

What is an interstate compact?

It is an agreement between two or more states for cooperative effort, mutual assistance, management and regulation of public policy matters by the states, which transcend the boundaries of one state. Generally, interstate compacts fall into one of three categories: border compacts, advisory compacts or regulatory compacts.

What does the new Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military address?

The new compact addresses perceived inequities facing students of military families when they relocate to school districts across state lines. It addresses issues such as eligibility, enrollment, placement and graduation requirements.

What key terminology do we need to be aware of regarding the new compact?

- “Children of military families” means: school-aged children, enrolled in kindergarten through twelfth grade, in the household of an active duty member.
- “Active duty” means: full-time duty status in the active uniformed services of the United States, including members of the National Guard and Reserve on active duty orders.
- “Sending state” means: the state from which a child of a military family is sent, brought or caused to be sent or brought.
- “Receiving state” means: the state to which a child of a military family is sent, brought or caused to be sent or brought.
- “Transition: means: [1] the formal and physical process of transferring from school to school or [2] the period of time in which a student moved from one school in the sending state to another school in the receiving state.

What students are covered by the compact? The compact applies to the children of:

- Active duty members of the uniformed services, as defined in this compact, including members of the National Guard and Reserve on active duty orders;
- Members or veterans of the uniformed services who are severely injured and medically discharged or retired for a period of one year after medical discharge or retirement; and
- Members of the uniformed services who die on active duty or as a result of injuries sustained on active duty for a period of one year after death.

The compact does not apply to children of:

- Inactive members of the National Guard and military reserves;
- Members of the uniformed services now retired, except those as previously stated;
- Veterans of the uniformed services, except those as previously stated; and
- Other U.S. Department of Defense personnel and other federal agency civilian and contract employees not defined as active duty members of the uniformed services.

What registration/enrollment issues are addressed by the compact?

Educational Records

- Unofficial or “hand-carried” education records. In the event that official education records cannot be released to the parents for the purpose of transfer, the custodian of the records in the school of the sending state shall prepare and furnish to the parent a complete set of unofficial education records. Upon the receipt of the unofficial education records by the school in the receiving state, the school shall enroll and appropriately place the student based on the information provided pending validation by the official records, as quickly as possible.
- Official education records and transcripts. Simultaneous with the enrollment and conditional placement of a student, the school in the receiving state shall request the student's official education record from the school in the sending state. With receipt of request, the school in the sending state must furnish the official education records to the school in the receiving state **within ten days**.

Immunizations

A student is required to obtain any immunizations required by the school in the receiving state **within 30 days** from the date of enrollment in the school of the receiving state. If a series of immunization is required, the initial vaccinations must be obtained within the 30 day period.

Kindergarten and First Grade Entrance Age

- Students shall be allowed to continue their enrollment at grade level in the school of the receiving state commensurate with their grade level from a school in the sending state at the time of transition, regardless of age.
- A student who has completed the prerequisite grade level in a school in the sending state shall be eligible for enrollment in the next highest grade level in a school in the receiving state, regardless of age.

- A student transferring after the start of the school year in a school in the receiving state shall enter the school on their validated level from a school in the sending state.

What about course placement and attendance?

Course Placement: A school in the receiving state shall initially honor placement of a transferring student in educational courses, if such courses are offered, based on the student's enrollment in the sending state school. Course placement includes, but is not limited to, honors, international baccalaureate, advanced placement, vocational, technical and career pathways courses.

Education Program Placement: Similarly, a receiving state school shall initially honor placement of a student in education programs based on current education assessments conducted at a school in the sending state for programs such as gifted and talented and English as a second language.

Special Education Services: 1) In compliance with the federal requirements of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), 20 U.S.C.A. Section 1400 et seq, the receiving state shall initially provide comparable services to a student with disabilities based on his/her current Individualized Education Program (IEP); and, 2) In compliance with the requirements of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, 29 U.S.C.A. Section 794, and with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, 42 U.S.C.A. Sections 12131-12165, the receiving state 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. This does not preclude the school in the receiving state from performing subsequent evaluations to ensure appropriate placement of the student

Placement Flexibility: School districts shall have flexibility in waiving course or program prerequisites or other preconditions for placement.

Are there any attendance issues addressed by the compact?

Yes, as related to deployment activities. A student whose parent or legal guardian is an active duty member of the armed forces, as defined by the compact, and has been called to do duty for, is on leave from, or immediately returned from deployment to a combat zone shall be granted additional excused absences at the discretion of a school district's superintendent to visit with the student's parent/legal guardian relative to such leave or deployment.

Eligibility for Enrollment:

- A special power of attorney, relative to the guardianship of a child of a military family, executed under applicable law is sufficient for the purposes of enrollment and all other actions requiring parental participation and consent.
- A school district is prohibited from charging tuition to a transitioning military child placed in the care of a noncustodial parent or other person standing in loco parentis who lives in a jurisdiction other than that of the custodial parent.
- A transitioning military child, placed in the care of a noncustodial parent or other person standing in loco parentis who lives in a jurisdiction other than that of the custodial parent, may continue to attend the school in which the child was enrolled while residing with the custodial parent.

What about extracurricular participation and eligibility?

State and local education agencies shall facilitate the opportunity for the inclusion of military children in extracurricular activities to the extent they are otherwise qualified, regardless of application deadlines.

What procedures are required in the new compact to facilitate on-time graduation?

Waiver Requirements

A school district shall waive specific courses required for graduation if similar course work has been satisfactorily completed in another school district or shall provide reasonable justification for denial. If a waiver is not granted to a student who would qualify to graduate from a school of the sending state, the school of the receiving state shall provide an alternative means of acquiring required coursework so that graduation may occur on time.

Exit Exams

States shall accept: [1] exit or end-of-course exams required for graduation from a school in the sending state; or [2] national norm-referenced achievement tests; or [3] alternative testing, in lieu of testing requirements for graduation in a school of the receiving state.

Transfers during Senior Year

If a transitioning student who transfers in his/her senior year is ineligible to graduate from a school in the receiving state after all alternatives have been considered, both the sending and receiving state schools shall ensure the receipt of a diploma from the sending state school if the student meets the graduation requirements of the sending state school. If 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.



VISION

Graduate every student with the choice to attend college without remediation

MISSION

Teach every student within a safe environment the knowledge, skills and values necessary to enter college or a career and become a contributing member of society who flourishes in a diverse, dynamic world.

CORE VALUES

- RESPECT** Each person has equal, intrinsic worth and deserves to be treated with dignity and respect
- INTEGRITY** Integrity is based on trust, honesty and accepting accountability for all words and actions
- COMPASSION** Every individual should be willing to give time and energy to act in the best interest of others
- EQUITY** Through practice, passion and persistence, APS will provide an equitable education for all students demonstrated by closing racial, ethnic and economic achievement gaps
- EXCELLENCE** High achievement requires high expectations focused on challenging instruction and engaged learners willing to work hard for success



Know your rights!

Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children

It is the purpose of this compact to remove barriers to educational success imposed on children of military families because of frequent moves and deployment of their parents.

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