

McConnell AFB Military Child Education Guide

DEPARTMENT OF AIR FORCE



**CHILD & YOUTH
EDUCATION SERVICES**

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Welcome to McConnell Air Force Base

Welcome to Wichita, home of McConnell Air Force Base and the 22d Air Refueling Wing! Wichita is a great area for families and you have a lot of choice when it comes to the education of your children. There are numerous school systems serving Team McConnell families. Families residing on base are zoned for the Derby School District (Wineteer Elementary, Derby North Middle School and Derby High School).

Families residing off-base have the opportunity to send their children to numerous schools in Wichita, Andover and the other surrounding cities and counties. Private school options are abundant in this area including parochial and secular schools.

There are several active Homeschool groups in the area, including a sports league. We also have a Homeschool support group on base. Virtual school is also available in Kansas. Many of the local districts offer students the opportunity to take classes from home.

While we cannot provide you with the “best school” or “best district” in the area, we will work with you to find the district and school that best meet the needs of your child or children. Schooling here is based on where you live so it is ideal to choose your school and then choose where you live based on that.

Choosing a school district is an important decision. Take into consideration all the factors that are important to your family. Are you the parent of a high school student looking for a particular athletic program, or JROTC, or AP class? Are you the parent of an elementary school student who thrives with small class sizes?

It's critical that you research your options. Asking friends for their recommendations is a great start, but make sure that your final decision is based on the needs of your children. If time allows, visit schools and get a firsthand look at the educational environment. And, of course, feel free to contact the School Liaison at any time with questions or a request for information.

Hopefully you will find the information in this guide helpful. The first section focuses on public schools, followed by private schools, homeschool, and virtual schools. There are also sections on Parent Support, Preparing for College, and Useful Links on the web.



Please contact the School Liaison for any assistance you may need at (316) 759-3326, DSN 743-3326.

School Liaison

The School Liaison Specialist is the installation's advocate for military-connected children associated with McConnell. Almost all bases have both a military and civilian School Liaison. The civilian SL is your resource for the day-to-day needs and concerns of school-age military children. The SL has an office in the Child Development Center.

SL are intended to help ease transitions for mobile military students. We want to see all military-connected students have success in school regardless of how many schools they may attend. We provide information to families on school choices, enrollment, placement, graduation, and much more. We will not select or recommend a school or school system for your child. You know the needs of your child better than anyone. SL will be happy to provide you with information based on what you think the best educational options are for your child.

The SL builds and maintains relationships with local schools serving military children. SL educate teachers and administrators on the unique needs of military children and military culture. They also resolve issues that affect military children in and out of the classroom.

Responsibilities of the SL include:

- Providing information on local schools for inbound families,
- Providing information on schools at the next assignment for outbound families,
- Developing partnerships and relationships with local school districts
- Promoting parental learning and involvement, and



- Identifying local concerns regarding military child education.



Public Schools

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Wichita metro area is home to a large number of public school districts. Families who choose to live off base will want to research their options. Several districts allow out-of-district students to apply for enrollment. The School Liaison will be happy to provide more information on a particular school or district. We currently provide services to 12 school districts with over 141 schools local to McConnell AFB.

Enrollment

Your home address will determine which schools your children will attend. If you choose to live on base your children will attend the Derby School District. Off-base families can provide the School Liaison Officer with their address to verify which schools to enroll in.

School typically begins in mid-August with official enrollment starting in late July for new students. Most districts require the following at the time of registration:

- Student's original birth certificate or certified copy
- Social Security Number
- Record of Immunizations (see below for additional information)
- Kansas Health Assessment (see below for additional information)
- Proof of residence: Letter from housing, rental contract or settlement papers, utility bill, etc.
- Address of previous school or official records

When you arrive you will need to make arrangements to enroll your child in school as soon as possible. If you are living in Temporary Lodging or if you are waiting for an on-base house to become available you can enroll your children in the Derby schools.

If you are in the process of securing a home rental or sale in another area, some districts will work with you to go ahead and get your child enrolled in the correct school and limit the amount of time they are out of the classroom. Please contact the School Liaison to help facilitate that process.

Immunizations/Physicals

Kansas requires certain immunizations for any individual who attends school or a childcare program operated by a school. The only alternatives to a valid certificate of immunization are “(1) An annual written statement signed by a licensed physician stating the physical condition of the child to be such that the tests or inoculations would seriously endanger the life or health of the child, or (2) a written statement signed by one parent or guardian that the child is an adherent of a religious denomination whose religious teachings are opposed to such tests or inoculations” (KS Dept. of Health & Environment).

