



**STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA**  
**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

**MOLLY M. SPEARMAN**  
*STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION*

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** District Superintendents  
Principals  
Public Information Officers

**FROM:** Molly M. Spearman  
State Superintendent of Education

**DATE:** July 16, 2015

**RE:** Counting of Federally and Military-Connected Students

As we continue to register students for the 2015-16 school year, I want to bring to your attention an important matter: the undercounting of federally-connected and particularly military-connected students. While unofficial surveys indicate the number of military-connected students to be anywhere from 23,000–40,000 statewide, last year we only reported 7,853 military-connected students in PowerSchool.

School districts are eligible for federal impact aid, which consists of additional funding of up to \$3,000 per student, for each federally-connected student in the district. This population includes all students with a parent or guardian on active duty military orders, including service members in the reserves or National Guard on active duty orders. Students whose parents work as civilians on federal property or live on federal property are also included in this count. In order to qualify for this funding, districts must have more than 400 of these students or they must make up at least three percent of the district's average daily attendance.

In the 2012-13 Fiscal Year, twelve South Carolina districts received an additional \$2.3 million in federal impact aid. To learn more about this issue, I encourage you to review the report entitled "[Educational Performance of Military-Connected Children](#)," issued by the Education Oversight Committee.

It is important to accurately count the number of military-connected students in the state for funding purposes, but also to ensure teachers and school administrators are aware of students whose parents serve on active duty in the Armed Forces. This will better enable them to serve these families as they experience deployments, reintegration, and the potential move to their next duty station.

While federal impact aid is generally unrestricted and can be placed into a district's general fund, districts can also set aside that funding to pay for services for military-connected students.

Provided with this memorandum is a sample form that you can use or edit and disseminate to all students as part of your registration process for the 2015-16 school year. It is vital that we properly count all federally-connected and military-connected students in the state, and we encourage you to include this survey in your registration process.

If you have any questions, please contact Dino Teppara in the Public Information Office at [dteppara@ed.sc.gov](mailto:dteppara@ed.sc.gov), (803) 734-8043.