

WE WELCOME OUR MILITARY FAMILIES!



Military Families! We are delighted to welcome you to Southwest Miami Senior High Public School, which serves over 2500 students. With myriad schooling options, services, and resources to meet the diverse needs of all learners, our school is an excellent choice for your family. We hope you find the resources listed helpful in getting acquainted with Southwest Miami and the Miami-Dade County Public School system. Remember, we are here to help.

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TRANSITION PLANNING FOR MILITARY FAMILIES



Ms. Walkiria Sarmiento- Community Liaison Specialist

- Ms. Sarmiento helps establish positive relationships with children and their families, developing and enhancing parental engagement with the school and other agencies.
- Upon receiving referrals, Ms. Sarmiento communicates with children experiencing difficulties and collaborates with families to address the children's concerns.
- Contact Ms. Sarmiento at wsarmiento1@dadeschools.net, or visit her at the main office .

Getting Started



If you are transitioning to the Navy, Marine Reserve Center, Miami Recruiting Battalion, or U.S. Southern Command with school-age children, every address in our school district is served by one residentially zoned elementary school, one residentially zoned middle school, and one residentially zoned high school.

However, if you are interested in enrolling your student in Southwest Miami SHS, reach out to Ms. Michelle Diaz in our Enrollment Services (School Registrar Office) at (305) 274-0181 ext 2274 or michelediaz@dadeschools.net.

Enrolling your child into our school system shouldn't be the toughest part of your transition to our area! Let us help you with a step-by-step guide!

Please consider the following questions:

Does Miami Dade County Public Schools have a record of your child in its system?

Do you have all the necessary documentation to officially register your child for school?

To begin, you may need to complete an “online enrollment application” if your child has never received public school services in Miami Dade County Public Schools. If your child already exists in our school district's student information system, please **DO NOT** create an additional record.

However, if your child does not already exist in our system, proceed to the online enrollment application to begin the process.

Items you'll need to help you create a simple record of your child in the online enrollment application system are:

- Emergency Contact Information
- Health Insurance Information
- Medical Information

Documents you'll need to have with you to register at the school include

- Proof of Address (Any ONE of the following will suffice):
 - A current utility bill—either water, electricity, or gas (These are the most used proofs of residence.)
 - A copy of a signed lease or housing agreement. (If your family is staying with another family and consequently does not have proof of address, use the address verification form and attach one of the afore mentioned proofs of residence to the notarized address verification form.)
 - If you reside in temporary housing (such as the Navy Lodge, etc.), please bring a copy of the most recent bill/invoice/receipt.
- Recent Physical (within the past 12 months).
- Current immunization records.
- Verification of Age (most commonly, an authorized copy of the child's official birth certificate).
- Social Security Number(if applicable).
- State- or Government-Issued Photo ID of the parent/guardian enrolling the child.
- Exceptional Students: Students with disabilities are welcome, as it is the mission of the Exceptional Student Education Department to support and sustain educational structures and practices, to be inclusive of all students with or without disabilities and empower them to become responsible and productive citizens in today's global society. Each student will be welcomed, valued, given access to rigorous teaching, appropriately supported teaching, and appropriately supported to access the general education curriculum.

Resources and Educational Opportunities for Military Students



MilitaryOneSource

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

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

Military Kids Connect

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

<https://militarykidsconnect>

Military Child Education Coalition

MCEC works to ensure that every military-connected child is college, workforce, and life-ready through inclusive and quality educational opportunities. MCEC® delivers programs and services to meet the needs of military students and parents. Providing educational resources, support, and connections to empower military children.

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

ASVAB

The ASVAB Career Exploration Program helps you identify and explore occupations and develop an effective strategy to realize those goals. The ASVAB Career Exploration Program includes a validated aptitude test and interest assessment. The school offers the ASVAB twice a year.

<https://www.asvabprogram.com/>

Fisher House

Find more scholarships for family of the military (active/reserve/retired) and veterans.