In addition, any student entering early childhood or kindergarten will need a school entry physical, known as a Kansas Health Assessment. This requirement also exists for students under the age of 9 enrolling in a Kansas school for the first time. Middle and high school students intending to participate in a sport will need an annual physical as required by the Kansas State High School Activities Association. Your district can provide you with both of these forms.

See the following page for a list of required immunizations.

Immunization Requirements for the 2021 - 2022 School Year

K.A.R. 28-1-20 defines immunizations required for any individual who attends school or a childcare program operated by a school. Below are the requirements for the indicated school year. Please carefully review the requirements. The usual number of doses required are listed; however there are exceptional circumstances that could alter the number of doses a child needs. If you have questions about your child's immunization status, contact your child's primary care provider or local health department.



Proof of receiving the required immunizations must be provided to the school prior to the student attending the first day of school.

Early Childhood Program Operated by a School Ages 4 Years and Under

Vaccine	Requirement
DTaP/DT (diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis)	4 doses
IPV (polio)	3 doses
MMR (measles, mumps, rubella)	1 dose
Varicella (chickenpox)	1 dose*
Hepatitis A	2 doses
Hepatitis B	3 doses
Hib (haemophilus influenza type B)	4 doses**
Pprevnar (pneumococcal conjugate)	4 doses**

KDG - Grade 5

Vaccine	Requirement
DTaP/DT (diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis)	5 doses
IPV (polio)	4 doses***
MMR (measles, mumps, rubella)	2 doses
Varicella (chickenpox)	2 doses*
Hepatitis A	2 doses
Hepatitis B	3 doses

Grade 6

Vaccine	Requirement
DTaP/DT (diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis)	5 doses
IPV (polio)	4 doses***
MMR (measles, mumps, rubella)	2 doses
Varicella (chickenpox)	2 doses*
Hepatitis B	3 doses

Grades 7 - 9

Vaccine	Requirement
Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis)	1 dose~
IPV (polio)	4 doses***
MMR (measles, mumps, rubella)	2 doses
Varicella (chickenpox)	2 doses*
Hepatitis B	3 doses
Meningococcal (serogroup A,C,W,Y)	1 dose

Grades 10 - 12

Vaccine	Requirement
Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis)	1 dose~
IPV (polio)	4 doses***
MMR (measles, mumps, rubella)	2 doses
Varicella (chickenpox)	2 doses*
Hepatitis B	3 doses

Grades 11 - 12

Required in addition to above vaccines for Grades 10 - 12

Meningococcal (serogroup A, C, W, Y)	1-2 doses <i>See below:</i>
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If the first dose was received before 16 years of age, 2 doses are required, the 2nd due at age 16-18 yrs.

If the first dose was received at age 16-18 yrs, only 1 dose is required.

Notes

* Varicella (chickenpox) vaccine is not required if child has had chickenpox disease **and** disease is documented by a physician signature. Without a physician signature, vaccine is still required even if you believe your child has had chickenpox disease.

**Total doses needed are dependent on vaccine type and child's age when the doses were administered.

***Three doses are acceptable if the 3rd dose was given after 4 years of age and there are at least 6 months between the second and third doses.

~ All students in grades 7-12 must have one dose of Tdap regardless of the interval since the last dose of DTaP or Td.

Additional ACIP RECOMMENDED Vaccines Not Required for School Entry

- **Influenza (Flu): Annual vaccine recommended for everyone 6 months of age and older.**
- **HPV (Human Papillomavirus) Vaccine:**
2 doses recommended at age 11 years
2 doses needed if started at 11-14 years
3 doses needed if started at 15 years or older

Provided by the Jefferson County Health Department

Fees

Many parents enrolling their children in a Kansas school for the first time are surprised by the charging of book and activity fees. These fees are allowed by law and must be paid. They are not considered tuition. Charges include book rental, agendas, ID cards, locker rental, and parking permits. Amounts vary by age and by district (usually between \$80-\$300/per child). Fees increase with the grade of the student. Districts will waive or reduce fees for students who qualify for free and reduced lunch.

Another group of fees is for participation in sports, music and other non-required school activities, referred to as “Pay to Play” or “Pay to Participate.” Any student wishing to participate in an athletic team will be charged a one-time fee. In most districts this will cover them for the entire year no matter how many athletic activities they participate in. Students may also be charged fees to participate in activities (Debate, Forensics, Scholars Bowl, etc.) or in classes that require additional materials (Driver’s Education, Family and Consumer Sciences, Technology, Art, etc.).

You should check each district’s website prior to enrollment to determine the total cost of fees for students. Many parents experience “sticker shock” when they enroll their children and total up the fees for the first time.

KIDS/Impact Aid

Kansas Individual Data on Students (KIDS) and Impact Aid are the two ways districts can track military children. It is important for parents to fill out these forms correctly and completely.

