

# 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](http://www.mdek12.org)

Great Schools - [www.greatschools.com](http://www.greatschools.com)

School Matters - [www.schoolmatters.com](http://www.schoolmatters.com)

School Diggers - [www.schooldiggers.com](http://www.schooldiggers.com)

Military Child - [www.militarychild.org](http://www.militarychild.org)

School Quest - [www.schoolquest.com](http://www.schoolquest.com)

Public School Review - [www.publicschoolreview.com](http://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](http://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](http://www.wrightslaw.com) and MS state law at [www.mde.k12.ms.us/special-education/special-education-policies-and-procedures](http://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](http://www.mde.k12.ms.us/ose/ESA).

**MS 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Literacy Retention Gate:**

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

[www.mde.k12.ms.us/ESE](http://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
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Biloxi High School (9-12)	1845 Tribe Dr 39532	435-6105
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**Gulfport School District:**

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

**District Office: 2010 15<sup>th</sup> 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)**

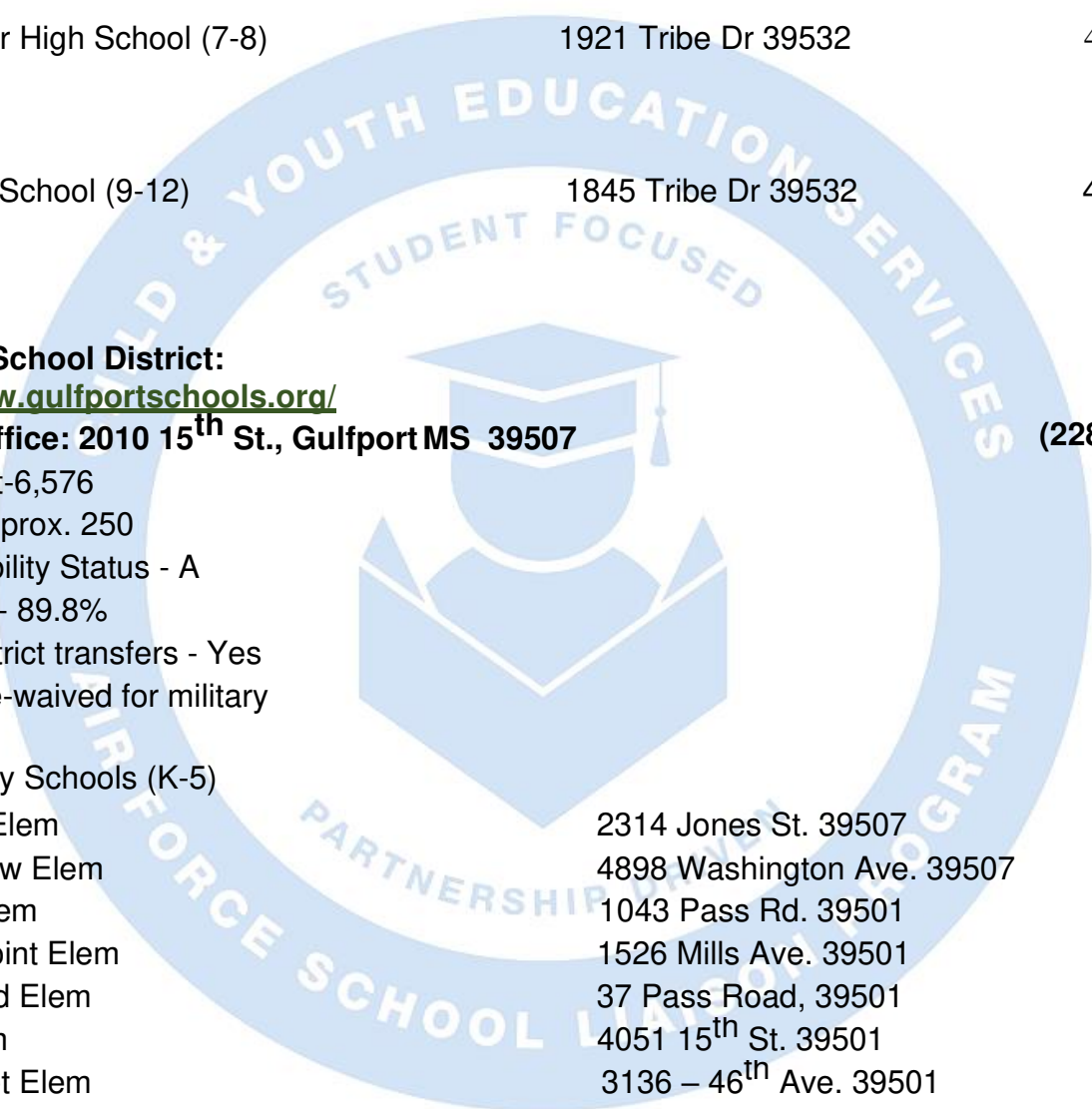
Anniston Elem	2314 Jones St. 39507	896-6309
Bayou View Elem	4898 Washington Ave. 39507	865-4625
Central Elem	1043 Pass Rd. 39501	865-4642
Gaston Point Elem	1526 Mills Ave. 39501	865-4656
Pass Road Elem	37 Pass Road, 39501	865-4659
West Elem	4051 15 <sup>th</sup> St. 39501	870-1025
28 <sup>th</sup> Street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

