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Staying Connected With Your Child's Teachers During a Deployment

You may be thousands of miles from home, but you can still be a dynamic partner in your child's education. With a combination of technology and parental interest, you can keep up with their grades and stay in touch with their teachers, no matter where you are. Kids tend to do better in school when their parents are involved in their education.

Set the stage for success

Let your children know that school and education are important — whether you are home or deployed. Start with the following:

- **Meet with your child's teacher.** Set up a meeting before you prepare for deployment so you can work out a plan to stay connected.
- **Use your school's online resources.** Department of Defense schools use [GradeSpeed](#) to keep families up to date on grades and attendance. Civilian schools may have other services.
- **Ask your partner for help.** Your partner can be your "boots on the ground" for all things educational. Reinforce your partner's role to your children — set your partner up for success.

Plan ahead

Make sure you plan ahead by following these steps:

- **Discover technologies.** Find out what communication technologies you can access once you deploy.
- **Talk about how to stay in touch.** Ask your child's teacher — before you go — about the best way to stay in touch. It might be through email, a school website or some other method.
- **Share when you want to be informed.** Tell the teacher what issues you want to know about, such as a low grade or an unexcused absence. (It's a good idea to let your child know, too.)
- **Find out if you can check grades and attendance online.** Department of Defense schools use [GradeSpeed](#) for this purpose. Other schools may have a similar set up.

Keep in touch for strong parent-teacher relationships

There are lots of creative ways you can stay in touch with your child and his or her education. Try these ideas:

- **Stay in regular contact with your child's teacher.** Check in as frequently as your mission allows via email or telephone.
- **Send the class a gift.** Pick up something special from the area of the world where you're deployed. You'll be the kids' favorite parent. If it relates to what the class is studying, you'll be the teacher's favorite parent, too.
- **Ask your spouse or your child's guardian for assistance.** Your child's designated guardian can oversee homework, talk with teachers and help your child get to school on time. Discuss successes and challenges with your care partner regularly. If your spouse or child's guardian has difficulty speaking English, ask the school to provide a translator.

Find time during your deployment to work on strengthening your connection with your child's school.

"[Building a Strong Relationship With Your Child's School](#)" will show you how.