KIDS: KIDS is the state’s student-level data collection that tracks students as they move from school to school and also allows the state to gather data on groups of students. KIDS data is the basis for state and federal funding. This data will become more of a focus in Kansas over the next few years. Please be sure that any enrollment forms accurately reflect the military member’s active duty service.

Impact Aid: Impact Aid is money from the federal government for school districts charged with educating military children. It is an opportunity for you to help provide much-needed funds for school districts serving high numbers of federally connected children.

Impact Aid is intended to compensate public schools for the constant fluctuation in enrollment and the loss of property tax revenue due to the presence of tax-exempt federal property (such as military installations, Indian lands and low-rent federal housing).

Districts who intended to apply for Impact Aid will provide parents with Federal Impact Aid Surveys at the beginning of each school year. It is critical that you accurately complete this form and return it to your district in a timely manner. The numbers of students are sent to the Department of Education for them to determine if the school district meets the minimum requirements for educating federally-connected students. Failing to complete and return the form means a loss of money for your child’s school district. Please complete the entire form, especially the section that asks for name, branch of service, and rank. The district will keep this information confidential. Currently, only Derby Public Schools ask families to complete these surveys.

Interstate Compact

Your child must be 5 on or before August 31 in order to start Kindergarten. Ages for Pre-K will vary based on district and programs offered (3 or 4).

Most public Pre-Kindergarten programs are targeted at early childhood disability or students considered to be “at risk.” The McConnell Child Development Center also offers a Preschool Enrichment Program for 3-5 yr. olds on a salary-based fee schedule.

EARLY CHILDHOOD DISABILITY (ECD) VS. AT-RISK

Early Childhood Disability Program: These programs are for children experiencing a significant delay in at least one developmental area. Children are eligible to begin receiving services when they turn 3. Children will be screened by the district prior to being placed. Contact the district for a list of screening dates and locations for the year.

ECD programs will also have spaces for typically developing children, referred to as “peers.” Peers will still take part in a screening and will then be notified that they can apply for one of the limited peer spots available.

At-Risk: Schools that participate in the Kansas 4-Year-Old At-Risk program require that a child turn 4 or on before August 31 in order to attend. The goal is to support school readiness and success for children as they enter Kindergarten. Children must meet one of the following criteria to be eligible:

1. Qualifies for the free lunch program
2. Single parent family (custodial parent)
3. SRS referral
4. Teen parents (At least one parent a teen at the time of the child’s birth)
5. Either parent lacking a high school diploma or GED
6. Child qualifies for migrant status
7. Limited English Proficiency
8. Lower than expected developmental progress in one of these areas: Cognitive Development, physical development, communication/literacy, social-emotional/behavior, adaptive behavior/self-help skills

Some districts may reserve spaces for military children, but not all, and it may only be at one particular school. Be sure to ask about availability when you contact the district. The Derby School District works directly with The Opportunity Project (TOP) to provide pre-k education to students considered “at-risk” under their guidelines. There is a special identifier for military-connected students to access services through TOP if there are spaces available.

PRIVATE PRE-K

While many public school districts offer a preschool program, most have very specific requirements for admission and very few available spaces. If you are unable to obtain a spot for your child in public school, the following may be of help.

There are numerous private schools in the area offering preschool programs. Please note, preschool is referred to by several different names depending on the school including Pre-K, K-4 and Early Childhood. Some private schools may offer financial aid. You can check which private schools are accredited by the Department of Education at www.KSDE.org. Those that are not accredited by Kansas may have accreditation through another organization and you can check with the school. This is a partial list of preschool programs in the area:

- Annoor Islamic School www.myannoor.com/ais
- Ascension Lutheran Preschool (West Wichita) <http://www.ascension-lcms.org/#!/preschool/cijlp>
- Basic Beginnings Preschool <http://basicbeginningspreschool.com/>
- Bethany Lutheran School www.bethanylutheranschool.com

