



Department of Education

Military and Veterans' Affairs, Base Protection & Spaceports

March 6, 2003

Dr. R.E. LeMon

Jim Horne, Commissioner of Education

Education Programs/Services

The Department of Education administers numerous programs and services to ensure military personnel and their families receive support and assistance. These programs and services are implemented through:

- State and Federal Laws
- Rules
- Policies



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Troops Ordered Into State Active Service

Section 250.482, Florida Statutes

- Prohibits postsecondary institutions from discharging, reprimanding, or penalizing Florida National Guard members that have been ordered into active service
- Provides civil rights and civil action remedies for members of the Florida National Guard



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Student Withdrawal From Courses Due to Military Service

Section 1004.07, Florida Statutes

- Requires each district school board, community college, and university board of trustees to establish rules regarding enrolled students called to, or enlisted in, active military service
- Determines that students shall not incur academic or financial penalties
- Provides option of either completing the courses at a later date or withdrawing from courses with a full refund



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Tuition Refund/Release of Liability

Rule 6C-7.002(9), Florida Administrative Code

- Provides that each state university shall establish, by rule, procedures for the refund or release of liability from tuition for:
 - Involuntary call to active military duty



Scholarships for Children of Deceased or Disabled Veterans

Sections 295.01 and 1009.5385, Florida Statutes

- Provides costs of tuition and fees to dependent children of Florida veterans who:
 - Have died
 - Are declared 100% disabled from specific military actions
 - Are declared Prisoners of War or Missing in Action
- Eligible recipients are students between the ages of 16 and 22



Scholarships for Children of Deceased or Disabled Veterans

(Continued)

- All military actions from World War I through the Persian Gulf War may qualify as program applicants
- In 2002, the Florida Legislature added Operation Enduring Freedom to the list of military actions and wars covered under this program
- In 2001–2002, the appropriation was \$333,250
- 168 eligible students received an annual average award of \$1,768



Bright Futures Scholarship Program

Section 1009.531, Florida Statutes

- Students who are dependents of persons on military assignment outside of Florida, must meet the general requirements for Bright Futures, except the requirement to earn a Florida high school diploma
- Students must provide documentation to verify the parent's military or public service assignment, and dependency status



Bright Futures Scholarship Program (Continued)

- Public service assignment is defined as the occupational assignment of a permanent Florida resident employed by the United States Government or State of Florida, who as a condition of employment, is located outside the State of Florida
- A student whose parent or guardian is on assignment may reside with either natural parent or another adult designated by either natural parent or guardian



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No-Penalty Policy

- Memorandum by the Commissioner of Education (September 20, 2001)
- No-Penalty Policy for Students Called into National Service
- Full Support Policy – including refunds of tuition and fees for students called into national service



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Troops to Teachers

- **Stipends and Bonuses to qualified veterans:**
 - Up to a \$5,000 stipend to offset certification costs if a veteran teaches in a high needs district
 - Up to a \$10,000 bonus if a veteran teaches in a high needs school
- **Troops to Teachers Employed:**
 - National
4,970 Hired
 - Florida
387 Hired, Florida is ranked third in the nation
- **www.ProudtoServeAgain.com:** web site devoted to Troops to Teachers
- **www.TeachInFlorida.com:** Veterans assistance information and link to Florida Veterans Affairs
- **Transcript Reviews:** Assistance in determining best certification options for transitioning into the classroom
- **Second Career in Teaching Briefings:** Information briefings to future military retirees about the possibilities of a career in education



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Responding to Tragedy Resource Guide

- Developed by DOE following the September 11th attack
- Designed for pre-K through high school students
- Contains a list of websites, sample materials for classroom and school-based activities, and a list of contacts within the DOE. The document includes sections related to:
 - Coping with national tragedy
 - A psychological first aid kit for school professionals
 - Helping children cope – tips for parents and teachers
 - Children and fear of war
 - Helping the workforce cope and return to work
 - Respecting diversity and promoting tolerance
 - Military deployment



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**For additional scholarship information, please
contact:**

Office of Student Financial Assistance

(850) 410-5200

1-800-366-3475

www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org