

School Guide



**Keesler
AFB**

2023-2024

Welcome:

On behalf of the 81TRW/CC, I welcome you to Keesler AFB and the beautiful Gulf Coast of Mississippi. The School Liaison (SL) serves as the liaison between the installation commander, base agencies, military parents, and schools by providing assistance in matters pertaining to student education. The School Liaison specializes in serving military families and offers a wide spectrum of services, enabling families to become more involved in their child's educational experience. Services include: supporting families with inbound/outbound school transfers, providing information on local schools and boundaries, assisting with school choice, helping families understand the special education process, making military and community agency referrals, and supporting families with the home schooling process.

School Guide:

This guide contains valuable information on our local public schools, private/parochial schools, and home schools. As your SL, I remain neutral and strongly support all of our school districts. The data and information provided comes from web pages listed in this guide, and is available to the public. There are approximately 3,000 DoD children attending school along the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

Resource Web pages:

Below are several web pages that provide information on our school districts:

MS Dept. of Education - www.mdek12.org

Great Schools - www.greatschools.com

School Matters - www.schoolmatters.com

School Diggers - www.schooldiggers.com

Military Child - www.militarychild.org

School Quest - www.schoolquest.com

Public School Review - www.publicschoolreview.com

Age Requirements:

Students entering Kindergarten must be 5 on or before Sept 1, 2023. Students entering first grade must be 6 on or before Sept 1, 2023.

*Kindergarten is not a mandatory requirement in Mississippi.

Pre-K:

Mississippi does not have a state funded pre-K program. Individual school districts use limited Federal Title 1 funds, private contributions, and local school district funds for these classes. Pre-K programs in our local school districts are limited. Contact your school district for availability and enrollment eligibility. Many parents opt for a private (fee) pre-K program.

Before and After Care:

Before and After Care is available at the Keesler AFB Youth Center (228-377-4116) for the following schools: Back Bay, Popp's Ferry, North Bay, and Biloxi Upper Elem. After Care pick-up is available for: Biloxi HS & Junior HS, D'Iberville elementary and Middle school.

Registration Requirements for New Students:

Mississippi Certificate of Immunization Compliance Form 121 (KAFB Med CTR/Health Dept)

Certified copy of birth certificate (not a hospital certificate)

Report cards and /or other records of grade placement

Copy of current Individualized Educational Program (IEP) as needed

Student's Social Security Number

Verification of Residency (VoR) (must provide 2 forms of proper documentation: utility bills, driver's license listing present address, automobile registration, filed Homestead Exemption application form, mortgage documents or property deed, apartment or home lease.

Keesler's housing office will provide you 2 proofs of base housing (228-374-5336).

GUARDIANSHIP: Legal guardian must provide a copy of the most recent court order, signed by a judge, appointing them as legal guardian.

HB 879-Allows military parents residing on base school district choice:

Effective 1 July 2013 parents residing on Keesler AFB (Bay Ridge, East Falcon, West Falcon, Thrower Park, and Hwy 57) have the option of enrolling their children in adjacent school districts (Gulfport, Harrison County, Jackson County, and Ocean Springs). Parents must provide copy of base housing lease agreement along with required registration paperwork. Parents must provide transportation to the out-of-district school of choice.

School Supt can determine which elementary school child will attend based on enrollment.

Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children:

In 2009, the Military Interstate Compact was signed into Mississippi law. The Compact provides for uniform treatment of military children transferring between school districts and states. The Compact has specific articles dealing with: enrollment, immunizations, placement, graduation, and many other areas of importance. Please familiarize yourself with the Interstate Compact at www.mic3.net.

Residency & Enrollment:

It is very important you understand the importance of home residency and school enrollment. Where you live MAY determine where your child will attend school. While several of our districts allow for outside transfers, some do not. There may also be a tuition fee associated with outside transfers. Transferring your child involves an approval process from the losing and gaining schools. You must contact both losing and gaining school districts prior to starting process. In addition, you must provide transportation to the out-of-district school.

Special Education:

Special Education (SPED) is a complex, emotional subject. Communication is the key when dealing with school districts and SPED. I recommend you become familiar with federal and state laws. Federal law information can be found at www.wrightslaw.com and MS state law at www.mde.k12.ms.us/special-education/special-education-policies-and-procedures. Information ranging from initial evaluations to mediation can be found

here. I am available to assist and prepare parents with their SPED objectives but cannot attend meetings.