- Bethel Life School (West Wichita)
www.blswichita.com
- Central Christian Academy (East Wichita)
www.ccapreschool.org
- Chapel Hill Preschool (East Wichita)
<http://chapelhillwichita.org/chapel-hill-preschool/>
- Christ the Savior Academy (East Wichita)
<http://www.christthesavioracademy.org/>
- Discovery Place www.discoveryplacewichita.com
- East Heights UMC Preschool (East Wichita-Mid City)
<http://www.ehumc.org/preschool/>
- Eastminster ECE (East Wichita)
www.eastminster.org/connect/earlychildhoodeducation
- Faith Lutheran School (Derby)
www.flswerby.com/pre_school.html
- Holy Cross Lutheran (East Wichita)
www.lovemyschool.net
- Honey Tree Academy (Branches Academy)
www.honeytreeacademy.com
- Jack & Jill Preschool (Derby)
www.jackandjillpreschool.org/
- Jacob's Learning Ladder Preschool (Wichita Mid-City)
<http://jacobslearningladderpreschool.org/>
- KinderCare Preschool (Wichita-city wide)
www.KinderCare.com
- La Petite Academy (Wichita-city wide)
www.Lapetite.com/preschool
- McConnell Child Development Ctr (CDC)
<http://refuelmccconnell.com/child-development-center>
- Primrose School (East Wichita)
<https://www.primroseschools.com/schools/wichita-east/>
- St. Mary School (Derby)
stmarysderby.com/school/preschool.html
- The Independent School (East Wichita)
www.theindependentschool.com/
- The Opportunity Project (3 locations, one in S. Wichita near Derby)
www.theopportunityproject.com/
- Tree House Learning Center (West Wichita)
www.treehouselearningcenter-ks.com
- West Side CC (West Wichita)
www.westsidchristian.org/#!preschool/civud
- Wichita Catholic Diocese (Wichita-city wide)
www.catholicdioceseofwichita.org/catholic-schools
- Wichita Collegiate (East Wichita) www.wcsks.com
- Wichita Montessori School (East Wichita)
www.wichitamontessori.com

This is not a comprehensive list, rather, it is a representation of what is available to you in the community close to McConnell AFB

There are several websites where you can search for local schools. The first, www.schoolquest.org, is managed by the Military Child Education Coalition. You can search for schools a certain distance from your zip code. It brings up both public and private schools and what grades they offer.

Another website is www.greatschools.org. Please note that their ratings are based on input from other users. It is unclear where their data is pulled from. You can also conduct Google search to get an idea of other preschool programs out there that might be an option for your family. Please contact the SL if you have questions.

Graduation Requirements

Kansas graduation requirements vary by district. A minimum of 21 credits is required by the Kansas Department of Education. Please check with the School Liaison if you have questions about credit transfers and graduation requirements for high school students.

SAMPLE REQUIREMENTS:

- 4 Credits English Language Arts
- 3 Credits Math (1 must be Algebra 1 or higher)
- 3 Credits Science (Most districts require Lab Sciences)
- 3 Credits Social Science
 - 1 credit US History
 - 1 credit US Government
 - 1 credit World History or AP European History
- 1 Credit Fine Arts
- ½ Credit Speech (not all districts)
- ½ Credit Computer Studies (not all districts)
- 1 Credit Health/PE
- 6 Credits electives
- 21 minimum Total Credits Required



Please note that these are the minimum requirements for obtaining a high school diploma. College-bound students should check the admissions requirements for each institution they are considering.

Preparing for College



It is never too early to start planning (and saving!) for college. Students should begin keeping records and thinking seriously about postsecondary education during their middle school years. Military children should already have well-kept records to help with school transitions. Those that pertain to college application include records of volunteer work, extracurricular activities, awards won, jobs held, and academic records (grades and test scores). Students should keep a portfolio with transcripts/report cards, awards, newspaper articles, photographs and other items collected.

They should also be planning their course schedules accordingly. Colleges may require different courses or more courses than the minimum required to obtain a high school diploma. The Academic Passport was developed as part of the Army Secondary Education Transition Study (SETS). This list of requirements is recommended to help mobile military students transition easily between schools and also be admitted to college.

The recommended courses are as follows:

- 4 Credits English (AP or IB strongly recommended)
- 4 Credits Math (Alg I by 9th grade, Geometry, Alg II. Recommend Pre-Calculus, Calculus, Statistics and AP or IB courses)
- 3 Credits Social Studies (Must take US and World History, US Government and Economics are important, and they strongly recommend AP and IB)
- 4 Credits Science (3 Lab sciences – Biology, Chemistry, Physics and AP/IB courses are recommended)
- 2 Credits Foreign Language (More credits are good, a second language is great.)
- 1 Credit Computer Science

The cost of a college education rises each year. Begin searching for scholarships early. Make notes of the requirements and the period in which applications are accepted. Start a spreadsheet to keep yourself organized.

Beware of scholarship scams. If they ask for money in order to search for scholarships or apply for scholarship money, it is probably a scam. Check the Federal Trade Commission website for information on identifying scams (www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/microsites/scholarship/index).

For more information and to receive resources about scholarship opportunities, contact the McConnell AFB SL at (316)759-3326.

Special Education

Special education services are provided by the district to eligible students. Every child in this country is entitled to receive a Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE). Each district has a Special Education Services Department. Children enrolled in Kansas private schools can also benefit from public school system services.

Parents of children identified as gifted should note that gifted children are required to have an IEP in the state of Kansas. This may mean that a district will require a reevaluation of a student in order for the student to continue receiving services.

