



# **Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children: Implementation**

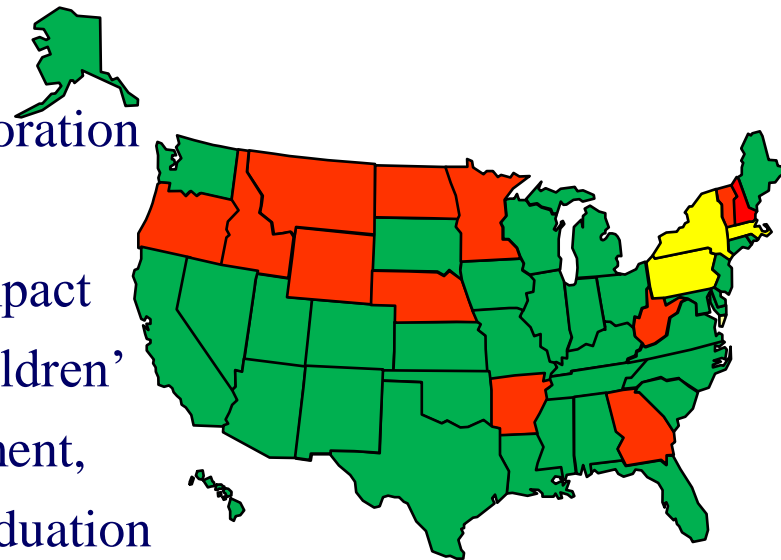
# Minimize School Disruption for Military Children during Transition and Deployment

**Issue:** Frequent moves = many schools with non-standard policies = Ed delays

**Goal:** States participate in an *interstate compact* providing a uniform policy to resolve challenges military children face moving between school systems

## Background:

- 2006: DoD & Council of State Govts collaboration
  - Gathered input from 18 stakeholders
- Nov 2007: fully coordinated 'Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children'
  - Provides procedural policies for enrollment, placement/attendance, eligibility, & graduation
- Legislative process to adopt compact...once adopted, it is a binding contract
- Adopting states established an Interstate Commission composed of one representative from each member state – oversee implementation/compliance



*35 member states; covers 88% of our students*

# Implementation?

## (What's Happening in Your State)

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1. Has your state adopted the Compact?
2. Does your state have a State Commissioner?
3. Does your state have a Military Family Liaison?
4. Does your state have a State Council?
  - Does it have a Military Representative?
5. Has your State Council held any meetings?
6. Has your state started training school districts on the Compact?

# What Does the Compact Actually Do?

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- Article I – purpose
- Article II – definitions
- Article III – applicability
- Article IV – enrollment
- Article V – placement and attendance
- Article VI – eligibility
- Article VII – graduation
- Article VIII – state coordination
- Article IX – interstate commission

# Article IV - Enrollment: Educational Records

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## What's included:

- Parents can receive a copy of unofficial records (definition of “complete set” to be determined by the Interstate Commission)
- 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 (except for any school break) 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



# Article IV - Enrollment: Immunizations

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## What's included:

- Child is given 30 calendar days from enrollment to obtain required immunizations
- A series of immunizations must be started within 30 calendar 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



# Article IV - Enrollment: Kindergarten and First Grade Entrance Age

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## 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 started kindergarten or 1<sup>st</sup> grade in an accredited school in the sending state in which the family was stationed
- A student may go to the next grade regardless of age requirements, if he or she has completed kindergarten or 1<sup>st</sup> grade in the sending state

## What's not covered:

- A student who has not been enrolled even though eligible to have been enrolled

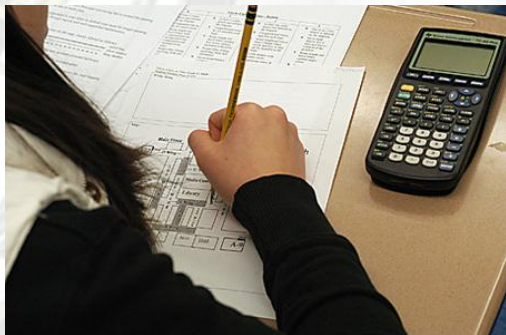


# Article V - Placement and Attendance: Course and Educational Program Placement

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## What's included:

- Receiving state will initially honor placement 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

# Article V - Placement and Attendance: Special Education Services

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## 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



# Article V - Placement and Attendance: Placement Flexibility

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## 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



# Article V - Placement and Attendance: Absence Related to Deployment Activities

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## What's included:

- Flexibility for additional excused absences to visit the parent or legal guardian before, during or immediately after deployment