Education Scholarship Account:

Mississippi Governor Bryant has signed SB 2695, the Education Scholarship Account (ESA) program. It is a program designed to give those parents with special needs children the option of withdrawing their child from the public school system and receiving a designated amount of funds (\$6740.00) to help defray the cost of private school tuition or other specific allowable activities to educate their child. For more information:

www.mde.k12.ms.us/ose/ESA.

MS 3rd Grade Literacy Retention Gate:

In 2013 the MS Governor signed SB 2347. This bill states starting in the 2014/2015 school year; all 3rd graders must pass a reading test to be promoted to the 4th grade. More information can be found at:

www.mde.k12.ms.us/ESE.

Military Family Life Counselors (MFLC's):

Currently, there are 14 counselors working with our military students in all of our surrounding school districts. A parent release form must be signed. Check with your school.

Base Housing Elementary School Placement (Biloxi School District): Bay Ridge, East Falcon, West Falcon, TLF-Back Bay Elementary school, Thrower Park-Popp's Ferry Elementary school.

MS SB 2050-Allows for enrollment/course registration by electronic means (from afar) for active military. You have 10 days after arrival to provide VoR. Contact district for more information. Effective 1 July 2019.

Biloxi School District:

<http://www.biloxischools.net/>

(228) 374-1810

District Office: 160 St. Peter Ave. Biloxi, MS 39530

Enrollment – 6,309

Military-approx. 750

Accountability Status - A

Grad rate – 87.2%

Out-of-district transfers - Yes

Tuition fee - \$500.00/\$1200.00

Pre-K is at Nichols Elem. Seating is limited. Call school at 374-7250

| | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|----------|
| Elementary Schools (K-4) | | |
| Gorenflo | 771 Elder St. 39530 | 436-5145 |
| Back Bay Elem | 340 St. Mary Blvd. 39534 | 436-5110 |
| North Bay Elem | 1825 Popp's Ferry Rd. 39532 | 435-6166 |
| Popp's Ferry Elem | 364 Nelson Rd. 39530 | 436-5135 |
| Biloxi Upper Elem (5-6) | 1424 Father Ryan Ave 39530 | 423-3700 |

Biloxi Junior High School (7-8) 1921 Tribe Dr 39532 435-1421

Biloxi High School (9-12) 1845 Tribe Dr 39532 435-6105

Gulfport School District:

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

District Office: 2010 15th St., Gulfport MS 39507

(228) 865-4600

Enrollment-6,576

Military-approx. 250

Accountability Status - A

Grad rate - 89.8%

Out-of-district transfers - Yes

Tuition fee-waived for military

Elementary Schools (K-5)

| | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------|
| Anniston Elem | 2314 Jones St. 39507 | 896-6309 |
| Bayou View Elem | 4898 Washington Ave. 39507 | 865-4625 |
| Central Elem | 1043 Pass Rd. 39501 | 865-4642 |
| Gaston Point Elem | 1526 Mills Ave. 39501 | 865-4656 |
| Pass Road Elem | 37 Pass Road, 39501 | 865-4659 |
| West Elem | 4051 15 th St. 39501 | 870-1025 |
| 28 th Street Elem | 3136 – 46 th Ave. 39501 | 867-2140 |

Middle Schools (6-8) Central

| | | |
|-------------------|----------------------------------|----------|
| Middle | 1310 42 nd Ave. 39501 | 870-1035 |
| Bayou View Middle | 212 43 rd St. 39507 | 865-4633 |

| | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|----------|
| Gulfport HS (9-12) | 100 Perry St. 39507 | 896-7525 |
| The Learning Center | 1215 Church St. 39507 | 897-6045 |