**Middle Schools (6-8) Central**

Middle	1310 42 <sup>nd</sup> Ave. 39501	870-1035
Bayou View Middle	212 43 <sup>rd</sup> St. 39507	865-4633

**Gulfport HS (9-12)**

The Learning Center	100 Perry St. 39507	896-7525
	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 <sup>st</sup> 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 <sup>th</sup> 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**

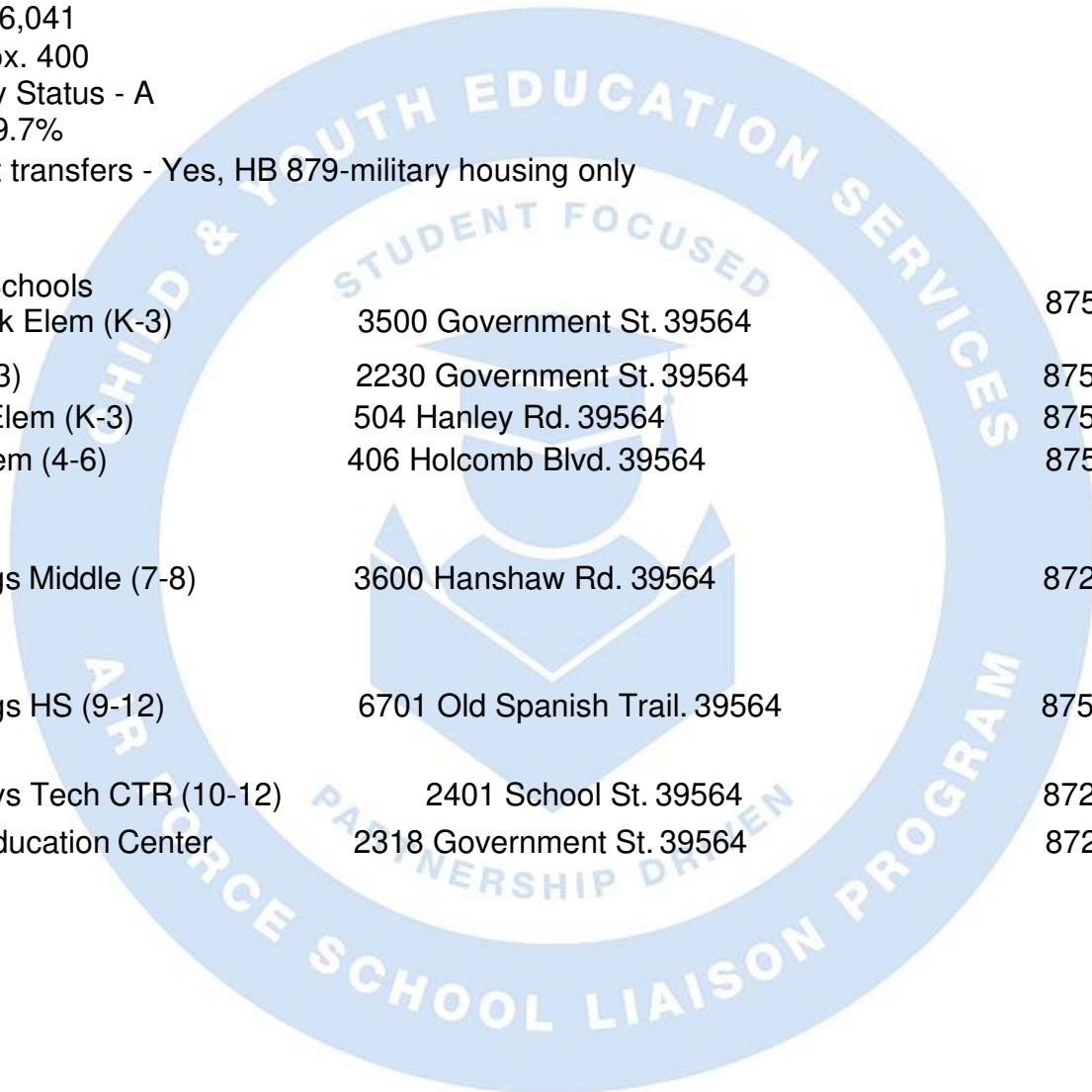
**(228) 875-7706**

<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

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](http://www.fatimafalcons.org) (preK2-6)

St. Patrick High School, [www.stpatrickhighschool.net](http://www.stpatrickhighschool.net) (7-12)

Nativity BVM Academy, [www.nativitybvm.org](http://www.nativitybvm.org) (preK3-6)

### **Ocean Springs:**

St. Alphonsus Catholic School, [www.stal.org](http://www.stal.org) (preK-6)

Grace Baptist Academy, [www.graceibc.org](http://www.graceibc.org) (preK3-12)

St. John's Episcopal, [www.stjohnsoceansprings.org](http://www.stjohnsoceansprings.org) (pre-K)

Tree House Montessori Christian School, [www.montessorichristianos.com](http://www.montessorichristianos.com) (1-5)

