



School District Guidelines for Implementing Rules of the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children

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Changing schools can be a huge ordeal for military families and military children. Education curriculum and education requirements can vary tremendously between states and between school districts. **For those reasons the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children is very important.** This Compact addresses inequities facing schoolchildren of military parents when they are required to relocate across state lines. Specifically, it allows the laws of the “sending” state to apply to transferring students from active duty military families in the schools of the “receiving” state for such policies as graduation requirements, Advanced Placements (AP), and age of student enrollment. The chart below will assist receiving schools with understanding the responsibilities we have in implementing the rules of the Compact. The chart represents some of the most frequently asked questions as military students enroll in their new school.

Artwork by Carmen, Grade 10 • Ramey School, Puerto Rico • Service Branch Unspecified

TRANSFER OF EDUCATION RECORDS AND ENROLLMENT	RECEIVING SCHOOL RESPONSIBILITY
Unofficial or “Hand-Carried” Education Records	States shall enroll and appropriately place the student based on the information provided in the unofficial records pending validation by the official records, as quickly as possible.
Immunizations	States shall give 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	<p>Students shall be allowed to continue their enrollment at grade level in the receiving state commensurate with their grade level (including Kindergarten) from a LEA in the sending state at the time of transition, regardless of age.</p> <p>In order to be admitted into a school in the receiving state, such a student transferring from the sending state must provide the following data:</p> <p>Official military orders showing that the military member was assigned to the state (or commuting area) of the state in which the child was previously duly enrolled and attended school. If a child of a military member was residing with a legal guardian during the previous enrollment and not the military member, a copy of the family care plan, or proof of guardianship, as specified in the Interstate Compact, or any information sufficient for the receiving district to establish eligibility under this compact shall be provided;</p> <p>An official letter or transcript from the proper school authority which shows record of attendance, academic information, and grade placement of the student;</p> <p>Documented evidence of immunization against communicable diseases; and</p> <p>Evidence of date of birth.</p>



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GRADUATION	RECEIVING SCHOOL RESPONSIBILITY
Waiver Requirements	<p>LEA administrative officials shall waive specific courses required for graduation if similar course work has been satisfactorily completed in another LEA or shall provide reasonable justification for denial.</p> <p>Should a waiver not be granted to a student who would qualify to graduate from the sending school, the LEA shall provide an alternative means of acquiring required coursework so that graduation may occur on time.</p> <p>If the receiving LEA requires a graduation project, volunteer community service hours, or other state or LEA specific requirements, the receiving LEA may waive those requirements.</p>
Exit Exams	<p>States shall accept: 1) exit or end-of-course exams required for graduation from the sending state; or 2) national norm-referenced achievement tests or 3) alternative testing, in lieu of testing requirements for graduation in the receiving state. In the event the above alternatives cannot be accommodated by the receiving state for a student transferring in his or her senior year, then the provisions of Article VII, Section C of the Compact shall apply.</p>
Transfers during Senior Year	<p>There may be cases in which a military student transferring at the beginning or during his or her senior year is ineligible to graduate from the receiving LEA after all alternatives have been considered. In such cases the sending and receiving LEA's shall ensure the receipt of a diploma from the sending LEA, if the student meets the graduation requirements of the sending LEA. In the event that one of the states in question is not a member of this compact, the member state shall use best efforts to facilitate the on-time graduation of the student in accordance with Sections A and B of Article VII of the Compact.</p>

PLACEMENT & ATTENDANCE	RECEIVING SCHOOL RESPONSIBILITY
Special Education Services	<p>States shall initially provide comparable services to a student with disabilities based on his/her current Individualized Education Program (IEP); and</p> <p>States shall make reasonable accommodations and modifications to address the needs of incoming students with disabilities, subject to an existing 504 or Title II Plan, to provide the student with equal access to education.</p> <p>States may perform subsequent evaluations to ensure appropriate placement and appropriate services. The receiving school shall follow any current regulations the receiving state has in place in order to comply with federal or state law.</p>
Absence as related to Deployment Activities	<p>A student whose parent or legal guardian is an active duty member of the uniformed services, as defined by the Compact, and has been called to duty for, is on leave from, or immediately returned from deployment to a combat zone or combat support posting, shall be granted additional excused absences at the discretion of the LEA superintendent or head of school to visit with his or her parent or legal guardian relative to such leave or deployment of the parent or guardian. Notwithstanding the above, the LEA superintendent or head of school may provide a maximum number of additional excused absences.</p>

ELIGIBILITY	RECEIVING SCHOOL RESPONSIBILITY
Eligibility for Extracurricular Participation	<p>State and local education agencies shall facilitate the opportunity for transitioning military children's inclusion in extracurricular activities, regardless of application deadlines, with consultation with the state high school athletic association, to the extent they are otherwise qualified. Application deadlines include tryouts, summer conditioning and other coach or district prerequisites.</p>

Information compiled through Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission resources in Lexington, KY; www.mic3.net