

## Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children

The Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children legally supports the challenges you and your child might face while transitioning to a new school in a different state. It was adopted by all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) to increase consistency for your child. The Compact allows school personnel like teachers, administrators, and registrar or counseling staff to support children of military families during a time of transition, leading to a more positive and military-friendly climate.

The Interstate Compact specifies who is eligible for protection under it. Public school students enrolled in grades K-12 are eligible if they are children of:

- ✓ Full-time Active Duty Service members, including National Guard and Reserve Component Service members on Active Duty orders pursuant to 10 U.S.C. Section 1209 and 1211;
- ✓ Service members or veterans who are severely injured/ medically discharged or retired (for one year); or
- ✓ Service members who die on Active Duty or because of injuries sustained while on active duty (for one year).

The Interstate Compact covers:

- ✓ Educational Records & Enrollment
- ✓ Placement and Attendance
- ✓ Eligibility
- ✓ Graduation
- ✓ Oversight, Enforcement, & Dispute Resolution

## Oversight, Enforcement, and Dispute Resolution

If a dispute occurs between your previous state and your new state over the way the Compact is interpreted, there are guidelines for resolution. If the dispute cannot be resolved, the states should follow an informal resolution process or conduct a formal mediation or arbitration. Resolution should start at the school level and proceed to the state and national levels if necessary. You or your child's school can begin this process by contacting your school liaison officer (SLO) or the Compact Commissioner in each state.



## Additional Resources

The Military Interstate Children Compact Commission (MIC3) is the national organization that oversees the implementation of the Compact ([www.MIC3.net](http://www.MIC3.net)). Each state, the District of Columbia, and DoDEA has its own Commission to assist you during transitions between states. Your SLO can also support your transition by connecting you, your child's school, and the installation.

Please note: The Compact may be enacted a bit differently in each state. Please visit [http://mic3.net/pages/contact/contactmic3\\_maps.aspx](http://mic3.net/pages/contact/contactmic3_maps.aspx) for the most updated versions.

To learn more please visit:

<http://schoolresources.militaryfamilies.psu.edu>

## Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children

### Parent Guide



## Transfer of Educational Records and Enrollment

- If you cannot obtain official education records before your transition, the school must provide a set of unofficial records. Your child's new school must enroll and appropriately place him or her based on the unofficial records until official records can be acquired for validation.
- Your child is eligible to immediately enroll in the same grade level as their prior school, regardless of age restrictions. If your child has completed all requirements of a grade level, he or she is eligible to enroll in the next highest grade level in the new state, regardless of age restrictions. However, children may only continue kindergarten in a new school if they have enrolled in and attended kindergarten in their previous state.
- Upon enrollment, your child has 30 calendar days to receive or start a series of all immunizations required by the new school.
- Parents should carry unofficial copies of transcripts with them as well as proof of guardianship.



## Placement and Attendance

### Course and Program Placement

Your child should be placed in courses and programs most similar to those listed on his or her unofficial or official records.

- Schools are not required to create classes or programs or hold any additional spaces open.
- The new school must initially honor students' previous placements, but may require additional evaluations and official records for continued enrollment.
- If the new school does not offer a specific course or program, school officials may allow your child to attend those classes or programs offered by other schools in the district.

### Placement Flexibility

Your child may not need to meet all prerequisites or preconditions for a course or program, as the Compact allows school officials to provide flexibility.

## Placement and Attendance

### Absence as Related to Deployment

When a parent or guardian deploys, is on leave from, or returns from deployment, your child's school superintendent can provide additional excused absences. Schools are not expected to provide excused absences during PCS orders.

### Special Education

If your child has an IEP, 504 Plan, or Title II plan, he or she should initially receive comparable services. The new school may perform evaluations to confirm placement.

## Eligibility

### Enrollment

- If your child is being cared for by a guardian during deployment, a custody order or other document relative to guardianship of a child gives the guardian power to enroll your child and provide parental consent.
- If your child temporarily lives with a guardian, you may not be charged tuition for anything except optional programs.
- Your child may continue to attend his or her school without paying tuition even if he or she temporarily moves to another district.

### Extracurricular Participation

- Your child still has the chance to participate in any extracurricular activity he or she desires. Schools can waive application deadlines, tryouts, and trainings, as well as consult with the state high school athletic association, which may govern the final decision. This however does not guarantee students a spot in their desired activity.
- However, schools are not required to add programs, or add or hold space space for transferring students.



## Graduation

### Waiver Requirements

- Schools may substitute courses or waive course requirements if students completed similar courses elsewhere, unless a reasonable justification is provided.
- If your child would qualify to graduate in your previous state, his or her new school must provide an alternate means of acquiring credit to allow your child to graduate on time.

### Exit Exams

Some schools require passing scores on certain exams to graduate. Schools shall accept the following from other states in place of the regular exit exam:

- Exit or end-of-course exams that have been accepted by your previous state;
- National norm-referenced achievement tests, which your previous state accepted for graduation; or
- Alternate testing to replace testing requirements in your new state.

If your child's school does not accept another test in place of a regular exit exam, it must follow the Compact's regulations for transfers during senior year.

### Transfers During Senior Year

If all alternatives are considered and your child is still not able to graduate from his or her new school on time, his or her old and new schools should work together to ensure your child meets graduation requirements in one of the two states and graduates on time.

