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Monterey School District Celebrates Support for Military Children



The Monterey Peninsula (Calif.) Unified School District has released a video showcasing its support for the children of military families stationed at Monterey-area installations.

Overall, 11 percent of the district's students are connected to the military.

"We're proud of our relationship with our military institutions and our commitment to ensuring that each military child is well served within the district," Superintendent PK Diffenbaugh says at the outset of the video.

Col. Paul Fellingner Jr., garrison commander for the Presidio of Monterey, points out that the area's military leaders meet with the school district quarterly to ensure the transition of military children is as smooth as possible. "It's like nothing I've ever seen in 26 years of military service," Fellingner says.

The video also highlights the five-year, \$1.25 million grant the school district received last year from the DOD Education Activity to support the social and emotional needs of military-connected students at two elementary schools, a middle school and a high school.

The district will use the grant to pay for a counselor to support students at the two elementary schools with emotional needs hampering their academic success. At the middle and high schools, a liaison will support students' transition to a new school environment and help them cope with the deployment of a parent.

"The funding allows us to better serve the number of students whose social/emotional needs hinder their transition and learning; and complements the support offered by the military's school liaison officers and family life counselors," Diffenbaugh said last July when the district received the award.