



HOW TO TALK TO SCHOOLS

SAMPLE LETTER TO ADDRESS DEPLOYMENT-RELATED ABSENCES

[Date]

Dear Superintendent _____:

The (father/mother) of my child, _____, is (on leave/returning home from/ departing for) military deployment on _____. My child will be absent from school from _____ to _____ to allow for quality time with (his/her) military parent.

The enactment of A.R.S. § 15-1911 in 2008 established Arizona's participation in the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunities for Military Children, providing the following guidance as it pertains to absences:

A student whose parent or legal guardian is an active duty member of the uniformed services, as defined by this compact, and has been called to duty for, is on leave from or has immediately returned from deployment to a combat zone or combat support posting shall be granted additional excused absences at the discretion of the local education agency superintendent to visit with the student's parent or legal guardian relative.

(I/we) respectfully request that (my/our) child's absences, which are incurred due to our allowance of time to bond with (his/her) parent immediately prior to, during, and/or after an extended and stressful deployment serving our country, will be considered "excused" and not "truant." We are willing to have our child complete an independent study contract to ensure all schoolwork is completed, thereby allowing the school to receive state funding for our child through the absence period.

If you have any questions regarding the absence, please do not hesitate to contact me. If you have specific questions about the Interstate Compact, please contact the (Service Branch) School Liaison at (xxx) xxx-xxxx.

Thank you in advance for the many ways your care and attention will help my child cope throughout this period of change.

Sincerely,

[Parent Signature]

Type/Print Parent Name

Phone Number

cc: Teacher
 Principal

Raising Special Kids is the federally funded Parent Training Information Center for Arizona. Our mission is strengthening families and systems of care to improve outcomes for children with disabilities and special health care needs.

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