



Guide for Parents, School Officials and Public Administrators

Interstate Commission on Educational Opportunity for Military Children



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What is the Interstate Commission on Educational Opportunity for Military Children?

The Compact deals with the challenges of military children and their frequent relocations. It allows for uniform treatment as military children transfer between school districts in member states. Each member state must adopt the Compact through legislation. Each Compact state will appoint representation to an on-going governing Commission which will enact necessary rules. The Compact calls for the development of State Councils in each member state. Each State Council may be tasked with development of policy concerning operations and procedures of the compact within the state.

The Council of State Governments (CSG), in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Defense, drafted the interstate compact to address the educational transition issues of children of military families. Since July 2006, CSG worked with a variety of federal, state and local officials as well as national stakeholder organizations representing education groups and military families to

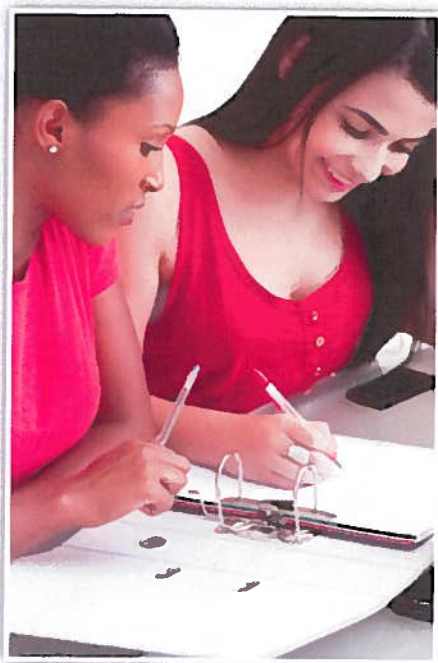
create the Interstate Compact. While the Compact is not exhaustive in its coverage, it does address the key issues encountered by military families: eligibility, enrollment, placement and graduation. The Compact provides for the uniform treatment of military children transferring between school districts and states.

Military families move between postings on a regular basis, and while reassignments can often be a boon for career personnel, they can be difficult for the children of military families. The average military student faces transition challenges more than twice during high school and most military children will attend six to nine different school systems in their lives from Kindergarten to 12th grade. The Compact seeks to make transition easier for the children of military families, so they are afforded the same opportunities for educational success as other children, and are not penalized or delayed in achieving their educational goals.

As part of the Compact, the Interstate Commission on Educational Opportunity

for Military Children was established (also referred to as the Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission or MIC3). The Department of Defense continues to work with the Commission, Council of State Governments, national organizations, and state leaders to bring the remaining states on board. Member states are forming their State Councils and informing school districts of the terms of the Compact. The Commission has met annually since 2008 and is working to implement and communicate the requirements of the Compact.





What Parents, Families and Guardians Should Know

Students Covered Under the Compact

- A student enrolled in K-12 in the household of a full-time duty status in the active uniformed service of the United States, including members of the National Guard and Reserve on active duty orders pursuant to 10 U.S.C. Section 1209 and 1211.
- Members or veterans of the uniformed services who are severely injured and medically discharged or retired for a period of one year.
- Members of the uniformed services who die on active duty or as a result of injuries sustained on active duty for a period of one year after death.

Students Not Covered Under the Compact

The Compact does not apply to children of:

- Inactive members of the national guard and military reserves
- Members of the uniformed services now retired not covered in the above
- Veterans of the uniformed services not covered in the above
- Other U.S. Department of Defense personnel and other federal agency civilian and contract employees not defined as active duty members of the uniformed services.

Educational and Enrollment Records

Unofficial or "Hand-Carried" Education Records

- Custodian of Records sends unofficial records to parents.
- School shall enroll and appropriately place student pending validation of official records.

Official Education Records/Transcripts

- Receiving state shall request student's official education records from sending state. Sending state's school will furnish official education records within ten (10) days or reasonably determined time promulgated by the Interstate Commission.
- Immunization: student is given thirty (30) calendar days from the date of enrollment.
- For a series of immunizations, initial vaccinations must be obtained within thirty (30) calendar days.

Kindergarten and First Grade Entrance Age

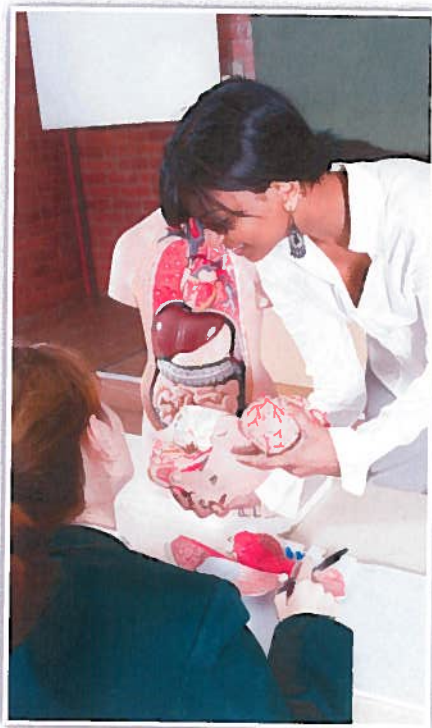
- The student shall be allowed to continue their enrollment at grade level in the receiving state, commensurate with their grade level (including Kindergarten) from a local education agency (LEA) in the sending state, at the time of transition, regardless of age. In the case of a Kindergarten student, the student must have been enrolled and attended class in the sending state in order to assure continued attendance in Kindergarten in the receiving state. A student that has satisfactorily completed the prerequisite grade level at the LEA in the sending state, shall be eligible for enrollment in the next highest grade level in the receiving state, regardless of age.

Graduation ▶

Waiver Requirements

Specific required courses shall be waived if similar course work has been satisfactorily completed. If a waiver is denied, LEA shall provide an alternative means of acquiring required coursework so the child may graduate on time.





Placement and Attendance

Course Placement

Receiving school shall honor placement based on student's previous enrollment and/or educational assessments. The receiving school is not barred from performing subsequent evaluations to ensure appropriate placement and continued enrollment.

Educational Program Placement

Receiving school shall honor placement based on current educational assessments. Receiving school is not barred from performing subsequent evaluations to ensure appropriate placement.

Special Education Services

- Comply with IDEA and provide comparable services based on his/her current IEP.
- Comply with Section 504 and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act.
- Shall make reasonable accommodations and modifications of incoming students with disabilities.
- Receiving school is not barred from performing subsequent evaluations to ensure appropriate placement.

Placement Flexibility

LEA officials shall have flexibility in waiving course/program prerequisites.

Absence as Related to Deployment Activities

The child shall be granted additional excused absences at the discretion of LEA superintendent.

Enrollment and Eligibility

- Special power of attorney or relative with guardianship can enroll a child.
- LEA shall not charge local tuition when a transitioning military child resides in a jurisdiction other than that of the custodial parent.
- Transitioning military children may continue to attend the school in which they were enrolled.
- Transitioning military children shall have the opportunity to participate in extracurricular activities, if qualified, regardless of application deadlines.



Resolving Education Transition Issues for Military Children



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