

# The Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children

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## A Guide for Schools and Local School Districts

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

- The Compact addresses the educational challenges of military children and their frequent relocations.
- It provides for uniform treatment of military children in regards to educational opportunities as they transfer between school districts and states.
- All 50 states and the District of Columbia have passed legislation to join the Compact.

### What are the responsibilities of school officials and local school districts?

#### Definitions:

- Receiving state: the state a child of a military family moves to
- Sending state: the state a child of a military family moves from

### Enrollment

#### Education records

- The receiving state will enroll a military child using unofficial or hand-carried education records, which include attendance records, academic information and grade placement.
- The child must attend class to be considered enrolled; completing paperwork alone is not sufficient.
- Upon a request from the receiving state, the sending state will furnish official education records within 10 days.

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## **Immunization records**

- The student has 30 calendar days from the date of enrollment to obtain the proper immunizations.
- For a series of immunizations, the student must obtain initial vaccinations within 30 calendar days.

## **Kindergarten and first grade entry age**

- The receiving state allows the student to continue his or her enrollment at the grade level of the sending school.
- The receiving school promotes the student if he or she has satisfactorily completed prerequisite requirements in the sending school, regardless of age.
- A student transferring after the school year begins will enter school at the same grade and course level from the accredited sending school.

## **Placement and attendance**

### **Course placement**

- The receiving school will honor the student's placement based on previous enrollment or education assessments.
- The receiving school may perform subsequent evaluations to ensure appropriate placement and continued enrollment.

### **Special education services**

- The receiving school must comply with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.
- The receiving school will provide comparable services to the student based on his or her current individualized education program or IEP.
- The receiving school will make reasonable accommodations and modifications for students with disabilities.
- The receiving school may perform subsequent evaluations to ensure appropriate placement.

### **Placement flexibility**

- Local school districts have flexibility in waiving course or program prerequisites.

# The Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children

## Absences related to deployment activities

- Students may be granted additional excused absences at the discretion of the local school district superintendent or school principal.

## Eligibility

- A student may be enrolled using a special power of attorney or by a relative with guardianship.
- The local school district cannot charge tuition when the transitioning student resides in a jurisdiction other than that of the custodial parent.
- A transitioning military child may continue to attend the school in which he or she was enrolled.
- Transitioning military children will have the opportunity to participate in extracurricular activities, if qualified, regardless of application deadlines.

## Graduation

### Waiver requirements

- Specific required courses may be waived if similar course work has been satisfactorily completed.
- If a waiver is denied, the local school district will provide an alternative means of acquiring coursework so the student may graduate on time

### Exit exams

- States will accept the following exams:
  - Exit or end-of-course exams
  - National norm-referenced achievement tests
  - Alternative testing

Note: If the alternatives listed above cannot be accommodated, the sending and receiving local school district will ensure the student receives a diploma from the sending school district, if the student has met the graduation requirements of the sending school district.

# The Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children

## **Transferring at the beginning or during the senior year**

- If a student is ineligible to graduate after all alternatives have been considered, the sending and receiving local school district will ensure the student receives a diploma from the sending school district if all graduation requirements have been completed.

## **How can schools and administrators get more information about their state's Interstate Compact process?**

Each state has a council to serve as an advisory body to state policy makers concerning operations and procedures of the Compact. The language of individual states may differ, but all states operate within the rules of the Interstate Compact.

For additional information about the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children, visit [Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission](#) or contact your [state commissioner](#).