Harrison County School District

<http://www.harrison.k12.ms.us>

District Office: 11072 Highway 49, Gulfport, MS 39503

(228) 539-6500

Enrollment – 14,780

Military-approx. 550

Accountability Status - A

Grad rate - 90.3%

Out-of-district transfers - Yes

Tuition fee-waived for military

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|---------------|
| Elementary Schools | 10531 Klein Rd. Gulfport, 39503 | 832-7436 |
| Bel Aire Elem | 10453 Klein Rd. Gulfport, 39503 | 832-6711 |
| Crossroads Elem | 4540 Brodie Rd. D'Iberville, 39532 | 392-2803 |
| D'Iberville Elem | 51 Dedeaux Rd. Gulfport, 39503 | 832-2701 |
| Harrison Cent Elem | 15341 Lizana School Rd. 39503 | 832-1592 |
| Lizana Elem Lyman | 14222 Old Hwy 49, GP 39503 | 832-2257 |
| Elem N.Woolmarket | 16237 Old Woolmarket Rd. Biloxi, 39532 | 396-3674 |
| Elem Orange Grove | 11391 Old Hwy 49, Gulfport, 39503 | 832-2322 |
| Elem Pineville Elem | 5192 Menge Ave. Pass Christian, 39571 | 452-4364 |
| Saucier Elem | 24052 1 st St., Saucier, 39574 | 832-2440 |
| Three Rivers Elem | 13500 Three Rivers Rd. Gulfport, 39503 | 831-5359 |
| W. Wortham Elem | 20199 West Wortham Rd. Saucier, 39574 | 831-1276 |
| Woolmarket Elem | 12513 John Lee Rd. Biloxi, 39532 | 392-5640 |
| River Oaks Elem | 14111 Three Rivers Rd, Gulfport, 39503 | 831-1660 |
| Creekbend Elem & Middle | 16121 Highway 15, Biloxi, 39532 | Not Listed |
| Middle Schools | | |
| D'Iberville Mid (5-8) | 3320 Warrior Dr. D'Iberville, 39540 | 392-1746 |
| N Gulfport (7-8) | 4715 Illinois Ave. Gulfport, 39503 | 864-5326/8944 |
| N Woolmarket Mid | 16237 Old Woolmarket Rd. Biloxi, 39532 | 396-3674 |
| W. Wortham Mid | 20199 West Wortham Rd. Saucier, 39574 | 831-1276 |
| High Schools (9-12) | | |
| D'Iberville HS | 15625 Lamey Bridge Rd. Biloxi, 39532 | 392-2678 |
| Harrison Central HS | 15600 School Rd. Gulfport, 39503 | 832-2610 |
| Harrison County Vo-Tech | 15600 School Rd. Gulfport, 39503 | 832-6652 |
| West Harrison HS | 10399 City Farm Rd. Gulfport, 39503 | 539-8900 |
| Harrison County Alternative | 11072 Hwy. 49, Gulfport, 39503 | 539-5956 |
| Harrison County Child Develop CTR | 94 29 th St. Gulfport, 39501 | 863-0583 |

Jackson County Public School District

(228) 826-1757

<http://www.icsd.k12.ms.us/>

District Office: 12210 Colonel Vickery Rd., Vancleave, 39565-5096

Enrollment – 9,204
Military-approx. 242
Accountability Status –A
Grad rate - 90.8%
Out-of-district transfers - Yes, HB 879-military housing only

Elementary Schools

| | | |
|-------------------------------|--|----------|
| Vancleave Lower (K-2) | 12602 Hwy 57, Vancleave, 39565 | 826-5982 |
| Vancleave Upper (3 -5) | 13901 Hwy 57, Vancleave, 39565 | 826-4581 |
| St. Martin North (K-3) | 16308 LeMoyne Blvd. Biloxi, 39532 | 392-1387 |
| St. Martin East (K-3) | 7508 Rose Farm Rd. Ocean Springs, 39564 | 875-3204 |
| St. Martin Up (4-5) | 10910 Yellow Jacket Blvd. Ocean Springs, 39564 | 818-2849 |
| E. Central Lower Elem. (K-2) | 5621 Hwy 614, Hurley, 39555 | 588-7060 |
| E. Central Upper Elem. (3 -5) | 5400 Hurley-Wade Rd. Hurley, 39555 | 588-7019 |

Middle Schools (6-8)

| | | |
|------------------|--|----------|
| Vancleave Mid | 4725 Bulldog Ln. Vancleave 39565 | 826-5902 |
| St. Martin Mid | 10900 Yellow Jacket Blvd. Ocean Springs, 39564 | 818-4833 |
| East Central Mid | 5404 Hurley-Wade Rd. Hurley, 39555 | 588-7009 |