### **Gulfport:**

Hope Academy/ [www.hopeacademyfg.org](http://www.hopeacademyfg.org) (preK2-6)

Temple Christian Academy/ [www.templebaptistgulfport.com](http://www.templebaptistgulfport.com) (K2-12)

St. James Elementary School/ [www.stjamesgulfport.com](http://www.stjamesgulfport.com) (preK3-6)

Christian Collegiate Academy/ [www.ccagulfport.org](http://www.ccagulfport.org) (preK3-12)

### **Bay St. Louis:**

St. Stanislaus College, [www.ststan.com](http://www.ststan.com) (7-12)

Holy Trinity Catholic School, [www.holytrinitycatholic.net](http://www.holytrinitycatholic.net) (preK3-6)

Our Lady Academy/Resurrection Middle/HS, [www.ourladyacademy.com](http://www.ourladyacademy.com) (7-12)

### **D'iberville:**

Sacred Heart Catholic Elementary School/ [www.sacredheartelementary.org](http://www.sacredheartelementary.org) (preK3-6)

### **Long Beach:**

Coast Episcopal/ [http://school.passchristian.net/coast\\_episcopal.htm](http://school.passchristian.net/coast_episcopal.htm) (preK-6)

St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Elementary/ [www.svdpcatholicsschool.org](http://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.

