Project www.theopportunityproject.com/
- Tree House Learning Center www.treehouselearningcenter-ks.com
- West Side CC www.westsidechristian.org/#!preschool/c1vud
- Wichita Catholic Diocese www.catholicdioceseofwichita.org/catholic-schools
- Wichita Collegiate www.wcsks.com
- Wichita Montessori School www.wichitamontessori.com

**This is not a comprehensive list, rather, it is a representation of what is available to you in the community close to McConnell AFB**

There are several websites where you can search for local schools. The first, www.schoolquest.org, is managed by the Military Child Education Coalition. You can search for schools a certain distance from your zip code. It brings up both public and private schools and what grades they offer.

Another website is www.greatschools.org. Please note that their ratings are based on input from other users. It is unclear where their data is pulled from. You can also conduct Google search to get an idea of other preschool programs out there that might be an option for your family. Please contact the SLO if you have questions. There are admissions packets and brochures provided by several schools at the Airman & Family Readiness Center.

# Graduation Requirements

Kansas graduation requirements vary by district. A minimum of 21 credits is required by the Kansas Department of Education. Please check with the School Liaison if you have questions about credit transfers and graduation requirements for high school students.

SAMPLE REQUIREMENTS:

4 Credits Language Arts
3 Credits Math (1 must be Algebra 1 or higher)
3 Credits Science (Most districts require Lab Sciences)
3 Credits Social Science
    1 credit US History
    ½ credit US Government
    1 credit World History or AP European History
1 Credit Fine Arts
½ Credit Speech (not all districts)
½ Credit Computer Studies (not all districts)
1 Credit Health/PE
9-10 Credits electives
25 Total Credits Required

Please note that these are the minimum requirements for obtaining a high school diploma. College-bound students should check the admissions requirements for each institution they are considering.

# Preparing for College

It is never too early to start planning (and saving!) for college. Students should begin keeping records and thinking seriously about postsecondary education during their middle school years. Military children should already have well-kept records to help with school transitions. Those that pertain to college application include records of volunteer work, extracurricular activities, awards won, jobs held, and academic records (grades and test scores). Students should keep a portfolio with transcripts/report cards, awards, newspaper articles, photographs and other items collected.

They should also be planning their course schedules accordingly. Colleges may require different courses or more courses than the minimum required to obtain a high school diploma. The Academic Passport was developed as part of the Army Secondary Education Transition Study (SETS). This list of requirements is recommended to help mobile military students transition easily between schools and also be admitted to college.
The recommended courses are as follows:

- 4 Credits English (AP or IB strongly recommended)
- 4 Credits Math (Alg I by 9th grade, Geometry, Alg II. Recommend Pre-Calculus, Calculus, Statistics and AP or IB courses)
- 3 Credits Social Studies (Must take US and World History, US Government and Economics are important, and they strongly recommend AP and IB)
- 4 Credits Science (3 Lab sciences – Biology, Chemistry, Physics and AP/IB courses are recommended)
- 2 Credits Foreign Language (More credits are good, a second language is great.)
- 1 Credit Computer Science

The cost of a college education rises each year. Begin searching for scholarships early. Make notes of the requirements and the period in which applications are accepted. Start a spreadsheet to keep yourself organized.

Beware of scholarship scams. If they ask for money in order to search for scholarships or apply for scholarship money, it is probably a scam. Check the Federal Trade Commission website for information on identifying scams (www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/microsites/scholarship/index).

For more information and to receive resources about scholarship opportunities, contact the McConnell AFB SLO at 22FSS.SLO@us.af.mil.

# Special Education

Special education services are provided by the district to eligible students. Every child in this country is entitled to receive a Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE). Each district has a Special Education Services Department. Children enrolled in Kansas private schools can also benefit from public school system services.

Parents of children identified as gifted should note that gifted children are required to have an IEP in the state of Kansas. This may mean that a district will require a reevaluation of a student in order for the student to continue receiving services.