You should know your child's rights and your rights as a parent under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA). You know your child better than anyone else and you have the opportunity to be part of any decision making team that meets regarding your child. Visit the website of Families Together, the Kansas Parent Training Center and parent partner of KSDE, at www.familiestogetherinc.org.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact the School Liaison Officer or EFMP-FS Coordinator (see page 18). Below is a brief overview of Kansas' special education process.

KANSAS IEP PROCESS:

Child Find: Schools use the child find process to identify students who may need special education services. If the child is under age 5, child find is referred to as "screening." Screenings must be provided within 30 days of a request. Children in grades K-12 usually begin with general education interventions. A team will develop an intervention plan based on the needs of the individual child. If the interventions are more than what can be provided in general education, that student is referred to the next step.

Initial Evaluation and Eligibility: During an evaluation, information is collected about the student to determine if he/she meets KSDE criteria for an exceptionality and needs special education services. Parents will be notified ahead of time and asked to consent to an evaluation. They will also receive a copy of the evaluation report documenting the decision of the assessment team. If a child is determined ineligible for services, the team will consider other options that might help including enrichment programs or services under Section 504. Eligible students will begin the IEP Process.

Individualized Education Program (IEP): An IEP is a written plan for a student with an exceptionality to ensure better educational results. It is based on the child's individual needs. A team (including the student's parents,) creates the IEP to guide the supports and services provided. It is reviewed annually to ensure the student is achieving the goals and can be revised, if needed.

Reevaluation: At least once every three years, a reevaluation of the student's needs will be conducted. Parents must receive written notice and then consent to the reevaluation. It can be conducted more frequently. The IEP team will review the previous evaluation information and may ask for more information to determine if the student still has an exceptionality. They will also consider if the student needs additions or modifications in order to meet the goals set out in the IEP and to allow the student to participate, if possible, in general education.

For additional information from the Kansas Department of Education on the Special Education Process, visit www.ksde.org/Default.aspx?tabid=101.

Public Schools

DISTRICTS

To take a closer look at a public school district, there are two websites that provide reports on Kansas schools and districts:

1. Kansas State Department of Education Report Card: <http://svapp15586.ksde.org/rcard/>
 - a. The Kansas Report card is compiled annually to provide information on school performance.
2. Kansas K-12 Reports: <http://svapp15586.ksde.org/k12/k12.aspx>
 - a. K-12 Reports provide detailed information on any school or district in the state. This includes enrollment, graduates, attendance rates, violence/crime, and advanced coursework.

In Kansas districts are referred to as a Unified School District or USD and each has a number attached. A brief outline of some of the USDs closest to McConnell is on the next few pages of this guide.

Andover – USD 385

www.usd385.org



The Andover Public School District has an enrollment of approximately 5,800 students attending six elementary schools, two middle, two high schools and an online school. Special education services are provided through the Butler County Special Education Cooperative. The district offers high school students Advanced Placement and Dual Credit courses through its partnership with Butler Community College.

Andover offers an all-day Kindergarten. This program is fee-supported (waived/reduced for free/reduced meal qualifiers). They also offer a fee-based Pre-Kindergarten for students who don't qualify for the At-Risk grant-funded program or the Early Childhood Special Education program.

Derby – USD 260

www.derbyschools.com

Derby serves more than 7,200 students, including residents of base housing, with nine elementary schools, 2 middle schools, and a high school. Derby offers the nationally recognized Project Lead the Way curriculum in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) as well as Advanced Placement courses.



Students in base housing will attend:

- Wineteer Elementary, Grades PreK-5
- Derby North Middle School, Grades 6-8
- Derby High School, Grade 9-12

Derby also offers open enrollment on a space available basis for families who do not reside within the district boundaries. Students must submit an Out-of-District Waiver annually. There are three types of waivers depending on whether a student will attend in person, online or in a combination of the two. Waivers are available on the district website.

Goddard – USD 265

www.goddardusd.com



Goddard Public Schools is located directly west of Wichita. The school system is comprised of five K-4 elementary schools, two 5-6 intermediate schools, two 7-8 middle schools and two high schools serving a total of more than 5,500 students. The district expects to see continued growth. Special education services are provided through the Sedgwick County Special Education Cooperative. Goddard accepts enrollment applications from out-of-district students. They started a fee-based full-day Kindergarten for the 2012-2013 school year (fees are waived/reduced for free/reduced meal qualified students).

Eisenhower High School was named one of the first-ever Green Ribbon Schools by the Department of Education honoring schools that create green environments and provide students with a high-quality environmental and outdoor education.

