

OUR EDUCATION STORY PT 1: SCHOOL AND PCS (MIL SPOUSE EDITION)

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EPISODE TAKEAWAYS:

- 1. If there is a question about zoning contact the School Superintendent's office and they should connect you with Student Services to confirm your address.
- 2. New online registration procedures often allow you to register all of your children at once. Look for something like the "Add Additional Children" button or box
- 3. Digitize your PCS binder scanning vital documents (birth certificates, physicals, shot records) keeps them close at hand and can expedite the complicated registration process for your child's new school. If you don't have a scanner, office and copy centers often offer scanning services for a modest fee.
- 4. Go to your new state's Department of Education of website. You will find demographic, certification, test scores and zoning information along with so much more. Start here to find your state's site.
- 5. Another great resource is the <u>Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission</u>. The website has information for the school liaison officers, transferring classes to other states for high schoolers, checklists, and a host of information.
- 6. High school parents determine how many credits are necessary for graduation, this will drive your child's workload and game plan. Send an unofficial transcript as soon as possible for evaluation by a student counselor.
- 7. Sports and clubs the sooner you can get info on summer programs, election dates and availability for military dependents the better the chance your child will have to participate.
- 8. Middle school parents high school accredited, advanced placement and magnet programs often have testing windows for entry. Determine when they occur and see if there is any way to accomplish remotely or perhaps even adjust arrival dates when possible.
- 9. The education center is the first stop for any spouse looking to further their own education. There are scores of programs, accreditations, and schools that are available

- and many of them are free or reduced cost. It's also the best place to go to understand G.I Bill transfers, balances and usage by spouses and children of service members.
- 10. Premium <u>LinkedIn</u> packages for military spouses can be obtained by going to <u>Military OneSource</u> and getting a free account. Once there search for LinkedIn for instructions on getting a free Premium upgrade. Also search for <u>Spouse Education and Career Opportunities</u> (SECO) and <u>Military Spouse Employment Partnership</u> (MSEP) for an incredible repository of information and resources.
- 11. Even more information supporting military families can be found at your local:
 - Army Community Services
 - Fleet and Family Support Services
 - Airman and Family Readiness Center
 - Marine & Family Programs
 - The Ombudsman Family Programs for the U.S. Coast Guard.
 - Reserve Component Family Programs are available for the Army, Navy Airforce
 and Marines as well and can be found here on Military OneSource once you're
 logged in.