You should know your child's rights and your rights as a parent under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA). You know your child better than anyone else and you have the opportunity to be part of any decision making team that meets regarding your child. Visit the website of Families Together, the Kansas Parent Training Center and parent partner of KSDE, at www.familiestogetherinc.org.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact the School Liaison Officer or EFMP-FS Coordinator (see page 18). Below is a brief overview of Kansas' special education process.

KANSAS IEP PROCESS:
**Child Find:** Schools use the child find process to identify students who may need special education services. If the child is under age 5, child find is referred to as "screening." Screenings must be provided within 30 days of a request. Children in grades K-12 usually begin with general education interventions. A team will develop an intervention plan based on the needs of the individual child. If the interventions are more than what can be provided in general education, that student is referred to the next step.

**Initial Evaluation and Eligibility**: During an evaluation, information is collected about the student to determine if he/she meets KSDE criteria for an exceptionality and needs special education services. Parents will be notified ahead of time and asked to consent to an evaluation. They will also receive a copy of the evaluation report documenting the decision of the assessment team. If a child is determined ineligible for services, the team will consider other options that might help including enrichment programs or services under Section 504. Eligible students will begin the IEP Process.

**Individualized Education Program (IEP):** An IEP is a written plan for a student with an exceptionality to ensure better educational results. It is based on the child's individual needs. A team (including the student's parents,) creates the IEP to guide the supports and services provided. It is reviewed annually to ensure the student is achieving the goals and can be revised, if needed.

**Reevaluation:** At least once every three years, a reevaluation of the student's needs will be conducted. Parents must receive written notice and then consent to the reevaluation. It can be conducted more frequently. The IEP team will review the previous evaluation information and may ask for more information to determine if the student still has an exceptionality. They will also consider if the student needs additions or modifications in order to meet the goals set out in the IEP and to allow the student to participate, if possible, in general education.

For additional information from the Kansas Department of Education on the Special Education Process, visit www.ksde.org/Default.aspx?tabid=101.

# Public Schools

**DISTRICTS**
To take a closer look at a public school district, there are two websites that provide reports on Kansas schools and districts:

1. Kansas State Department of Education Report Card: http://svapp15586.ksde.org/rcard/
    a. The Kansas Report card is compiled annually to provide information on school performance.
2. Kansas K-12 Reports: http://svapp15586.ksde.org/k12/k12.aspx
    a. K-12 Reports provide detailed information on any school or district in the state. This includes enrollment, graduates, attendance rates, violence/crime, and advanced coursework.

In Kansas districts are referred to as a Unified School District or USD and each has a number attached. A brief outline of some of the USDs closest to McConnell is on the next few pages of this guide.

***Andover – USD 385***
www.usd385.org

The Andover Public School District has an enrollment of approximately 5,180 students attending six elementary schools, two middle, two high schools and an online school. Special education services are provided through the Butler County Special Education Cooperative. The district offers high school students Advanced Placement and Dual Credit courses through its partnership with Butler Community College.

Andover offers an all-day Kindergarten. This program is fee-supported (waived/reduced for free/reduced meal qualifiers). They also offer a fee-based Pre-Kindergarten for students who don't qualify for the At-Risk grant-funded program or the Early Childhood Special Education program.

***Derby – USD 260***
www.derbyschools.com

Derby serves more than 6,500 students, including residents of base housing, with nine elementary schools, a sixth grade center, a 7-8 middle school, and a high school. Derby offers the nationally recognized Project Lead the Way curriculum in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) as well as Advanced Placement courses.

Students in base housing will attend:

- Wineteer Elementary, Grades PreK-5
- Derby Sixth Grade Center, Grade 6
- Derby Middle School, Grades 7-8
- Derby High School, Grade 9-12

Derby also offers open enrollment for students starting in Kindergarten on a space available basis for families who do not reside within the district boundaries. Students must submit an Out-of-District Waiver annually. There are three types of waivers depending on whether a student will attend in person, online or in a combination of the two. Waivers are available on the district website.

