



...for the sake of the child

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Subject: Letter of Endorsement of the Common Core Standards

The Military Child Education Coalition strongly supports and endorses the efforts related to the Common Core Standards. Today there are over two million military-connected children from birth to age 21. These children live America's foreign policy. Almost 1.5 million of these children are school-aged (pre-kindergarten through grade 12). Over 80% of military-connected children attend public school systems within the United States.

More often than not, military-connected students experience a life characterized by the turmoil of school moves and frequent separations from a deployed parent. The average military-connected child will move three times more frequently than their civilian classmates (six to nine times) from starting school through high school graduation. Clearly, different state standards pose major problems for these students and their parents. Each state's unique curriculum, specific materials, and different format for assessments become additional requirements or hurdles to be overcome.

All children deserve thorough and thoughtful standards; highly mobile military-connected students deserve predictability. As military assignments or family circumstances resulting from a parent's deployment lead to school moves, parents and students need to be confident that these transitions will not increase turbulence in student's lives or endanger their opportunity to achieve. They also need to know that no matter where they attend school, they will have the chance to master those concepts and skills that ensure successful study at the post secondary level and prepare them to enter the world of work.

The Military Child Education Coalition applauds the leadership of the National Governors Association, the Council of Chief State Schools Officers, Achieve, ACT, Inc., the College Board, and all those organizations and individuals involved in developing and adopting the common core standards. When completed, these standards will enable military families and other mobile populations to finally have a common, high quality reference point that delineates expectations across state lines and grade levels. We lend the support of our organization to this vital effort.

On behalf of America's military-connected children and their parents—thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary M. Keller".

Mary M. Keller, Ed.D.
President and CEO