

## The Student 2 Student Initiative (S2S)<sup>®</sup> meets very real transitioning student needs with:

- Immediate peer credibility
- Positive peer relationships
- Valued information

A team from a school campus, consisting of an advisor, students, and School Liaison Officer, is trained in transition issues. The team returns to their home school to recruit and train others on methods to support students who are relocating to or from their school. The focus is student centered, and is student led with close supervision.

Three research-based modules are used for the training:

-  **Academics: [Requirements, Processes, Access]**  
e.g. Test assessments, progress reporting, programs and opportunities, enrichment support
-  **Relationships: [Acceptance, Attributes, Friendships]**  
e.g. Faculty/staff, groups, organizations, peers, local, on/off campus
-  **Finding the way: [Attention, Orientation, Appreciation]**  
e.g. How we do business, the community, the campus, the culture, rules/policies, school documents, structures

Each team customizes the training specifically for its home site. Through the training, the team develops well-prepared local lesson plans and clear team assignments for implementation at their home campus.



# What is S2S?



## Easing the Transition Challenge

Imagine being a school-age child waking up one morning realizing that you are in a strange new place, and, except for your family, you don't know anyone at all. You have no friends, you have no one to talk with and you know nothing about the school you are about to enter, the neighborhood you live in, and the community you just moved into.

Moving to a new place and adjusting to a new school, new teachers and finding new friends are daunting and scary experiences for most school-age children, especially if the child faces the experience more than once.

Believing that transitioning does not have to be difficult, "just different," S2S or Student-2-Student is a unique student-led, school managed program that confronts the challenges of transition and provides relevant training that gives students the best possible transition experience.

A team of volunteer students, supervised by a school counselor, teacher or other school staff person, trains inbound and outbound transitioning students on three subject areas: academics, relationships, and finding the way. For the incoming students the team provides a forum for students to quickly feel welcomed, comfortable, included and accepted into their new school community. For the outgoing student, the team assists in helping outbound students better prepare for transitioning to another school.

S2S is a powerful program designed to help change a transitioning student's focal point from what the student has lost to what the student will gain through the relocation. S2S guides students through their uncertain surroundings, offering — from a peer viewpoint — valued information, friendship and assistance in three areas that matter most to transitioning students.

How do I find my way around?

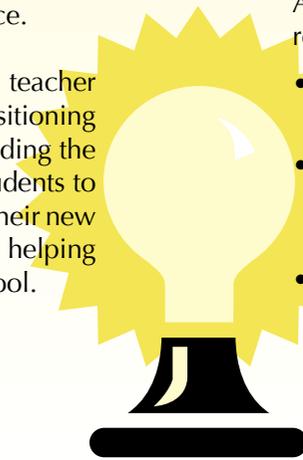
Who will I meet? How will I make friends? What about my relationships?

What do I need to know about the academic requirements at this school?

## What are the needs of a transitioning student?

A transitioning student has some very real needs!

- A need to quickly receive and understand relevant information.
- A need for immediate positive peer relationships and someone to trust and talk with who can relate.
- A compelling need to feel welcomed, accepted and understood.



## S2S program objective:

To provide the student who is relocating with the critical edge for a successful transition

## What is the purpose of S2S?

- To rapidly meet the transitioning students' critical needs.
- To quickly bring transitioning students necessary and relevant information from a credible, relatable source: another student.
- To immediately establish a peer relationship thereby helping students to gain greater confidence, enhance their comfort level and increase their well being while they adjust to their new experiences.

"My greatest regret is that we didn't start this program ten years ago."

*Principal*



## Why does S2S work?

- S2S training meets real transitioning needs.
- S2S leadership is provided by students.
  - S2S is timely.
  - S2S curriculum is based in research and validated.

"As a counselor I have given information from my office so students feel comfortable in their new setting. We have tried to help but the efforts always seem to fall short of what the students actually needed."

*Counselor and S2S Sponsor*



## We need you.

Your membership is important.

### Join MCEC

On the Web: [www.MilitaryChild.org](http://www.MilitaryChild.org)

By phone: (254) 953-1923

MCEC is a Combined Federal Campaign-approved organization.

#9845



S2S was developed through the support of the Army Community and Family Support Center.

See [www.MilitaryChild.org](http://www.MilitaryChild.org) for list of current S2S sites.

For a campus to be considered for S2S training, contact MCEC.



student 2 student<sup>®</sup>

Initiative

Focused on successful transitions for all highly mobile students.



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Military Child Education Coalition