***Goddard – USD 265***
www.goddardusd.com

Goddard Public Schools is located directly west of Wichita. The school system is comprised of five K-4 elementary schools, two 5-6 intermediate schools, two 7-8 middle schools and three high schools serving a total of more than 4,900 students. The district expects to see continued growth. Special education services are provided through the Sedgwick County Special Education Cooperative. Goddard accepts enrollment applications from out-of-district students. They started a fee-based full-day Kindergarten for the 2012-2013 school year (fees are waived/reduced for free/reduced meal qualified students).

Eisenhower High School was named one of the first-ever Green Ribbon Schools by the Department of Education honoring schools that create green environments and provide students with a high-quality environmental and outdoor education.

***Haysville – USD 261***
www.usd261.com

The Haysville school system has more than 5,000 students enrolled in six elementary schools, two middle schools, one high school and two specialty facilities, Tri-City Day School and Haysville Alternative High School. Tri-City is a cooperative effort between Haysville, Derby and Mulvane to meet the diverse emotional and mental health needs of their K-12 students. Haysville Alternative High serves students who have struggled in the traditional high school setting. Haysville also offers limited open enrollment for all schools. They have a fee-based all-day Kindergarten program (fees waived/reduced for students qualifying for free/reduced meals).

Campus High School is a candidate school for the International Baccalaureate Diploma program. They will accept out-of-district students to the program on a space available basis if they meet academic requirements.

***Maize – USD 266***
www.usd266.com

The Maize Public School District is located on the northwest side of Wichita and serves 6,600 students in eight facilities. It has one K-5 elementary, one K-1 elementary, one K-2 elementary, and two 2-5 elementary schools; two middle schools; two high schools; and one alternative high school. The district also has an Early Childhood Center for children from birth to age 5 that offers Parents as Teachers (birth to 3), Pre-K (At-Risk and ECD), and Starlets (preschool prep for 3-5 year olds).

The district is proud of the technology-rich environment it has created including interactive white boards, laptops and Interactive Distance Learning Labs. Currently, Maize allows students and parents to submit a preference for which of the two high schools they would prefer to attend. Both schools offer Advanced Placement courses and a variety of activities.

***Mulvane – USD 263***
www.usd263.k12.ks.us

Mulvane is a small district with approximately 1,900 students that lies 10 miles south of Wichita. There are five schools in the district: Munson Primary (K-2), Mulvane Grade School (3-5), Mulvane Middle School (6-8), Mulvane High School (9-12) and Mulvane Academy (a charter school for

students in grades 9-12 who have struggled in a traditional school setting; enrollment is limited to 20 students).

The school district predicts strong growth with enrollment expected to increase 15% over the next 10 years. Mulvane also offers adults the opportunity to finish their high school education through the Mulvane Learning Connection (a partnership with the South Central Kansas Education Service Center). The high school currently offers six AP classes, two honors math courses and numerous dual credit college courses through a partnership with Cowley County Community College.

***Rose Hill – USD 394***
www.usd394.com

Rose Hill is a smaller district with one primary school (grades K-2), one intermediate school (grades 3-5), a middle school (grades 6-8) and a high school (grades 9-12). USD 394 has an enrollment of approximately 1,700 students. The school system is excited about its technology in the classroom including laptops, Smartboards and the IPod Touch.

For the 2012-2013 school year, Rose Hill High School will be offering the Early College Health Science Academy, a partnership with Butler Community College. Students interested in a health care field will split their time and earn their high school diploma and up to 54 hours of college credit.

***Wichita – USD 259***
www.usd259.com

The Wichita Public School District is the largest school district in Kansas with an enrollment of more than 50,000 students. There are 54 elementary schools, 17 middle schools, three K-8 schools, 11 high schools and 16 other special program locations. Wichita offers magnet schools and other special programs including the International Baccalaureate (IB) program. There is Pre-IB for grades 6-8 at Robinson Middle School and IB at East High for grades 9-12.

