



Norfolk Military Child Convening

Norfolk Military Child Convening: Overview

- Convening brought together leaders from the City of Norfolk, Norfolk Public Schools and the military community in the Norfolk area
- Focus was on attracting military/veteran families to 'Choose Norfolk'
- Currently, large numbers of military families assigned to facilities in Norfolk choose to reside in other communities largely due to perception of access to quality schools
- Established three primary objectives:
 - Address the needs of military-connected students in the City of Norfolk, at all grade levels, in support of their **college, career and life readiness**. Considerations included academic life, social-emotional well-being and transitions
 - Identify and capitalize on existing **assets, partnerships and resources, and**
 - Encourage future **partnerships** between the City of Norfolk, the Norfolk military installations and Norfolk Public Schools.

Norfolk Military Child Convening: Process

- Key organizers includes:
 - Military Child Education Coalition
 - City of Norfolk Military Liaison
 - Student Liaison Officers
 - Norfolk Public Schools Chief of Staff
- Through iterative collaboration established the objectives and identified the thought leaders to be invited
- Socialized the event through City management, NPS leadership, and military commands – Achieved commitment early from key leaders

What made it a success?

- Participation from key leaders across the community to include:
 - The City of Norfolk: City manager, neighborhood development, military liaison
 - Norfolk Public Schools: Superintendent, key staff, school principals
 - The Norfolk military community: NATO, Navy, Coast Guard, Marines, Army Corps of Engineers, National Guard
 - Business and community organizations: Boys and Girls Club, United Way, Hampton Roads Community Foundation, Tidewater Community College, Old Dominion University
- Support from MCEC and the grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
- Clear action plan developed focused on Academics, Advocacy, and Access to Opportunities
- Improved understanding across the community on the needs, capabilities, and opportunities to support military connected children and enhance partnerships
- Beginning of the conversation...not the end

Resulted in a commitment between City of Norfolk, Norfolk Public Schools and military partners to make a positive impact in the lives of our military-connected students and improve partnerships.

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April 27, 2016

OUTCOME SUMMARY



CORE COMPONENT GROUP: **Academics**

Academics IMPACT STATEMENT	<i>By the year 2020, on behalf of military-connected children, the city of Norfolk and its partners will develop and implement a clear and consistent communication strategy that promotes collaboration, empowering military families as they navigate through the education process.</i>
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The following forward-focused ACTIONS were chosen:

Academics Action #1	Develop and implement school transition services and checklists for the military family that includes IEP, 504, and gifted services.
Academics Action #2	Focus on the consistency of the transition process and also identify verified credit reciprocity.
Academics Action #3	Develop a way to increase communication and awareness of available resources (e.g. MIC3) through partnerships with military resources (SLO, MSTC, etc.).

CORE COMPONENT GROUP: **Advocacy**

Advocacy IMPACT STATEMENT	<i>By the year 2020, on behalf of military-connected children, the military component, in conjunction with Norfolk Public Schools, will establish a standard process that recognizes the unique needs of the Military Family and provides stakeholders with the resources to ensure the individual needs of the students are met for their college, career and life-readiness.</i>
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The following forward-focused ACTIONS were chosen:

Advocacy Action #1	Develop a digital Norfolk Public School resource info system.
Advocacy Action #2	Establish a district level navigator.
Advocacy Action #3	Identify the gold standard “best practices” for integrating/educating military students and replicating in all Norfolk Public Schools.

CORE COMPONENT GROUP: **Access to Opportunity**

Access to Opportunity IMPACT STATEMENT	<i>By the year 2020, we will enhance services and communication with our military families. We will develop a consistent and comprehensive marketing plan, as well as an action plan that provides pathways to quality educational resources for a successful Norfolk transition.</i>
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The following forward-focused ACTIONS were chosen:

Access to Opportunity Action #1	Evaluate and find gaps of consistency in communicating to increase multiple lines of communication between home and school.
Access to Opportunity Action #2	Develop a marketing campaign to increase awareness of available resources for military children in Norfolk.
Access to Opportunity Action #3	NPS will develop a system of flexibility to address the unique needs of our military families.