

Florida's Military Student Education Initiative

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Florida- Military Friendly State

Background

2003- legislative action required the FLDOE to assist transition of school-age dependent children of military personnel

2004-Senate Bill 1604

- ◆ Expanded eligibility for scholarships
- ◆ Flexibility for transfers in relation to McKay Scholarship
- ◆ Required the FLDOE to facilitate the development of Memorandum of Agreements between school districts and military installations
- ◆ Provided for preference of dependent children for special academic programs
- ◆ Provides for transferring 12th grade dependents to be able to use ACT/SAT concordant scores to satisfy FCAT
- ◆ Provides for classification of residency for tuition purposes



- ◆ Amended Section 1003.05 affecting preferential placement for special programs allowing districts to adhere to maximum enrollment restrictions when assigning students to special academic programs, removed charter schools from programs and added Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE) as a special academic program.

- ◆ Authorized the Governor to execute the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children. Florida was one of the original first 10 states to adopt the Compact.
- ◆ There are now 39 states which covers over 85% of the eligible military dependent children. The 2010 Legislature renewed the Compact legislation for another 3 years.

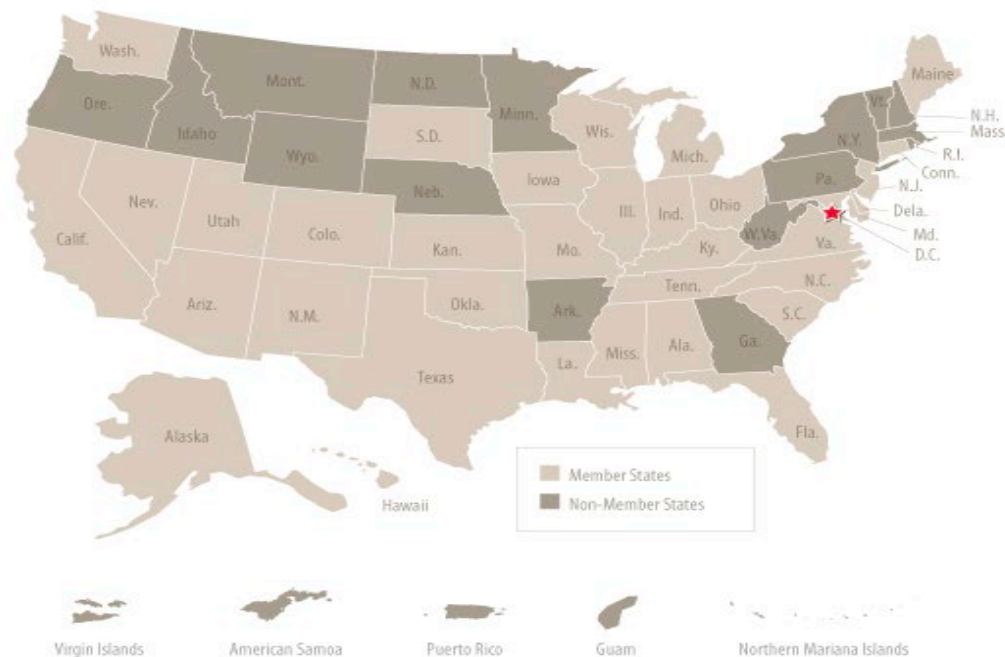


INTERACTIVE MAP



MIC3 In The United States

Choose a state to view their MIC3 information.



Education Opportunity for Military Children

What is it?

It provides for the uniform treatment of military children transferring between school districts and states.



Who developed the Compact?

It was developed by the Department of Defense, with the assistance of The Council of State Governments



Who is eligible to be covered by the Compact?

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.



How is the Compact implemented?

Implementation is facilitated through the rules adopted by the National Governing Commission represented by a Compact Commissioner from each member state.

Why is it needed?



Military families encounter school challenges for their children for enrollment, eligibility, placement and graduation due to frequent relocations in service to our country.

What is the governing infrastructure for each state?

Each state is to form a council with persons representing military installations, school districts, the legislative and executive government branches and the state education agency. Florida's Council meets quarterly via conference calls.

What technical assistance is available for school district personnel and military families from the Florida Department of Education?

FLDOE has created (with assistance from Florida's council) a dedicated resource page on the department's web site. (Fldoe.org). On the left side column of the front page click on services to military families.



