

Implementing Virginia's Military Student Identifier

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Statutory Authority

SB 1354 (Reeves) and HB 2373 (Ramadan)(2015)

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 22.1-287.02 as follows:

§ 22.1-287.02. *Uniformed services-connected students.*

A. For purposes of this section, a "uniformed services-connected student" means a student enrolled in a public school whose parent is serving in either (i) the active component of the U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, or National Guard, the Commissioned Corps of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, or the Commissioned Corps of the U.S. Public Health Services or (ii) the reserve component of the U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, or National Guard.

B. The Department of Education shall establish a process for the identification of newly enrolled uniformed services-connected students by local school divisions. Local school divisions shall identify newly enrolled uniformed services-connected students in accordance with such process.

C. Nonidentifiable, aggregate data collected from the identification of uniformed services-connected students shall be made available to local, state, and federal entities for the purposes of becoming eligible for nongeneral fund sources and receiving services to meet the needs of uniformed services-connected students residing in the Commonwealth.

D. Data collected from the identification of uniformed services-connected students shall not be a public record as defined in § 2.2-3701. No person shall disclose such data except as permitted under the provisions of the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (20 U.S.C. § 1232g) and related regulations. No such data shall be used for the purposes of student achievement, the Standards of Accreditation, student-growth indicators, the school performance report card, or any other school rating system.

Process for Identification

Method of Identification: School divisions have flexibility in how they collect the data

Mechanism for Reporting: Student Record Collection (SRC)

Frequency: Fall, Spring, and End-of-Year (EOY)

Lead Office: Department of Education's Office of Educational Information Management (EIM)

Communications with School Divisions

- Superintendent's Memos
 - [April 24, 2015](#): Legislative Report
 - [April 24, 2015](#): Details of Military Student Identifier Legislation
 - [July 10, 2015](#): Changes to SRC Elements
 - [July 24, 2015](#): Purpose of Data Collection; Method of Collection; Information on Webinars and Coding
- EIM Tuesday Telegrams
- EIM Webinars
- Guidance Document: [*Specifications for Completing the Student Record Collection*](#)

Excerpt from July 24, 2015 Supt's Memo

“While the legislation called for the ‘identification of newly enrolled uniformed services-connected students,’ the Department encourages school divisions to collect this important information for *all* students on an *annual* basis, providing for more accurate and efficient data to assist our military families.”

Excerpt from *Specifications for Completing the Student Record Collection*

Military Connected Students Code

A state assigned code to identify students who have a parent in the uniformed services.

Codes for Military Connected Students

1 = Student is not military connected

2 = Active duty; student is a dependent of a member of the Active Duty Forces (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, or National Guard, the Commissioned Corps of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, or the Commissioned Corps of the U.S. Public Health Services)

3 = Reserve; student is a dependent of a member of the National Guard or Reserve Forces (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, or National Guard)

Questions During Implementation

Question: Does it include retired military?

Question: Does it include siblings or others living in the same house?

Guidance: No, the legislation defined "*uniformed services-connected student*" as a student enrolled in a public school whose **parent is serving** in either (i) the active component of the U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, or National Guard, the Commissioned Corps of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, or the Commissioned Corps of the U.S. Public Health Services or (ii) the reserve component of the U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, or National Guard.

Questions Cont.

Question: When should school divisions be expected to collect this data?

Guidance: Now. The law went into effect July 1, 2015 for this school year. The first collection is October 1-30, 2015.

Question: With security concerns in mind, how will the data be collected and reported?

Guidance: Data will only be reported in nonidentifiable and aggregate format.

Question: Are schools allowed to ask for their social security numbers to confirm relationship?

Guidance: No. Section 22.1-287.02: “Neither the Department of Education nor any local school board shall require any student enrolled in a public elementary or secondary school or receiving home instruction pursuant to § 22.1-254.1, or his parent, to provide the student's federal social security number.”

Questions Cont.

Question: Will the Military Identifier take the place of Impact Aid collection?

Guidance: No. Impact Aid requires much more extensive information than the Identifier, and it would be overly burdensome to require ALL school divisions to ask the detailed Impact Aid questions. However, those divisions who collect Impact Aid will now have data on a subset of their Impact Aid population due to the Identifier.

Timeline

- Fall SRC (October 1 – October 30)
Data available mid-November
- Spring SRC (April 1 – May 1)
Data available mid-May
- End of Year (EOY) SRC (First week in June – Mid-July)
Data available end of August

Next Steps?