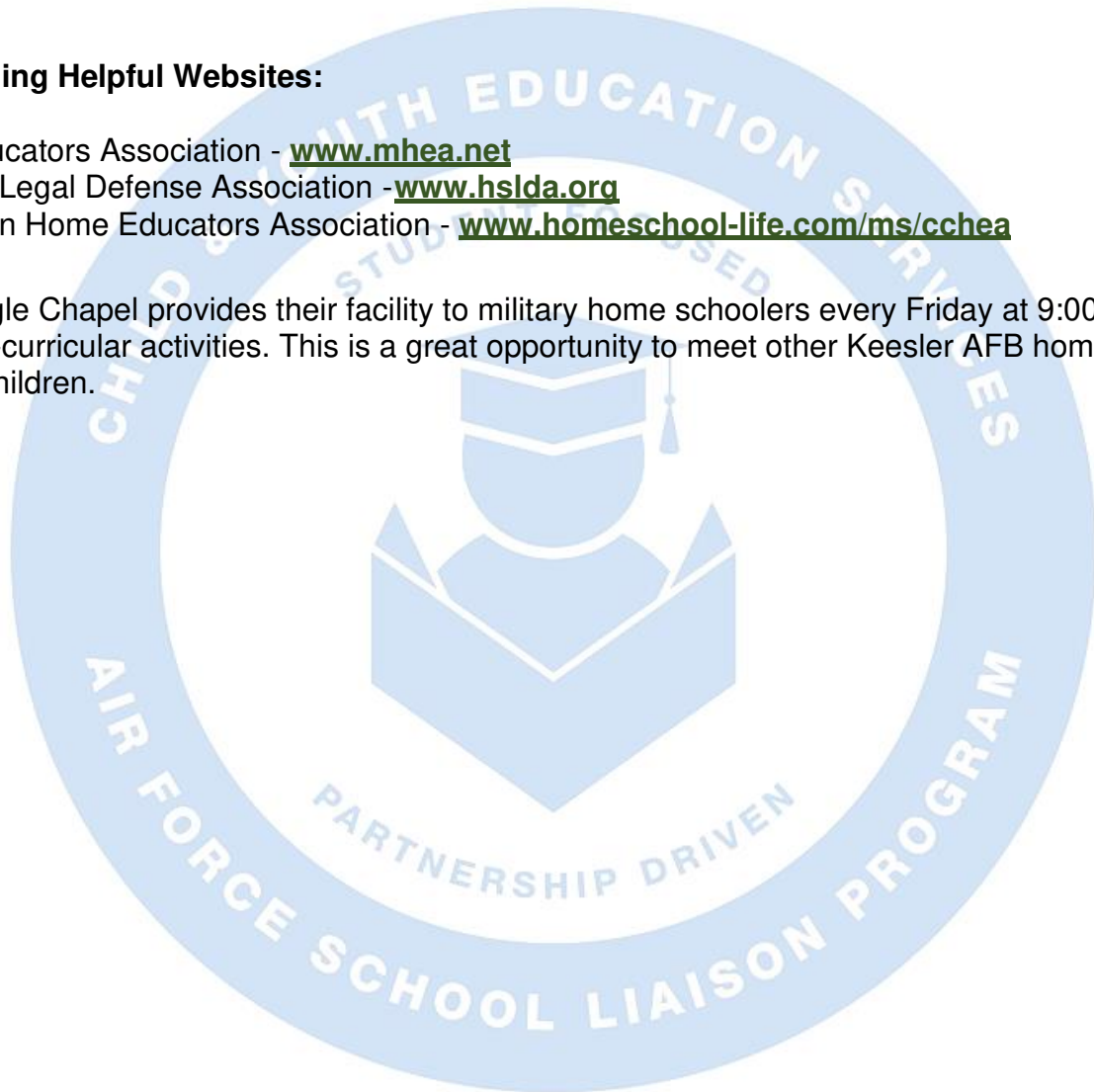
### **Home Schooling Helpful Websites:**

MS Home Educators Association - [www.mhea.net](http://www.mhea.net)

Home School Legal Defense Association - [www.hslda.org](http://www.hslda.org)

Coast Christian Home Educators Association - [www.homeschool-life.com/ms/cchea](http://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