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

Academic Planning for Military Families



Tutor.com

- For military families at no cost.
- Homework help, after school/ FIU Academy

Student-Led Transition Services



Southwest Military Ambassador Peer Support Program

- Sponsored by the school's military point of contact, LTC (Ret) Matthew Boski, the school offers a Military (JROTC) Ambassador peer support program to help new students transition and become familiar with the campus.
- Contact LTC Boski at 334238@dadeschools.net for more information.

Exceptional Student Educational Services



Students with disabilities are welcome at Southwest Miami SHS as it is the mission of the Exceptional Student Education Department to support and sustain educational structures and practices, to be inclusive of all students with or without disabilities, and to empower them to become responsible and productive citizens in today's global society.

Each student will be welcomed, valued, given access to rigorous teaching, and appropriately supported to access the general education curriculum. In collaboration with parents and the IEP team, students may choose two additional standard diploma options available only to students with disabilities. Both allow students to substitute a CTE. Course with related content for one credit in ELA 4, mathematics, science, and social studies (excluding Algebra 1, Geometry, Biology 1, and U.S. History).

The two options are as follows:

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

Contact Education (ESE) Department Chair Hortensia Quintero at quintero-perezhortensiam@dadeschools.net for more information.

Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP)

The Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP) is a mandatory enrollment program that works with other military and civilian agencies to provide comprehensive and coordinated community support, housing, educational, medical, and personnel services to Families with special needs.

Contact Mr. Patrick Salmasi : Administrative Director, Exceptional Student Education, Programs and Related Services
psalmasi@dadeschools.net, Or Ms. Yvonne Leon, District Director, Exceptional Student Education, Compliance
yvonneleon@dadeschools.net

Phone: (305) 995-2037

Fax: (305) 995-2049

Military Recognition Events



Southwest honors our military students and their families and recognizes our military through several events during the school year.

- Veteran's Day- We do a school assembly
- Dining In
- Awards Banquet
- Memorial Day- We go to local cemeteries and put flags at veterans' graves

Mental Health Challenges



Positive mental wellness is essential to a child's healthy development. School and community mental health services can improve academics, provide access to building social skills, promote leadership, increase self-awareness, and help children make caring connections in school and the community.

Students of military families often experience multiple stressors before and during their parent's deployment and when they come home. Without appropriate mental health support systems, children of military personnel may be at a significant disadvantage compared with their peers in non-military families. Military students are resilient, but there are resources available to help.

Counselors play a crucial role in the school environment:

- AHS Counselors participate in everyday school activities and events, providing support related to deployment and reintegration, family dynamics, positive coping mechanisms, staff support and education, parent education, and stress reduction.
- They facilitate groups and trainings to build leadership skills, manage anger, build self-esteem and confidence, and strengthen communication.
- Other responsibilities include individual student academic planning and goal-setting school counseling classroom lessons based on student success standards. Short-term counseling to students, referrals for long-term support, collaboration with families/teachers/ administrators/ community for student success, advocacy for students at individual education plan meetings and other student-focused meetings, data analysis to identify student issues, needs, and challenges, acting as a systems change agent to improve equity and access, achievement, and opportunities for all students.

Do counselors keep records about students and families?

Services provided by counselors are private and confidential, except for mandatory federal and military reporting requirements (i.e., child abuse, domestic violence, and other life-threatening situations). No counseling records are maintained.

Other Resources:

- Military One Source Military and Family Life Counseling

<https://www.militaryonesource.mil>

- M-DCPS has mental health coordinators to support students in our schools. It has also contracted with community mental health agencies, where students receive additional support to meet their specific needs. These services include screenings and assessments, individual and group counseling, family counseling, substance abuse intervention, and parent-school-agency consultation.
- For more information, contact your child's school or the Parent Assistance Line at (305) 995-7100 or visit the website at <http://mentalhealthservices.dadeschools.net>.