

Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children

The Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children legally supports the challenges students 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 students. 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 a student's previous state and a student's 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. A student's school can begin this process by contacting the 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). Each state, the District of Columbia, and DoDEA has its own Commission to assist students during transitions between states. School liaison officers, military personnel assigned to support the communication between the installation and schools, may also serve as a source of support.

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

To learn more please visit:
<http://schoolresources.militaryfamilies.psu.edu>

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School Personnel Guide



Transfer of Educational Records and Enrollment

- If official education records are not yet available, the previous school must provide parents with a set of unofficial records. The new school must enroll and appropriately place the student based on the unofficial records until official records can be acquired for validation.
- Students are eligible to immediately enroll in the same grade level as their prior school, regardless of age restrictions. A student who has completed all requirements of a grade level is eligible to enroll in the next highest grade level in the new state, regardless of age restrictions. However, students may only continue kindergarten in a new school if they have enrolled in and attended kindergarten in their previous state.
- Upon enrollment, students have 30 calendar days to receive or start a series of all immunizations required by the new school.



Placement and Attendance

Course and Program Placement

Students should be placed in courses and programs most similar to those listed on their 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 students to attend those classes or programs offered by other schools in the district.

Placement Flexibility

The Compact allows school officials to provide flexibility with prerequisites or preconditions a school may have for certain courses and programs.

Placement and Attendance

Absence as Related to Deployment

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

Special Education

A student with an IEP, 504 Plan, or Title II plan should initially receive comparable services. The new school may perform evaluations to confirm placement.

Eligibility

Enrollment

- During deployment, a custody order or other document relative to guardianship of a child gives the guardian power to enroll the student and provide parental consent.
- A student who temporarily lives with a guardian may not be charged tuition for anything except optional programs.
- Students may continue to attend their schools without paying tuition even if he or she temporarily moves to another district.

Extracurricular Participation

- Schools have the opportunity to include students of military families in all extracurricular activities by waiving 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 the student would qualify to graduate in the previous state, the new school must provide an alternate means of acquiring credit to allow the student 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 the previous state;
- National norm-referenced achievement tests, which the previous state accepted for graduation; or
- Alternate testing to replace testing requirements in the new state.

If the state chooses to 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 students are still not able to graduate from their new school on time, their old and new schools should work together to ensure students meet graduation requirements in one of the two states and graduates on time.

