

The Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children

June 2015

Family Challenges and Suggested Solutions

Military families face a variety of challenges related to educational opportunities for their children during times of relocation. The Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children is an agreement among states to alleviate many of the school transition issues for families. School liaison officers and service providers provide the resources military families need to ensure their children have positive and consistent educational opportunities as they transfer from one state school system to another. The regulations and expectations of the Compact also apply to students transferring to, from or between Department of Defense Education Activity schools.

Specific examples of family challenges and suggested solutions will offer school liaison officers and service providers insight into how to guide parents when they encounter education issues related to the Compact. Many issues have multiple responses or solutions, and the Compact may not resolve all educational issues. It is important that the school liaison officers and service providers know the state contacts that can assist parents in resolving issues beyond the scope of the local level. The examples and solutions offered here are only suggestions.

Scenario 1 — Eligibility

A service member receives orders to move to another state. His or her child is a senior and wants to attend high school in the family's current state so that he or she can qualify for in-state tuition. The student stays in the state with a relative but has to change high schools. The high school will not allow the student to play sports for a year. The high school stated that if the student had come from another state, he or she would be able to begin immediately, but since the student is transferring from within the state, the student must wait a year.

dodea

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE EDUCATION ACTIVITY



The Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children

Possible responses include the following:

- Bullet level 1 Share the language of the Compact with the high school to demonstrate that the student is covered by the Compact
- Contact the state's executive director for clarification on this issue

Note: The Compact specifies that children of a deployed parent or a parent receiving permanent change of station orders are considered "transitioning military children."

Scenario 2 — Enrollment

A parent shares that the local school district will not register his or her child using the unofficial records brought from the previous school.

- Possible responses include the following:
- Suggest that the parent visit the principal of the new school
- Share the Compact language with the principal
- Call the sending school to request the records be faxed to the receiving school

Note: Hand-carried education records may include a letter or transcript showing attendance, academic record and grade placement.

Scenario 3 — Placement and attendance

A local school district requires world history in order to graduate. A parent has tried to get the school district to waive the course because his or her child took European history in the previous school. The receiving district said it would consider waiving the course but needs to see a course description of the class the student took. The parent called the counselor at the previous school but has not received a response. Without this waiver, the child will not graduate on time and will have to attend summer school.

The Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children

Possible responses include the following:

- Contact the school liaison officer in the sending district to request assistance
- Offer to call the sending school's counselor to expedite the process
- Search the Internet for the sending district's course descriptions

Note: Specific required courses will be waived if similar course work has been satisfactorily completed. If a waiver is denied, the local school district will provide an alternative means of acquiring the necessary coursework so the child may graduate on time.

Scenario 4 — Graduation

A school district does not accept the sending state's exit exams and the senior student has been unable to pass the receiving state's exit exam after two tries. The student has enough credits to graduate from the sending school and has passed that state's exam. The current school says it does not have the time or personnel to work with the sending school to get a diploma for the student.

Possible responses include the following:

- Share the Compact's language: receiving school districts will ensure the student gets a diploma from the sending school if he or she meets the graduation requirements of the sending district
- Contact the school liaison officer in the sending school district to request assistance
- Offer to assist in getting the diploma from the sending school district

Note: The Compact says that states will accept exit or end-of-course exams, national norm-referenced achievement tests and alternative testing. If the receiving school district cannot accommodate any of these tests, then the sending and receiving school district will ensure the student receives a diploma from the sending school district, if he or she meets the graduation requirements of the sending school district.

For more information about challenges and solutions concerning the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children, visit the [Department of Defense Education Activity Interstate Compact Training Modules](#).