



## Military kids offered new schooling breaks

Perdue signs bill into law

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ATLANTA - As Fort Stewart, Fort Gordon and Fort Benning are gearing up to accept more troops as a result of the latest round of base realignment, children whose parents are in the military may have an easier transition to Georgia schools when transferred here under legislation Gov. Sonny Perdue signed into law Thursday. Another new law gives them greater access to the HOPE Scholarship. Perdue signed the legislation in a ceremony at Fort Benning near Columbus. Senate Bill 114 relaxes some requirements for documentation and curriculum so the new kids won't have their educations unnecessarily disrupted or delayed just because their parents get transferred to a base in Georgia. For example, local schools would have the power to grant excused absences to students whose parents are home on leave, deploying or returning. "Our state has a long and proud history of supporting our nation's soldiers, and we are truly grateful for the service of our military families," Perdue said in a statement. "These pieces of legislation continue Georgia's strong support for those serving in our Armed Forces here in Georgia." He vetoed a similar bill last year because it also would have made Georgia a member of a multistate compact that would have encouraged continuing changes in state standards. Perdue said at the time he objected to granting such power to a body outside the state. The new law would have the state follow the recommendations of the compact without paying dues to belong. House Bill 484 expands eligibility for the lottery-funded HOPE Scholarship to the children of active, military service members.

Normally, a student would have to be a state resident a year before qualifying.

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