



## Aurora Public Schools Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children Q&A

### **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 Children address?**

*The purpose of the Interstate Compact is to address perceived inequities facing school children 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 military families in the schools of the “receiving” state for such policies as graduation requirements, Advance Placements (AP), and age of student enrollment. For example, if the “sending” state has a lower graduation requirement than the “receiving” state (e.g. course requirements), then, depending on the terms of the Interstate Compact, the requirements of the “sending” state would apply to a transferring high school student. The provisions would most likely have a more significant impact on public schools near military bases. However, all children of military families would be covered regardless of their proximity to military installations.*

### **What the Compact Does and Does Not Include:**

*Compact provisions apply only to students transferring between member states. If either state is not a member of the Compact, they are not required to comply with its provisions.*

### **How many states currently have this compact?**

*To date there are 39 states: Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, and Wisconsin and the District of Columbia.*

### **How does this affect APS?**

<b>APS</b>	<b>Military Compact</b>
<b>Educational Records:</b>	<b>Educational Records:</b> <i>the new compact provides that schools must share records in a timely manner in order to expedite the proper enrollment and placement of students. If the sending school cannot provide the parent a copy of the official record, an unofficial copy will be provided that may be hand carried to the school in lieu of the official record. This unofficial record can then be used for preliminary placement while the school sends for</i>

	<p>the official record. Once requested, the <b>sending school has 10 days</b> to provide the official record to the receiving school.</p>
<p><b>Immunizations:</b> students have 14 days to obtain required immunizations</p>	<p><b>Immunizations:</b> the new compact provides for specific timelines, in this case 30 days from the date of enrollment, for students to obtain required immunizations in the receiving state.</p>
<p><b>Entrance Age Requirements (Policy JF):</b>  <i>Kindergarten: A child must be five years old on or before October 1 of the school year in which they are enrolling to be eligible to enter kindergarten. A student transferring into Aurora Public Schools from another public or state-certified, non-public school must meet the state's and District's established minimum age requirement of five years of age on or before October 1 for kindergarten admission.</i></p> <p><i>First Grade: A child must be six years old on or before October 1 of the school year in which they are enrolling to be eligible to enter first grade.</i></p> <p><i>A student transferring into Aurora Public Schools from another Colorado public or state-certified, non-public school must meet the state's and District's established minimum age requirement of six years of age on or before October 1 for first grade admission. First grade students transferring within the District from another first-grade public school program shall be eligible for first grade admission.</i></p> <p><i>A student who attended at least 120 days of kindergarten in a state other than Colorado and who is at least five years old on or before October 1 of the school year in which they are enrolling may be eligible for first grade admission</i></p>	<p><b>Age of Enrollment/Course Continuation:</b> the compact requires, absent a new enrollment in Kindergarten, that a student shall be allowed to continue their enrollment at grade level in the receiving state commensurate with their grade level from the sending state. For example, if a student is enrolled and attends Kindergarten at the age of 5 in State A and transfers to State B, the student would be allowed to continue in Kindergarten despite State B's entrance age of 6 years. Further, the compact allows for such continuity of enrollment when a student has completed Kindergarten and is ready for enrollment in First Grade. For example, if a student has completed Kindergarten in State A and transfers to State B, the student would be allowed to enter First Grade despite State B's entrance age of 6 or 7 years.</p>
	<p><b>Course placement / Educational Program placement:</b> when the student transfers before or during the school year, the receiving state school shall initially honor placement of the student in educational courses based on the student's enrollment in the sending state school and/or educational assessments conducted at the school in the sending state if the courses are offered. Course placement includes but is not limited to Honors, International Baccalaureate, Advanced Placement, vocational, technical and career pathways courses. Continuing the student's academic program from the previous school and promoting placement in academically and career</p>

	<p>challenging courses should be paramount when considering placement. This does not preclude the school in the receiving state from performing subsequent evaluations to ensure appropriate placement and continued enrollment of the student in the course(s).</p>
	<p><b>Placement flexibility:</b> The Compact encourages school districts to take extra steps to determine if they can waive course or program prerequisites where similar coursework has been completed in the sending school district. This will allow students to take more advanced courses rather than repeating similar basic courses.</p>
	<p><b>Special Education Services:</b> the Compact requires that students covered by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) receive the same services (although not necessarily identical programs) identified in the student's Individual Education Plan (IEP) from the sending state. The receiving state may subsequently perform an evaluation to ensure the appropriate placement of the student.</p>
	<p><b>Absence as related to deployment activities:</b> 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, <b>shall be granted additional excused absences at the discretion of the local education agency superintendent</b> to visit with his or her parent or legal guardian prior to leave or deployment of the parent or guardian.</p>
	<p><b>Eligibility for extracurricular participation:</b> Member states agree to be creative in providing transferring students the opportunity for inclusion in extracurricular activities regardless of the deadlines for application as long as the child is otherwise qualified. Although the receiving school must demonstrate they are making reasonable accommodation for military students, they are not required to hold open or create additional spaces. Also, some state student athletic associations are private organizations, not run by the state, and consequently do not fall under the umbrella of the Compact.</p>
	<p><b>Course waivers:</b> The Compact allows school districts to waive courses required for graduation if similar coursework has been completed in another school district. Should a waiver not be granted to a student who would qualify to graduate from the sending school, the local education agency shall provide an alternative means of acquiring required coursework so that graduation may occur on-time.</p>
	<p><b>Exit exams:</b> School districts also agree to</p>

	<p><i>demonstrate flexibility in accepting sending state exit or end-of-course exams, national achievement tests, or alternative testing in lieu of testing requirements for graduation in the receiving state. Mandatory waiver of the exit exams or acceptance of alternative results is not required under the Compact and each state may determine what they are willing to accept or require.</i></p>
	<p><b><i>Transfers during senior year:</i></b> <i>If a student moves in his or her senior year and the receiving state cannot waive graduation requirements for similar coursework or make accommodations in testing, then the receiving school district agrees to work with the sending school district to obtain a diploma so the student can graduate on time. Of course, the student must have met the graduation requirements in the sending state.</i></p>

**Does the new interstate compact comply with the federal No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB)?**

*When drafting the new Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children, both the Advisory Group and Drafting Team were mindful of the No Child Left Behind Act and the unique requirements it places on states. As each state is charged with crafting its own regulations to implement NCLB, each state is different in their approach to the salient issues covered by the federal law. However, while issues such as testing and accountability are addressed in both the new compact and NCLB, there is no conflict between the two. Nothing in the compact provides for a waiver of state educational requirements in the areas covered by NCLB relating to accountability for results, greater choice for parents and students, more flexibility for state and local education agencies, and stronger emphasis on reading. In fact the compact's emphasis on equal opportunity for military children and that state education requirements be applied in a fair and non-conflicting manner, actually reinforces the goals and objectives of NCLB.*