Magnet applications are accepted every spring for students who wish to attend a magnet school that they are not already zoned for in their neighborhood. Currently Wichita does not accept out of district application.

***Valley Center – USD 262***
http://usd262.net/

Valley Center USD is a 5-A suburban school district just north of Wichita off of I-135. The district has a student population of approximately 2,700 in grades k-12, plus an alternative/degree completion high school. There is one pre-kindergarten through 4th grade building, two kindergarten through 4th grade buildings, one 5-6th grade intermediate school, one 7-8th grade middle school and one 9-12th grade comprehensive high school.

Valley Center Schools is a rare find! We blend a rich tradition of 1.) high expectations that every student master essential skills in core content areas with 2.) multiple opportunities for students to explore their individual interests, "said Cory Gibson, USD262 Superintendent.

# Private Schools

There are numerous private schools in the Wichita area, both parochial and secular. It is strongly recommended that you research schools you are considering and validate their credentials and accreditation. It is always a good idea to visit the campus. Visit and meet with a representative before you make any financial commitments. You should ask for information on financial aid, including any military discounts.

As with public schools, there are no recommendations for any particular school. The Kansas Department of Education does list state- accredited private schools at www.KSDE.org. The 2011-2012 list of schools is included below. Also included are a list of other private schools in the area and a list of KSDE-recognized accrediting agencies to help you get started on your research.

## PRIVATE SCHOOLS ACCREDITED BY KSDE

| | |
|---|---|
| Annoor Islamic School | www.myannoor.com/ais |
| Bethany Lutheran School | www.bethanylutheranschool.com |
| Bethel Life School | www.blswichita.com |
| Branches Academy | www.branchesacdemy.com |
| Heartspring | www.heartspring.org |
| Holy Cross Lutheran School | www.lovemyschool.net |
| Wichita Catholic Diocese | www.cdowk.org |
| Word of Life Traditional School | www.wolts.org |

## PRIVATE SCHOOLS ACCREDITED BY OTHER AGENCIES

| | |
|---|---|
| Calvary Christian School | www.ccswichita.org |
| Central Christian Academy | www.ccalions.org |
| The Independent School | www.theindependentschool.com |
| Three Angels School | www.threeangels.org |
| Trinity Academy | www.trinityacademy.org |
| Wichita Collegiate School | www.wcsks.com |
| Wichita Friends School | www.wichitafriendsschool.org |
| Wichita Montessori School | www.wichitamontessori.com |

## RECOGNIZED K-12 ACCREDITING AGENCIES

### *National Accrediting Agencies*

- Accrediting Association of Seventh-day Adventist schools, colleges and universities (North America Division)
- Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI)
- Association of Christian Teachers and Schools Assembly of God (ACTS)
- American Association of Christian Schools (AACS)
- Christian Schools International (CSI)
- International Christian Accrediting Association
- Montessori School Accreditation Commission
- National Christian School Association
- National Independent Private Schools Association
- National Lutheran School Accreditation (NLSA)
- Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod School Accreditation (WELSSA)

### *Regional Accrediting Associations*

- Middle States Association
- New England Association
- North Central Association
- Southern Association
- Western Association

### *Regional Associations of Independent Schools*

- Association of Independent Schools of New England
- Independent Schools Association of the Central States
- Independent Schools Association of the Southwest
- Pacific Northwest Association of Independent Schools
- Southern Association of Independent Schools

This list is to help you get started. There may be additional schools out there and you can use search engines such as Google and www.privateschoolreview.com to further your research. Please remember to check their accreditation. This will be essential for college-bound students, who should ensure that they graduate from an accredited high school program in order to have an easy transition to college.

# Homeschool

Kansas does not authorize "home instruction" or "homeschooling" specifically. However, the state does recognize Non-Accredited private schools. If you intend to homeschool here in Kansas, you will need to register once with the Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE) to be classified as a Non-Accredited Private School. A non-accredited school satisfies compulsory attendance laws, but is not accredited by the State Board of Education.