Haysville – USD 261

www.usd261.com



The Haysville school system has more than 5,000 students enrolled in six elementary schools, two middle schools, one high school and two specialty facilities, Tri-City Day School and Haysville Alternative High School. Tri-City is a cooperative effort between Haysville, Derby and Mulvane to meet the diverse emotional and mental health needs of their K-12 students. Haysville Alternative High serves students who have struggled in the traditional high school setting. Haysville also offers limited open enrollment for all schools. They have a fee-based all-day Kindergarten program (fees waived/reduced for students qualifying for free/reduced meals).

Campus High School is a candidate school for the International Baccalaureate Diploma program. They will accept out-of-district students to the program on a space available basis if they meet academic requirements.

Maize – USD 266

www.usd266.com



The Maize Public School District is located on the northwest side of Wichita and serves 6,600 students in eight facilities. It has one K-5 elementary, one K-1 elementary, one K-2 elementary, and two 2-5 elementary schools; two middle schools; two high schools; and one alternative high school. The district also has an Early Childhood Center for children from birth to age 5 that offers Parents as Teachers (birth to 3), Pre-K (At-Risk and ECD), and Starlets (preschool prep for 3-5 year olds).

The district is proud of the technology-rich environment it has created including interactive white boards, laptops and Interactive Distance Learning Labs. Currently, Maize allows students and parents to submit a preference for which of the two high schools they would prefer to attend. Both schools offer Advanced Placement courses and a variety of activities.

Mulvane – USD 263

www.usd263.k12.ks.us



Mulvane is a small district with approximately 1,900 students that lies 10 miles south of Wichita. There are four schools in the district: Munson Primary (K-2), Mulvane Grade School (3-5), Mulvane Middle School (6-8), Mulvane High School (9-12)

The school district predicts strong growth with enrollment expected to increase 15% over the next 10 years. Mulvane also offers adults the opportunity to finish their high school education through the Mulvane Learning Connection (a partnership with the South Central Kansas Education Service Center). The high school currently offers six AP classes, two honors math courses and numerous dual credit college courses through a partnership with Cowley County Community College.

Rose Hill – USD 394
www.usd394.com



Rose Hill is a smaller district with one primary school (grades K-2), one intermediate school (grades 3-5), a middle school (grades 6-8) and a high school (grades 9-12). USD 394 has an enrollment of approximately 1,800 students. The school system is excited about its technology in the classroom including laptops, Smartboards and the iPod Touch.

Rose Hill High School, in collaboration with Butler Community College, offers students a Health Science Academy. This Academy will provide students interested in a career in a healthcare field a tremendous start. Students will have the opportunity to earn approximately 54 college credits hours before graduating from high school and a reserved spot in the BCC Nursing Program for Academy completers.

Wichita – USD 259
www.usd259.com

The Wichita Public School District is the largest school district in Kansas with an enrollment of more than 50,000 students. There are 54 elementary schools, 17 middle schools, three K-8 schools, 11 high schools and 16 other special program locations. Wichita offers magnet schools and other special programs including the International Baccalaureate (IB) program. There is Pre-IB for grades 6-8 at Robinson Middle School and IB at East High for grades 9-12.



Magnet applications are accepted every spring for students who wish to attend a magnet school that they are not already zoned for in their neighborhood. Currently Wichita does not accept out of district application.

Valley Center – USD 262
<http://usd262.net/>



Valley Center USD is a 5-A suburban school district just north of Wichita off of I-135. The district has a student population of approximately 3,000 in grades k-12, plus an alternative/degree completion high school. There is one pre-kindergarten through 4th grade building, two kindergarten through 4th grade buildings, one 5-6th grade intermediate school, one 7-8th grade middle school and one 9-12th grade comprehensive high school.

Valley Center Schools is a rare find! We blend a rich tradition of 1.) High expectations that every student master essential skills in core content areas with 2.) Multiple opportunities for students to explore their individual interests, “said Cory Gibson, USD262 Superintendent.

Private Schools



There are numerous private schools in the Wichita area, both parochial and secular. It is strongly recommended that you research schools you are considering and validate their credentials and accreditation. It is always a good idea to visit the campus. Visit and meet with a representative before you make any financial commitments. You should ask for information on financial aid, including any military discounts.

As with public schools, there are no recommendations for any particular school. The Kansas Department of Education does list state- accredited private schools at www.KSDE.org. The 2011-2012 list of schools is included below. Also included are a list of other private schools in the area and a list of KSDE-recognized accrediting agencies to help you get started on your research.

