

# INTERSTATE COMPACT ON EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY FOR MILITARY CHILDREN

## What is the Interstate Compact?

Military families encounter significant school challenges when dealing with enrollment, eligibility, placement, and graduation of their children, due to frequent relocations in the course of service to our country. Most military children will have six to nine different school systems in their lives from kindergarten to 12th grade.

The Council of State Governments' National Center for Interstate Compacts, in cooperation with the Department of Defense, has worked to develop an interstate compact that deals with these issues.

The goal of the Compact is to replace the widely varying policies affecting transitioning military students. It uses a comprehensive approach that provides a consistent policy in every school district and in every state that chooses to join. So far, 48 states have now joined the Compact to include the District of Columbia. As of July 2014, New York and New Hampshire are NOT part of the compact. The compact applies only to public schools.

## What children are eligible for assistance under the Compact?

- Active duty members of the uniformed services, National Guard and Reserve on active duty orders
- Members or veterans who are medically discharged or retired for one year
- Members who die on active duty

## What children are NOT eligible for assistance under the Compact?

- Inactive members of the National Guard and Reserve
- Members now retired not covered above
- Veterans not covered above
- Department of Defense personnel, federal agency civilians and contract employees not defined as active duty

## What does the Compact address?

The Compact addresses key educational transition issues encountered by military families including enrollment, placement, attendance, eligibility, and graduation.

## Data military family/parent/guardian should provide school upon transfer

- ◆ Official military orders showing that the military member was assigned to the state (or commuting area) of the state in which the child was previously enrolled and attended school.
- ◆ If the military child was residing with a legal guardian and not the military member during the previous enrollment, they should provide a copy of the family care plan, or proof of guardianship, as specified in the Compact, or any information sufficient for the receiving district to establish eligibility under the Compact.
- ◆ An official letter or transcript which shows record of attendance, academic information, and grade placement of the student.
- ◆ Immunization records and birth certificate.

**The Compact is NOT part of the Common Core State Standards Initiative.**

Although the Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission (MIC3) has been asked by various parties to endorse the CCSS, such an endorsement is beyond the scope of the Compact. The Compact rules address policies involving school transitions and specifically avoid curriculum and standards, which member states have not agreed upon. As a government entity, the Commission is empowered to execute only the Compact rules to which member states have agreed.

You should contact the School Liaison Officer (SLO) at your local installation if you have questions about the Compact and the requirements for the local school district. For a listing of SLOs in your area, please visit [www.militaryk12partners.dodea.edu](http://www.militaryk12partners.dodea.edu).

For more information about the Compact, please visit [www.mic3.net](http://www.mic3.net).

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They Serve 2 is a non-profit organization that helps bridge the gap between those who defend America's freedom and the private sector by providing the private sector with a means to give back to our military community through programs such as *Operation Backpack*.

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## Enrollment

**Educational records**—students can be placed based on unofficial records (copies) until official records are received by the incoming school

**Immunizations**—allows 30 days for immunizations

**Kindergarten & First Grade entrance age**—students shall continue in the grade level from the sending state regardless of age

## Placement & Attendance

**Course placement**—when the student transfers before or during the school year, the receiving school shall initially honor placement of the student in educational courses based on the student's enrollment in the sending school and/or educational assessments conducted in the sending state if the courses are offered.

**Educational program placement**—the receiving school shall initially honor placement of the student in educational programs based on current educational assessments conducted at the sending school in the sending state.

**Special education services**—the receiving school shall initially provide comparable services to a student with disabilities based on his/her current Individualized Education Program (IEP). In addition, the receiving school shall make reasonable accommodations and modifications to address the needs of incoming students with disabilities.

**Placement flexibility**—school administrative officials shall have flexibility in waiving course/program prerequisites, or other preconditions for placement in courses/programs offered under the jurisdiction of the school.

**Absences related to deployment activities**—local Superintendents shall allow, at their discretion, excused absences for the student to be with the parent prior to or after a deployment or while on leave from deployment.

## Eligibility

**Eligibility for student enrollment**— a special power of attorney for guardianship of the military child shall be sufficient for enrollment. Charging tuition to loco parentis or non-custodial parent who lives in an area different from the custodial parent is prohibited. A student placed in the custody of loco parentis or non-custodial parent may continue to attend the school in which they were enrolled while residing with the custodial parent.

**Eligibility for extracurricular participation**—if a student is otherwise eligible, they shall be allowed to participate in extracurricular activities even if they missed application deadlines.

## Graduation

**Waiver requirements**—waiving courses required for graduation if similar course work has been completed. If a waiver cannot be granted to a student who would qualify to graduate from sending school, the receiving school shall provide an alternative means of acquiring required coursework for on-time graduation.

**Exit exams**—states shall accept:

- 1) Exit or end-of-course exams required for graduation from sending school;
- 2) National norm-referenced achievement tests; or
- 3) Alternative testing, in lieu of testing requirements for graduation in the receiving school

**Transfers during Senior year**—should a military student transferring at the beginning or during his/her Senior year not be eligible to graduate under the receiving school's standards, the receiving school shall enroll the student in the required classes to receive a diploma from the sending school. The receiving school will coordinate with the sending school the receiving of the diploma by the military student.