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 pending reception of official records
- ◆ Sending school must send official records within 10 business days of receiving a request from the receiving school.

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



Enrollment: Immunizations

Article IV

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



Enrollment:

Kindergarten and First Grade Entrance Age

What's included:

- ◆ A student can continue in the same grade in the receiving state regardless of entrance age requirements if he or she has already enrolled in kindergarten or 1st grade in an accredited public or private school in the sending state and as long the student meets age requirements in the sending state and their academic credits are acceptable to the receiving school board
- ◆ A student may go to the next grade regardless of age requirements, if he or she has successfully completed kindergarten or 1st grade in the sending state

What's not covered:

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



Placement and Attendance:

Course and Educational Program Placement

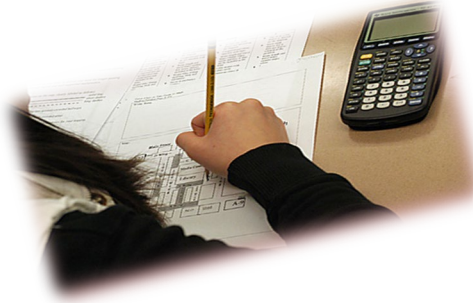
What's included:

- 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



Placement and Attendance: Special Education Services

Article V

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

Placement and Attendance: Placement Flexibility

Article V

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



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

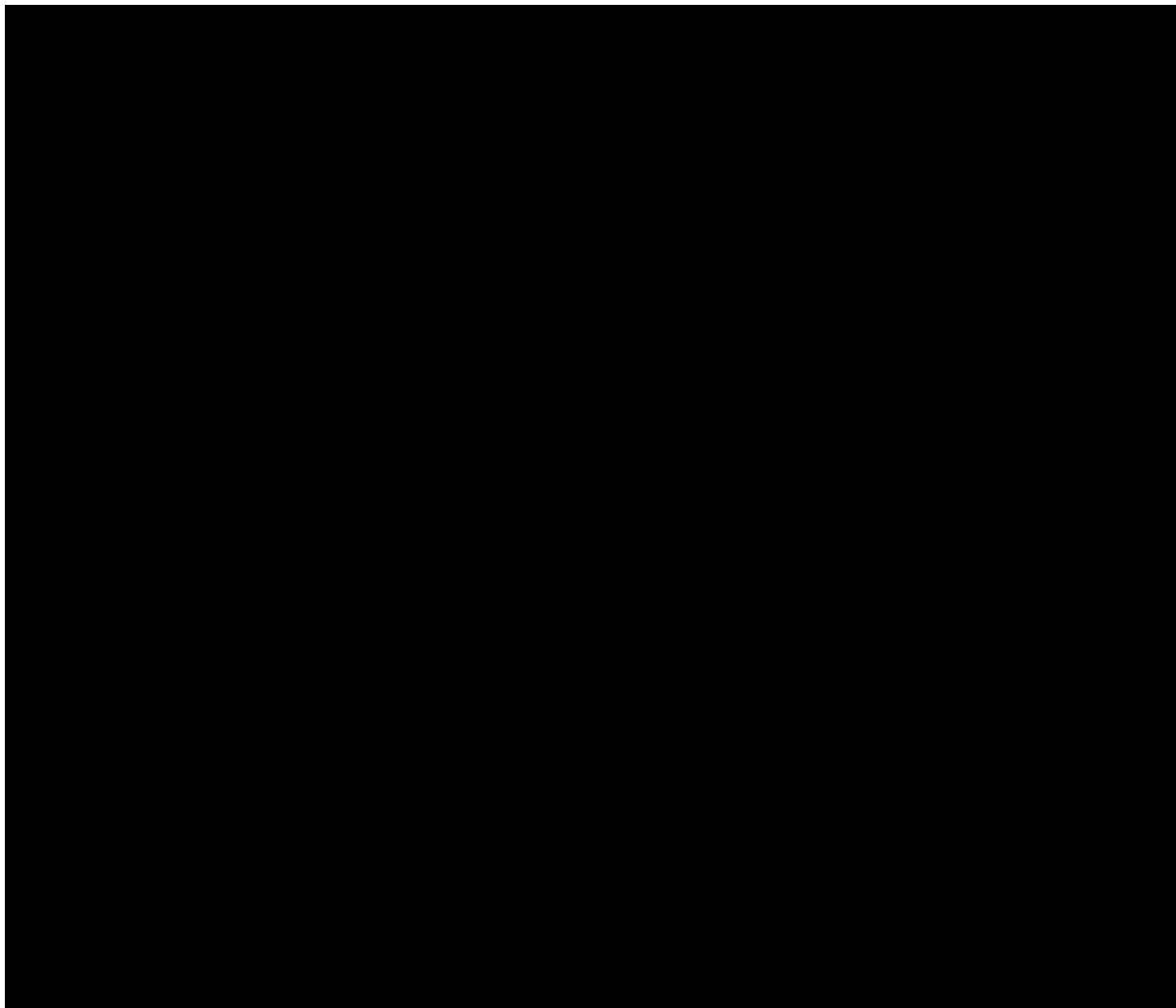
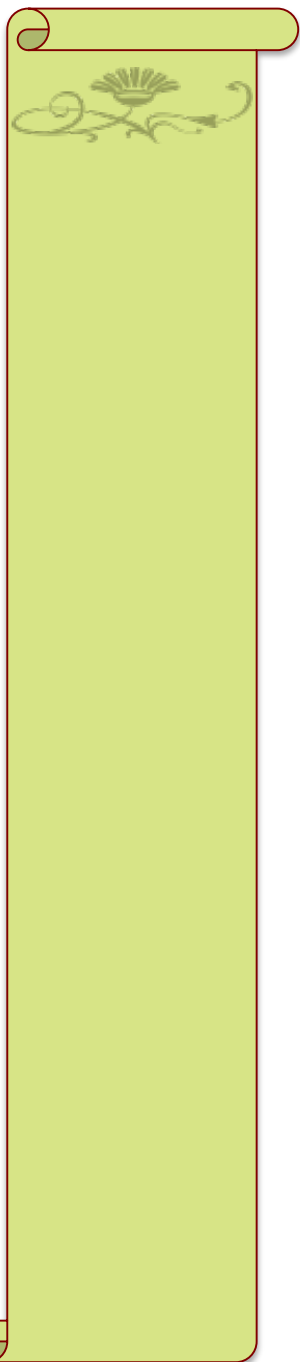
Note: Deployment window is defined as one month before the member's departure from her/his home station through six months after return to her/his home .