PRIVATE SCHOOLS ACCREDITED BY KSDE

Annoor Islamic School	www.myannoor.com/ais
Bethany Lutheran School	www.bethanylutheranschool.com
Bethel Life School	www.blswichita.com
Branches Academy	www.branchesacademy.com
Heartspring	www.heartspring.org
Holy Cross Lutheran School	www.lovemyschool.net
Wichita Catholic Diocese	www.cdowk.org
Word of Life Traditional School	www.wolts.org

PRIVATE SCHOOLS ACCREDITED BY OTHER AGENCIES

Calvary Christian School	www.ccswichita.org
Central Christian Academy	www.ccalions.org
The Independent School	www.theindependentschool.com
Three Angels School	www.threeangels.org
Trinity Academy	www.trinityacademy.org
Wichita Collegiate School	www.wcsks.com
Wichita Friends School	www.wichitafriendsschool.org
Wichita Montessori School	www.wichitamontessori.com

Practicing Catholics: The Catholic Diocese of Wichita, through a robust practice of parish stewardship, provides one of the strongest Catholic school systems in the nation. For more information about stewardship based education and specific parish school enrollment requirements please go to their website.

<http://www.catholicdioceseofwichita.org/>

RECOGNIZED K-12 ACCREDITING AGENCIES

National Accrediting Agencies

- Accrediting Association of Seventh-day Adventist schools, colleges and universities (North America Division)
- Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI)
- Association of Christian Teachers and Schools Assembly of God (ACTS)
- American Association of Christian Schools (AACS)
- Christian Schools International (CSI)
- International Christian Accrediting Association
- Montessori School Accreditation Commission
- National Christian School Association
- National Independent Private Schools Association
- National Lutheran School Accreditation (NLSA)
- Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod School Accreditation (WELSSA)

Regional Accrediting Associations

- Middle States Association
- New England Association
- North Central Association
- Southern Association
- Western Association

Regional Associations of Independent Schools

- Association of Independent Schools of New England
- Independent Schools Association of the Central States
- Independent Schools Association of the Southwest
- Pacific Northwest Association of Independent Schools
- Southern Association of Independent Schools

This list is to help you get started. There may be additional schools out there and you can use search engines such as Google and www.privateschoolreview.com to further your research. Please remember to check their accreditation. This will be essential for college-bound students, who should ensure that they graduate from an accredited high school program in order to have an easy transition to college.

Homeschool

Kansas does not authorize “home instruction” or “homeschooling” specifically. However, the state does recognize Non-Accredited private schools. If you intend to homeschool here in Kansas, you will need to register once with the Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE) to be classified as a Non-Accredited Private School. A non-accredited school satisfies compulsory attendance laws, but is not accredited by the State Board of Education.

There is no fee charged to register a school. You will register the name and address of the elementary or secondary school (homeschool). Registration consists of filling out a simple form by mail or online. You will not receive any kind of confirmation.

Kansas will not ask to see any records, but recommends that you keep accurate and complete records of progress. Students will need these if they transfer to a public school or apply for admission to college. Accredited schools are not required to accept transfer credits. The state will not issue diplomas and they will not recognize private school diplomas as meeting any state requirements. Colleges and universities determine their own criteria for admission from non-accredited schools. Register online at:

<http://www.ksde.org/Default.aspx?tabid=1684>

For further information or questions please contact
Non-Accredited Private Schools (KSDE)
(785)368-7088
homeschool@ksde.org

RESOURCES:

There are numerous support groups for homeschool families in the local area to share resources, work together and participate in sports. The Teaching Parents Association has a comprehensive list of statewide groups on their website. The McConnell AFB Library also offers resources and activities for homeschool students. For more information:

McConnell AFB Library www.mcconnellafblibrary.com
Teaching Parents Association www.wichitahomeschool.org
Wichita Area Homeschool Athletic Association www.wichitawarriors.org
Kansas state dept. of Education Homeschooling <http://www.ksde.org/Default.aspx?tabid=1684>
Home School Assoc. for Military Families <http://www.hsamf.org>

We also currently have a Homeschool Parent Support Group that meets monthly to do group activities. For more information, to join the group or to get connected with another homeschool parent on the base, please contact the School Liaison.

Virtual Schools

Virtual schools are another option for families in Kansas. Students can take accredited coursework online from home. Some districts may allow virtual students to participate in extracurricular activities. Please check with each individual program for their policies. We strongly recommend researching programs and their accreditation before enrolling your child and making a financial commitment.

The programs listed below are those accredited by the Kansas Department of Education. These are just a few of the programs based closest to Wichita. You can visit www.KSDE.org for a full listing.

