

The Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children

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A Guide for Parents and Guardians

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

- The Compact covers the educational challenges your children may face as they move.
- It specifies that military children be treated in a standardized way for educational opportunities when they transfer between school districts and states.
- The regulations and expectations of the Compact apply to students transferring to, from or between Department of Defense Education Activity schools.
- All 50 states and the District of Columbia have joined the Compact.
- Even though every state and the District of Columbia are members of the Compact, states are in different stages of applying the regulations and expectations.

What educational policies does the Compact cover?

- Enrollment
 - Education records — copies provided by the parent or guardian
 - Shot record
 - The age children may enter kindergarten and first grade
- Placement
 - Course and education program placement based on the child's courses and programs in the sending school
 - Special education services
 - Placement flexibility based on placement in the sending school
 - Absence related to deployment



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- Eligibility
 - Flexibility in enrolling a student whose parent is deployed
 - Extracurricular participation — auditions, tryouts, elections, membership in clubs and organizations
- Graduation
 - Waiving or putting aside courses required for graduation if similar course work has been completed
 - Flexibility in accepting state exit exams or end-of-course exams, national achievement tests or alternative testing from the sending school
 - Allowing a student, under certain circumstances, to receive a diploma from the sending school instead of the receiving school

Who does the Compact cover?

- Children of full-time active-duty service members, including National Guard and Reserve Component service members on active duty, enrolled in kindergarten through grade 12
- Children of service members or veterans who are severely injured and medically discharged or retired for a period of **one year** after medical discharge or retirement
- Children of service members who die on active duty or because of injuries sustained while on active duty for a period of **one year** after death

Who is not covered?

- Children of service members who separate from active duty or Reserve Components
- Children of service members now retired not covered in the above description
- Children of veterans not covered in the above description
- Children of U.S. Department of Defense personnel and other federal agency civilian and contract employees not defined as active-duty service members

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What data should parents or guardians provide when enrolling their child in a new school?

- Official military orders
- Family care plan or proof of guardianship if the child resides with a legal guardian
- Letter or transcript showing attendance, academic information and grade placement
- Shot record
- Birth certificate

Note: It is a good practice to keep hard copies of all educational records from each school. For students currently receiving special education or 504 services, it is a good practice to have hard copies of all individualized education programs or IEPs, service agreements, evaluations and progress notes from schools, as well as from outside services.

It is important to understand what the Compact can do for military children in transition. The following resources may assist you in learning what the Compact does and does not do for educational opportunities for military children:

- [The Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children](#)
- Quick Reference Guide (part of the service provider toolkit to link to when posted online)
- [Guide for Parents, School Officials and Public Administrators](#)
- [What Parents, Families and Guardians Should Know](#)
- [What Schools and Administrators Should Know](#)
- [Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission](#)
- [Find your state commissioner](#)