High Schools (9-12)

| | | |
|-----------------|---|----------|
| Vancleave HS | 12424 Hwy 57, Vancleave, 39565 | 826-4701 |
| St. Martin HS | 10800 Yellow Jacket Blvd. Ocean Springs | 875-8418 |
| East Central HS | 21700 Slider Rd. Hurley, 39555 - | 588-7000 |

Long Beach School District

<http://www.lbsdk12.com>

(228) 864-1146

District Office: 19148 Commission Road. Long Beach. MS 39560

Enrollment – 3,115
Military-approx. 350
Accountability Status - A
Grad rate - 94.2%
Out-of-district transfers –contact district
Tuition fee-contact district

Elementary School

| | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|----------|
| Quarles Elem. (K-3) | 111 Quarles St. 39560 | 864-3946 |
| Reeves Elem. (K-3) | 214 St. Augustine Dr. 39560 | 864-9764 |
| Harper McCaughan (4-6) | 301 Jeff Davis Ave. 39560 | 863-0478 |

| | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------|----------|
| Long Beach Middle (7-8) | 204 North Cleveland Ave. 3956 | 864-3370 |
| Long Beach HS (9-12) | 300 East Old Pass Rd. 39560 | 863-6945 |

Ocean Springs School District

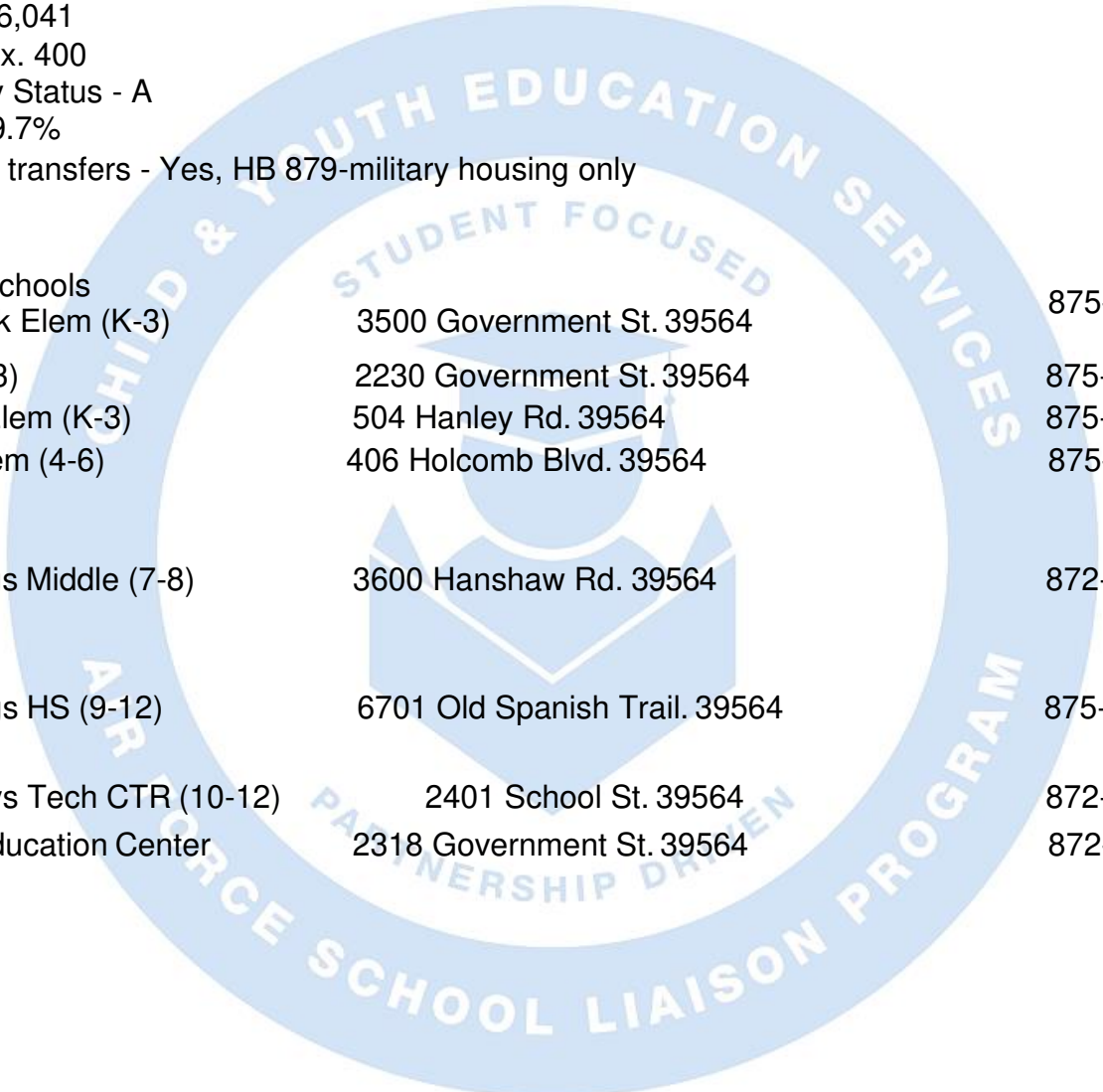
(228) 875-7706

<http://www.ossd.k12.ms.us>

District Office: 2300 Government Street, Ocean Springs MS 39501

Enrollment – 6,041
 Military-approx. 400
 Accountability Status - A
 Grad rate - 89.7%
 Out-of-district transfers - Yes, HB 879-military housing only

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|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------|
| Elementary Schools | | |
| Magnolia Park Elem (K-3) | 3500 Government St. 39564 | 875-4263 |
| Oak Park (K-3) | 2230 Government St. 39564 | 875-5847 |
| Pecan Park Elem (K-3) | 504 Hanley Rd. 39564 | 875-2851 |
| OS Upper Elem (4-6) | 406 Holcomb Blvd. 39564 | 875-0333 |
| Ocean Springs Middle (7-8) | 3600 Hanshaw Rd. 39564 | 872-6210 |
| Ocean Springs HS (9-12) | 6701 Old Spanish Trail. 39564 | 875-0333 |