KSDE ACCREDITED VIRTUAL SCHOOLS

- Learning2 eSchool of Wichita www.learning2eschool.com
 - Wichita Public Schools, grades K-12
- Heartland Virtual Academy www.k12local.com/hva
 - Heartland/ESSDACK District and uses K-12 curriculum, K-8
- Andover eCademy www.andoverecademy.org
 - Andover Public Schools, grades K-12
- Lawrence Virtual School <https://www.usd497.org/Domain/28>
 - Lawrence Public Schools, grades K-12

KSDE ACCREDITED VIRTUAL PROGRAMS

- Derby Public Virtual www.derbyschools.com
 - Derby Public Schools, grades K-12
- The Learning Center at Valley Center <http://vcks.lc.groupfusion.net/>
 - Valley Center Public Schools, High School Diploma (including Adult Learners)
- Maize Virtual Preparatory School www.maizevirtualprepschool.com
 - Maize Public Schools using Calvert curriculum, grades K-8
- Southeast Kansas Educational Service Center www.sckesc.org
 - Online Classes, Diploma Completion

There is a complete list of Virtual schools in Kansas at the bottom of this KSDE page about Virtual Schooling: <http://www.ksde.org/Agency/Division-of-Learning-Services/Career-Standards-and-Assessment-Services/CSAS-Home/Graduation-and-Schools-of-Choice/Virtual-Schools-and-Programs/Families-and-Students>

Advocacy & Support

If you are interested in receiving more information or training on how you can be the best education advocate for your child, please contact the School Liaison directly. Efforts to maintain an advocacy group for military families have been unsuccessful, so we are looking at new ways to train advocates individually and send them out to their respective schools. If you would like to be an advocated, let us know...we need you!

EFMP

The Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP) serves and supports military family members with special medical and educational needs. There are three components: Identification and Enrollment, Assignment Coordination, and Family Support (FS).



The EFMP-FS helps families identify and access resources and services. Some ways the program coordinator can assist are:

- Provide information and referrals to both military and community services
- Provide training on special needs topics
- Provide information on local schools and assistance in resolving issues with IEPs, 504 Plans, etc.
- Support groups
- Warm handoffs to the EFMP at the next installation

The EFMP-FS for McConnell AFB is located at the Airman & Family Readiness Center and can be reached by phone at (316) 759-6020.

TRANSITIONS

The average military child will attend 6-9 different schools during their K-12 years. While moving is a significant challenge for the whole family, there are additional challenges for school age children. The military member can expect stability in the workplace each time they have to move. It's not at all the same for the mobile military child. The differences between school systems include testing, grading scales, graduation requirements, kindergarten entrance ages, etc.

To help ease transitions for students, it is important to keep records of academic and extracurricular achievements. You can start creating a portfolio for your child as early as elementary school. This is particularly important if your child is on an IEP or receiving any kind of additional services you will need replicated at the new school. As your children get older, encourage them to help you pick out the best examples of their work and add some personal touches to their portfolio. If you are relocating mid-year, make copies of the textbooks your children are using and note which page they stopped on.

Middle and high school children should keep more thorough records, including textbooks, course descriptions and school handbooks showing grading scales. Considering asking for recommendation letters from teachers and letters of introduction from coaches or instructors of activities who can speak to your child's abilities.

It is important to hand carry copies of your child's schools records, IEPs and other documents. Do not pack these in case your luggage is lost or delayed. The Military Child Education Coalition provides the following checklist that will help you as you begin to gather records for a PCS. A copy of the checklist can be found in your email or school packet you received with this guide.

Useful Links

www.militarychild.org

Military Child Education Coalition (MCEC)
A nat'l organization that advocates for educational needs of military children.

http://militaryk12partners.dodea.edu	Military K-12 Partners DoDEA partnership program providing info & support regarding needs of military children. Includes worldwide SLO contact information.
www.dodea.edu	Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) operates schools located overseas and on some US installations.
www.ksde.org	Kansas State Department of Education Info on Kansas schools including school report cards, program info, laws, policies & much more.
www.militaryhomefront.dod.mil	MilitaryHOMEFRONT DoD website with detailed information for military families including helpful tools for PCS, information on EFMP
www.tutor.com/military	Tutor.com Free, 24/7 tutoring & homework help from live tutors in more than 16 K-12 subjects, college and career transition, GED prep and resume writing.
www.soarathome.org	Student Online Achievement Resources Program for military families & their school districts providing assessments & tutorials to help military students & classmates.
http://apps.mhf.dod.mil/myom	Military Youth on the Move Information and advice split up by age (Kids, Pre-Teens, and Teenagers).
www.schoolquest.org	School Quest Find schools, state-by-state education resources, and much more.
http://svapp15586.ksde.org/rcard/	Kansas State Department of Education Report Cards
http://svapp15586.ksde.org/k12/k12.aspx	Kansas K-12 Reports Find information on local schools
http://www.ksde.org/Default.aspx?tabid=1684	KSDE Homeschool Registration Information for registering
www.niche.com	K – 12 to college and grad Schools Information on schools and how they rank