What's not covered:

- ◆ Requiring more than “reasonable accommodation”

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



Eligibility:

Eligibility for Enrollment

Article VI

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

What's not covered:

- Situations other than during deployment (for example, when parent has a permanent change of station and has left the child behind)



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

Graduation

Article VII

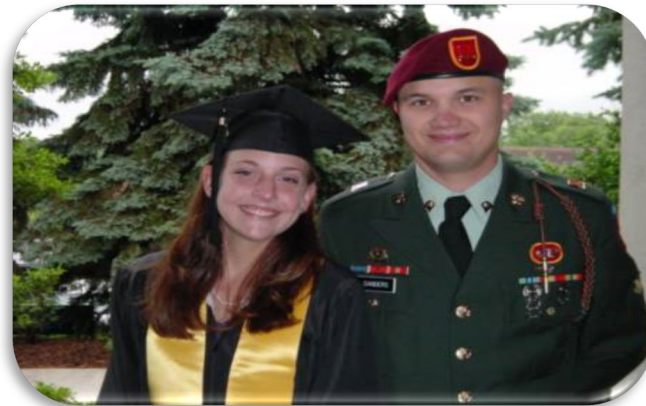
What's included:

- ◆ Waiving courses required for graduation if similar course work has been completed in another LEA
- ◆ 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
- ◆ Allowing a student to receive a diploma from the sending school as an alternative to accommodations for exit exams and graduation requirements that the student doesn't have time to meet
- ◆ Should a waiver not be granted to a student who would qualify to graduate from the sending school, the LEA shall provide an alternative means for acquiring course work so graduation may occur on time.

Graduation

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



FLDOE web site

WWW.FLDOE.ORG/military/

Compact Resource Kit-

<http://www.csg.org/programs/policyprograms/NCIC/MIC3resourcesandpublications.aspx>



Resources to Assist Schools

www.Tutor.com

www.Soarathome.org

www.fldoe.org/military

