

Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children



Compact Overview and Introduction

- Replace the widely varying policies that affect transitioning military students with a comprehensive approach that provides a consistent policy.
- Address key transition issues encountered by military families including enrollment, placement, attendance, eligibility and graduation.
- Children of active duty members of the uniformed services, National Guard and Reserve on active duty orders, and Members or veterans who are medically discharged or retired for (1) year are eligible for assistance under the compact

Note – the compact applies to public schools only.



Purpose

- Inform about what the compact does and doesn't cover
- Manage expectations as some may think compact addresses more educational areas/issues than it does

Major Points

- Designed to resolve education transition issues
- Not intended to impact curriculum or local standards of education
 - Recognizes responsibility of states and local education agencies

Compact Content

- Article I – purpose
- Article II – definitions
- Article III – applicability
- **Article IV – enrollment**
- **Article V – placement and attendance**
- **Article VI – eligibility**
- **Article VII – graduation**
- Article VIII – state coordination
- Article IX – interstate commission

Article IV - Enrollment: Educational Records

What's included:

- Parents can receive a copy of unofficial records
- Receiving school must accept the unofficial records to enroll and place the student
- Sending school must send official records within 10 business days of receiving a request

What's not covered:

- Giving parents the right to request a copy of every paper in the student file
- Receiving unofficial records free of charge



Article IV - Enrollment: Immunizations

What's included:

- Child is given 30 days from enrollment to obtain required immunizations
- A series of immunizations must be started within 30 days of enrollment

What's not covered:

- **TB testing:** since it is a test rather than an immunization, the test may be required before enrollment



Article IV - Enrollment: Kindergarten and First Grade Entrance Age

What's included:

- A student can continue in the same grade regardless of entrance age requirements if he or she has already enrolled in kindergarten or 1st grade in an accredited public school in the sending state
- A student may go to the next grade regardless of age requirements, if he or she has successfully completed

What's not covered:

- A student who has not been enrolled in kindergarten even though they are of eligible age to have started



Article V - Placement and Attendance: Course and Educational Program Placement

What's included:

- Receiving state will initially honor placement in courses or programs based on the student's enrollment in the sending state
- Receiving state *may* subsequently perform an evaluation to ensure the appropriate placement and continued enrollment



What's not covered:

- Guarantee of continued enrollment if not qualified
- Although the receiving school must demonstrate reasonable accommodation, there is no requirement to create a course or additional space

Article V - Placement and Attendance: Special Education Services

What's included:

- Receiving state will initially provide the same services identified in the students Individual Education Plan from the sending state
- Receiving state *may* subsequently perform an evaluation to ensure the appropriate placement of the student

What's not covered:

- A requirement to provide the exact programs as sending state
- Anything above the requirements in the IDEA



Article V - Placement and Attendance: Placement Flexibility

What's included:

- Allowing flexibility to the Local Education Agency (LEA) to waive course or program prerequisites or other preconditions if similar course work has been completed in another LEA.

What's not covered:

- Mandatory waivers of prerequisites or preconditions



Article V - Placement and Attendance: Absence Related to Deployment Activities

What's included:

- Flexibility for additional excused absences to visit the parent or legal guardian due to deployment



What's not covered:

- Requiring more than “reasonable accommodation”

Note: this provision provides discretion and flexibility to the LEA and school superintendent during state testing periods or if the student has already missed so much school that additional absences will be detrimental

Article VI - Eligibility: Eligibility for Enrollment

What's included:

- A LEA cannot charge tuition to military children placed in care of a non-custodial parent or person serving “in loco parentis”
- A student can continue to attend his or her current school even if living with a non-custodial parent or person serving “in loco parentis”
- The power of attorney for guardianship is sufficient for enrollment and all other actions requiring parental participation or consent



Article VI - Eligibility: Eligibility for Extracurricular Participation

What's included:

- State and local agencies shall facilitate the **opportunity** for inclusion in extracurricular activities regardless of deadlines as long as the child is otherwise qualified



What's not covered:

- State student athletic associations, some of which are not affiliated with state or LEAs
- Although the receiving school must demonstrate reasonable accommodation, there is no requirement to hold open or create additional spaces

Article VII - Graduation

What's included:

- Waiving courses required for graduation if similar course work has been completed
- Flexibility in accepting sending state exit exams, national tests, or alternative testing in lieu of testing requirements for graduation in the receiving state
- Allowing a student to receive a diploma from the sending school

What's not covered:

- Mandatory waivers....although LEA must show good cause for a denial of waiver
- Mandatory waiver of the exam or acceptance of alternative results
- The right of parents to request a change of graduation requirements in the receiving LEA



Reference Resources

- Interstate Commission and State Council information
<http://www.mic3.net>
- FAQs
http://www.mic3.net/pages/FAQ/faq_index.aspx

The Compact provides a valuable tool to help our families!



WA State Commission

» **History**

» **Members**

» **2014 Report to Legislature**

Questions ? ? ? ?



MIC3 Military Interstate
Children's Compact Commission 