

What is the Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission (MIC3)?

The Compact addresses the educational challenges military-connected children face due to their frequent relocations. It allows for uniform treatment of military-connected students when they transfer to new school districts between states. All 50 states and the District of Columbia have adopted the Compact through legislation. Each state appoints a Commissioner responsible for the administration and management of the state's participation in the Compact. The state's Commissioner also collaborates with the National Office and the full Commission to enact necessary rules related to the provisions of the Compact. The Compact calls for the development of State Councils in each member state. Each State Council may be tasked with development of policy concerning operations and procedures of the compact within their state.

Students covered under the Compact

- A student enrolled in a public or Department of Defense Education Activities (DODEA) school attending K-12 in the household of an active duty service member, including members of the National Guard and Reserve on active duty orders pursuant to 10 U.S.C. Section 1209 and 1211.
- Children of 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.
- Children of members of the uniformed services who perish while on active duty or as a result of injuries sustained on active duty for a period of one year after death.

Documentation the military child or family should be able to provide upon transfer

- Official military orders showing that the military member was assigned to the state (or commuting area) of the state in which the child was previously duly enrolled and attended school.
- If a military child was residing with a legal guardian and not the military member during the previous enrollment they will have a copy of the family care plan, or proof of guardianship, as specified in the Interstate Compact, or any information sufficient for the receiving district to establish eligibility under the compact.
- Unofficial or "hand-carried" records from the sending school authority which shows record of attendance, academic information, and grade placement of the student. Once the school in the receiving state has requested the student's official record the school in the sending state has 10 business days to furnish those records.
- Documented evidence of immunization against communicable disease.
- Evidence of date of birth.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SENDING AND RECEIVING SCHOOL

"Receiving state": the state to which a child of a military family is sent, brought, or caused to be sent or brought.

"Sending state": the state from which a child of a military family is sent, brought, or caused to be sent or brought.

Educational and Enrollment 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 sending school shall prepare and furnish a complete set of unofficial educational records that the parents can hand carry to the receiving school.
- The receiving school shall enroll and appropriately place the student based on the information provided in the unofficial records, as quickly as possible.

Official Education Records/Transcripts

- Receiving state shall request student's official education records from sending state.
- Sending state's school will furnish official education records within ten (10) business days of receipt of request.

Immunization

- Student has thirty (30) calendar days from the date of enrollment to obtain immunizations required by the receiving school district.
- For a series of immunizations, the first shot in the series must be obtained within thirty (30) calendar days.

Kindergarten and First Grade Entry Age

- The receiving school shall allow the student to enroll and continue their education and/or be promoted to the next grade level in sending state, regardless of age.
- Student transferring after school year starts shall enter school on their validated level from accredited sending school.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SENDING / RECEIVING SCHOOL (CONT.)

Graduation

Waiver Requirements

- The receiving school shall waive specific courses required for graduation if similar course work has been satisfactorily completed in another local education agency (LEA).
- If a waiver is denied, the receiving school shall provide an alternative means of acquiring required coursework so student may graduate on time.

Exit Exams

States shall accept:

1. Exit or End-of-Course exams required for graduation from the sending state
2. National Norm-Referenced Achievement Test
3. Alternative Testing

Transferring beginning or during senior year:

- If student is ineligible to graduate after all alternatives have been considered, the sending and receiving LEAs shall ensure the receipt of a reciprocal diploma if student meets graduation requirements of sending LEA.
- If one of the states in question is not a member of the Compact, the member state shall use best efforts to facilitate the on-time graduation in accordance with the Waiver Requirements and Exit Exams.

Placement and Attendance

Course Placement

- Receiving school shall initially honor placement based on student's previous enrollment and/or educational assessments conducted at the sending school.
- The receiving school may perform subsequent evaluations to ensure appropriate placement and continued enrollment.

Educational Program Placement

- The receiving school shall honor placement based on current educational assessments conducted at the sending school.
- The receiving school may perform subsequent evaluations to ensure appropriate placement and continued enrollment.

Special Education Services

- The Compact complies with the federal requirements of the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA). The receiving school shall provide comparable services based on the student's current IEP.
- 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.
- Receiving school may perform subsequent evaluations to ensure appropriate placement.

Placement Flexibility

- LEA officials shall have flexibility in waiving course/program prerequisites, or other preconditions for placement in courses/programs.

Absence as Related to Deployment Activities

- The LEA may allow additional excused absences so the child may visit their parent or legal guardian.

Eligibility for Enrollment

- A custody order, special power of attorney, or other applicable document relative to the guardianship of child is sufficient.
- LEA shall not charge tuition when transitioning military child placed in the care of a non-custodial parent in a jurisdiction other than that of the custodial parent.
- Transitioning military child may continue to attend school in which he/she was enrolled but the guardian is responsible for transportation.
- Transitioning military children shall have the opportunity to participate in extracurricular activities, if qualified, regardless of application or tryout deadlines.

How can schools get support to help in this process?

Schools and parents should contact the state Commissioner and School Liaison in their area. They are there to assist the school and parents before, during, and after a transition. Schools may also collaborate with their state's MIC3 Council which is designed to serve as an advisory body regarding the Compact.

For additional resources and assistance, please visit our website at: <http://www.mic3.net>