| Elizabeth Keys Tech CTR (10-12) | 2401 School St. 39564 | 872-3411 |
| Alternative Education Center | 2318 Government St. 39564 | 872-0031 |



PRIVATE SCHOOLS

There are many private schools located in the Keesler AFB area. This list is not all inclusive.

Biloxi:

Our Lady of Fatima, www.fatimafalcons.org (preK2-6)
St. Patrick High School, www.stpatrickhighschool.net (7-12)
Nativity BVM Academy, www.nativitybvm.org (preK3-6)

Ocean Springs:

St. Alphonsus Catholic School, www.stal.org (preK-6)
Grace Baptist Academy, www.graceibc.org (preK3-12)
St. John's Episcopal, www.stjohnsoceansprings.org (pre-K)
Tree House Montessori Christian School, www.montessorichristianos.com (1-5)

Gulfport:

Hope Academy/ www.hopeacademyfg.org (preK2-6)
Temple Christian Academy/ www.templebaptistgulfport.com (K2-12)
St. James Elementary School/ www.stjamesgulfport.com (preK3-6)
Christian Collegiate Academy/ www.ccagulfport.org (preK3-12)

Bay St. Louis:

St. Stanislaus College, www.ststan.com (7-12)
Holy Trinity Catholic School, www.holytrinitycatholic.net (preK3-6)
Our Lady Academy/Resurrection Middle/HS, www.ourladyacademy.com (7-12)

D'iberville:

Sacred Heart Catholic Elementary School/ www.sacredheartelementary.org (preK3-6)

Long Beach:

Coast Episcopal/ http://school.passchristian.net/coast_episcopal.htm (preK-6)
St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Elementary/ www.svdpcatholicsschool.org (preK2-6)

Home School Information

Home school students must register by 15 Sept each school year, but parents can transfer children to home school at any time during year.

To register, contact the public school district office that you would have been attending. Ask for the attendance officer/home school POC. You are required to fill out a Certificate of Enrollment for each child that will be home schooled. You will receive a Verification of Compliance from attendance officer after you have completed Certificate of Enrollment.