There is no fee charged to register a school. You will register the name and address of the elementary or secondary school (homeschool). Registration consists of filling out a simple form by mail or online. You will not receive any kind of confirmation.

Kansas will not ask to see any records, but recommends that you keep accurate and complete records of progress. Students will need these if they transfer to a public school or apply for admission to college. Accredited schools are not required to accept transfer credits. The state will not issue diplomas and they will not recognize private school diplomas as meeting any state requirements. Colleges. and universities determine their own criteria for admission from non-accredited schools.
Register online at:
http://www.ksde.org/Default.aspx?tabid=1684

For further information or to request a printed registration form contact:
Non-Accredited Private Schools (KSDE )
Attn: Tate Toedman
120 SE 10th Avenue
Topeka, KS 66612-1182
PHONE: (785) 368-7088

**RESOURCES:**
There are numerous support groups for homeschool families in the local area to share resources, work together and participate in sports. The Teaching Parents Association has a comprehensive list of statewide groups on their website. The McConnell AFB Library also offers resources and activities for homeschool students. For more information:

McConnell AFB Library www.mcconnellafblibrary.com
Teaching Parents Association www.wichitahomeschool.org
Wichita Area Homeschool Athletic Association www.wichitawarriors.org
Kansas state dept. of Education Homeschooling http://www.ksde.org/Default.aspx?tabid=1684
Home School Assoc. for Military Families http://www.hsamf.org

If you are interested in putting together another homeschool group specifically for McConnell families, please contact the School Liaison with your ideas.

# Virtual Schools

Virtual schools are another option for families in Kansas. Students can take accredited coursework online from home. Some districts may allow virtual students to participate in extracurricular activities. Please check with each individual program for their policies. We strongly recommend researching programs and their accreditation before enrolling your child and making a financial commitment.

The programs listed below are those accredited by the Kansas Department of Education. These are just a few of the programs based closest to Wichita. You can visit www.KSDE.org for a full listing.

**KSDE ACCREDITED VIRTUAL SCHOOLS**

- Learning2 eSchool of Wichita www.learning2eschool.com
  - Wichita Public Schools, grades K-12
- Heartland Virtual Academy www.k12local.com/hva
  - Heartland/ESSDACK District and uses K-12 curriculum, K-8
- Andover eCademy www.andoverecademy.org
  - Andover Public Schools, grades K-12

**KSDE ACCREDITED VIRTUAL PROGRAMS**

- Derby Public Virtual www.derbyschools.com
  - Derby Public Schools, grades K-12
- The Learning Center at Valley Center http://vcks.lc.groupfusion.net/
  - Valley Center Public Schools, High School Diploma (including Adult Learners)
- Maize Online www.usd266.com
  - Maize Public Schools, grades 9-12
- Maize Virtual Preparatory School www.maizevirtualprepschool.com
  - Maize Public Schools using Calvert curriculum, grades K-8
- Southeast Kansas Educational Service Center www.sckesc.org
  - Online Classes, Diploma Completion

# Advocacy & Support

**PASS**

PASS stands for Parent Advocates for Students and Schools. The goal of the PASS program is to educate military parents and establish networking opportunities to bring about the best educational outcomes for military-connected families. Through being a PASS Volunteer Parent Advocate, parents can enhance resilience through training and creating deeper ties to the military and the community. It is imperative that parents prepare for future challenges that may arise in their child's education journey, and PASS provides you the tools and the platform for expressing your concerns. Workshops offered regularly include: Starting Your Child in School, Roadmap to Your Child's Future, Teaming with School Personnel, School Transitions and Individualized Education Plan (IEP).

For more information on workshops or volunteer opportunities with PASS, please contact the School Liaison Officer or Find Us on Facebook at http://www.facebook.com/McConnellPASS

**EFMP**

The Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP) serves and supports military family members with special medical and educational needs. There are three components: Identification and Enrollment, Assignment Coordination, and Family Support (FS).

