

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

In 2008, the Legislature enacted the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children. The compact is based on model legislation developed by the Council of State Governments and the United States Department of Defense (DOD). The compact enables member states to uniformly address various educational transition issues faced by children of active-duty military families. The compact establishes state and national level governing bodies to administer the compact among member states. States may join the compact by enacting a law adopting the compact.

## ***Why was the compact developed?***

Most military children transfer to a different school district six to nine times during grades kindergarten through 12. Military children are often impacted by differences in state policies governing:

- ❖ Education record transfers;
- ❖ Kindergarten and first grade entrance ages;
- ❖ Course sequencing;
- ❖ Grade-level placement;
- ❖ Educational program placement;
- ❖ Participation in extracurricular activities;
- ❖ Graduation and testing requirements; and
- ❖ The need to appoint temporary guardians while the child's parent is deployed.

As a result, military children often experience delayed enrollment, inappropriate grade-level placement, exclusion from educational programs and extracurricular activities, and delayed graduation. The compact establishes guidelines to better enable member states to address these issues.

## ***Does the compact apply to the children of any member of the military?***

No. The compact only applies to the children of:

- ❖ Active duty armed forces personnel, including activated National Guard and Reserve personnel;
- ❖ Active duty personnel or veterans who are medically discharged or retired for a period of up to one year; and
- ❖ Personnel who die on active duty or as a result of injuries sustained on active duty for a period of one year after death.<sup>7</sup>

## ***What entity governs the compact at the national level?***

The compact established an Interstate Commission on Educational Opportunity for Military Children to provide national-level oversight of the compact. Among other things, the commission may adopt and enforce bylaws and compact rules and compile data, facilitate sharing of information, and conduct training and public awareness activities regarding the compact. The commission must annually report to the legislatures, governors, judiciary, and state councils of the member states. The commission is comprised of one voting representative, or compact commissioner, from each member state. Each state is entitled to one vote on compact rule adoption or other business matters. The commission must meet at least once per year.

## ***What entity governs the compact at the state level?***

The compact requires each state to establish a state council to coordinate state and local government implementation of, and compliance with, compact requirements. Each state may independently determine state council membership. However, each state council must include at least the state superintendent of education, the superintendent of a school district with a high concentration of military students, a representative from a military base, and one representative each from the legislative and executive branches of government. Each state must also appoint a Military Family Education Liaison to assist military families and the state with compact compliance.

## ***Where can I get additional information?***

### ***The Council of State Governments***

Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children

Compact Administrator

(859) 244-8068

[http://www.csg.org/programs/policyprograms/NCIC/interstatecompact\\_militarychildren\\_edop.aspx](http://www.csg.org/programs/policyprograms/NCIC/interstatecompact_militarychildren_edop.aspx)

## ***Specific impacts on military children include:***

- Transfer of Records
- Course Sequencing
- Graduation Requirements
- Exclusion from Extra-Curricular Activities
- Redundant or Missed Entrance/Exit Testing
- Kindergarten and First Grade Entrance Age Variations
- Power of Custodial Parents While Parents are Deployed

The new Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children addresses these issues, as well as compact enforcement, administration, finances, communications, data sharing and training.