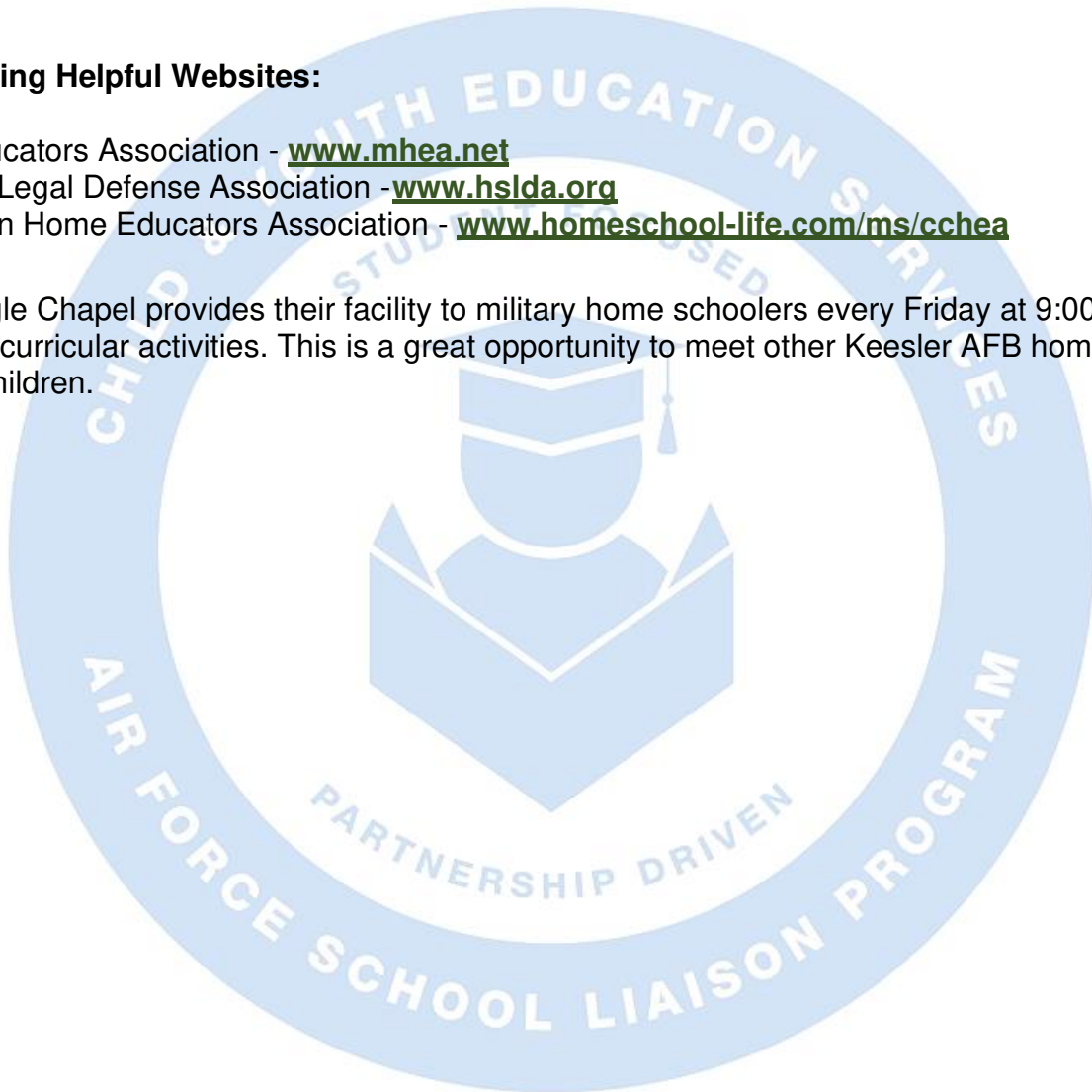
Home Schooling Helpful Websites:

MS Home Educators Association - www.mhea.net

Home School Legal Defense Association - www.hslda.org

Coast Christian Home Educators Association - www.homeschool-life.com/ms/cchea

Keesler Triangle Chapel provides their facility to military home schoolers every Friday at 9:00 am for learning/extra-curricular activities. This is a great opportunity to meet other Keesler AFB home school families and children.



--North--

--West--

Harrison County

--East--

Jackson County

-----Interstate 10-----Interstate 10-----

Navy Base

Keesler AFB

Long Beach

Gulfport

Biloxi

Ocean Springs

-----HWY 90-----HWY 90-----

--South--

Gulf of Mexico

This guide contains current data from the Mississippi Dept. of Education webpage.
This guide will be updated as soon as new data is released.

Guide updated 07/12/2023