The EFMP-FS helps families identify and access resources and services. Some ways the program coordinator can assist are:

- Provide information and referrals to both military and community services
- Provide training on special needs topics
- Provide information on local schools and assistance in resolving issues with IEPs, 504 Plans, etc.
- Support groups
- Warm handoffs to the EFMP at the next installation

The EFMP-FS for McConnell AFB is located at the Airman & Family Readiness Center and can be reached by phone at (316) 759-6020 or e-mail at 22.FSS.EFMP.McConnell@us.af.mil.

**TRANSITIONS**

The average military child will attend 6-9 different schools during their K-12 years. While moving is a significant challenge for the whole family, there are additional challenges for school age children. The military member can expect stability in the workplace each time they have to move. It's not at all the same for the mobile military child. The differences between school systems include testing, grading scales, graduation requirements, kindergarten entrance ages, etc.

To help ease transitions for students, it is important to keep records of academic and extracurricular achievements. You can start creating a portfolio for your child as early as elementary school. This is particularly important if your child is on an IEP or receiving any kind of additional services you will need replicated at the new school. As your children get older, encourage them to help you pick out the best examples of their work and add some personal touches to their portfolio. If you are relocating mid-year, make copies of the textbooks your children are using and note which page they stopped on.

Middle and high school children should keep more thorough records, including textbooks, course descriptions and school handbooks showing grading scales. Considering asking for recommendation letters from teachers and letters of introduction from coaches or instructors of activities who can speak to your child's abilities.

It is important to hand carry copies of your child's schools records, IEPs and other documents. Do not pack these in case your luggage is lost or delayed. The Military Child Education Coalition provides the following checklist that will help you as you begin to gather records for a PCS. A copy of the checklist can be found in your email or school packet you received with this guide.

# Useful Links

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|---|---|
| www.militarychild.org | **Military Child Education Coalition (MCEC)**<br>A national organization that advocates for the educational needs of military children. |
| http://militaryk12partners.dodea.edu | **Military K-12 Partners**<br>DoDEA partnership program providing info & support regarding needs of military children. Includes worldwide SLO contact information. |
| www.dodea.edu | **Department of Defense Education Activity** (DoDEA) operates schools located overseas and on some US installations. |
| www.ksde.org | **Kansas State Department of Education**<br>Info on Kansas schools including school report cards, program info, laws, policies & much more. |
| www.militaryhomefront.dod.mil | **MilitaryHOMEFRONT**<br>DoD website with detailed information for military families including helpful tools for PCS, information on EFMP |
| www.tutor.com/military | **Tutor.com**<br>Free, 24/7 tutoring & homework help from live tutors in more than 16 K-12 subjects, college and career transition, GED prep and resume writing. |
| www.soarathome.org | **Student Online Achievement Resources** Program for military families & their school districts providing assessments & tutorials to help military students & classmates. |
| http://apps.mhf.dod.mil/myom | **Military Youth on the Move**<br>Information and advice split up by age (Kids, Pre-Teens, Teenagers). |
| http://projects.kansas.com/schools/districts | **Schoolwise** (Wichita Eagle)<br>Info is available by district/school on state assessments, AYP, enrollment, health inspections & discipline issues. |
| www.schoolquest.org | **School Quest**<br>Find schools, state-by-state education resources, and much more. |
| http://svapp15586.ksde.org/rcard/ | **Kansas State Department of Education Report Cards** |
| http://svapp15586.ksde.org/k12/k12.aspx | **Kansas K-12 Reports** |
| http://www.ksde.org/Default.aspx?tabid=1684 | **KSDE Homeschool Registration** |
| http://www.mcconnell.af.mil/schoolliaisonofficer/<br>http://www.mcconnellafrc.com/slo-for-military-families/<br><br>http://www.facebook.com/McConnellAirmanandFamilyReadinessCenter | **Additional McConnell SLO or A&FRC information** |