## What's not covered:

- Requiring more than “reasonable accommodation”

Note: Some states may not excuse absences during state testing or if the student has already missed so much school that additional absences will be detrimental



# Article VI – Eligibility: Eligibility for Enrollment

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## What's included:

- 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 left the child behind)



# Article VI – Eligibility: Eligibility for Extracurricular Participation

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## What's included:

- Providing *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

# Article VII – Graduation

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## 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

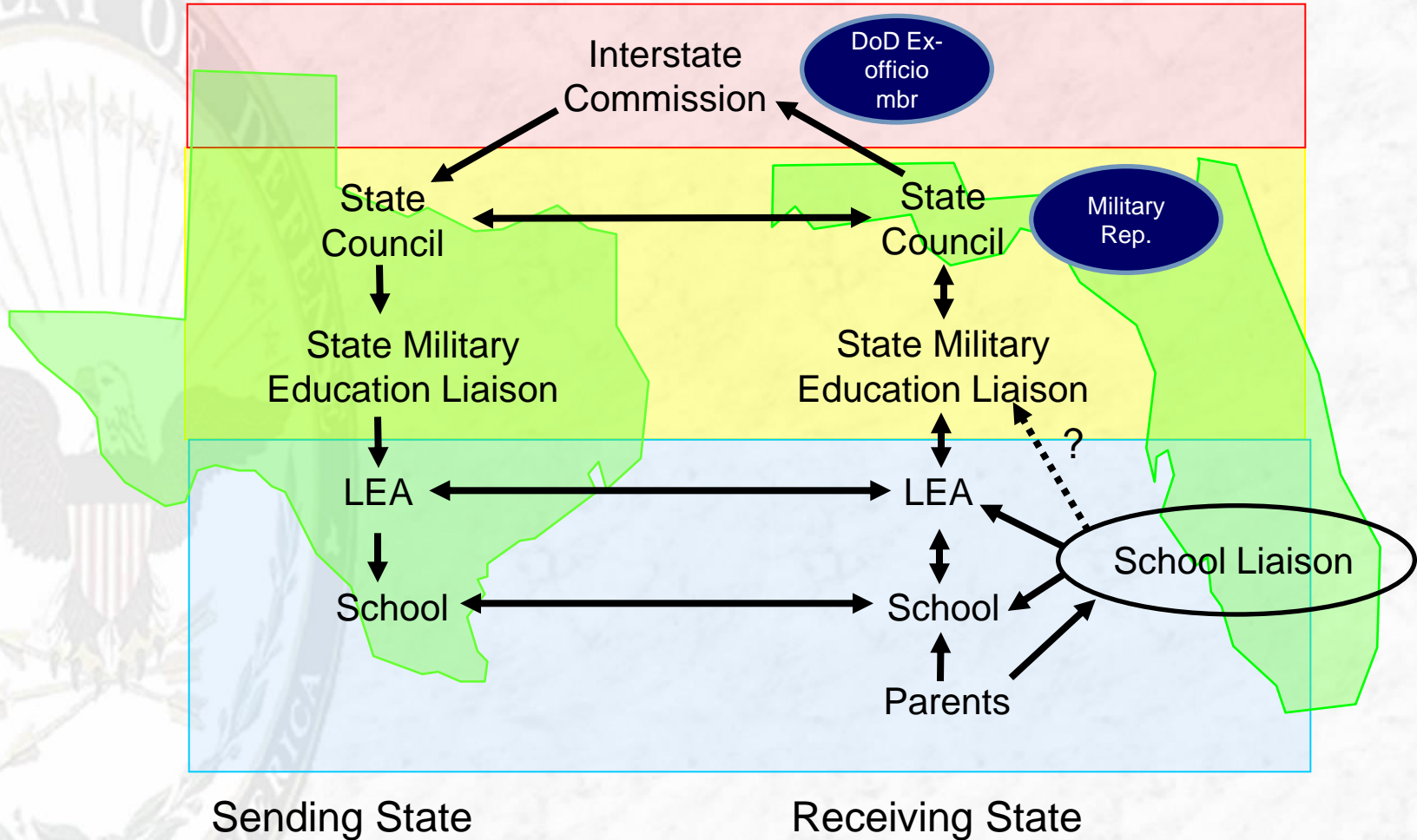
## What's not covered:

- Mandatory course waivers; although LEA must show good cause for a waiver denial
- Mandatory waiver of the exam or acceptance of alternative results



- The right for parents to request a change of graduation requirements (# of math units) in the receiving LEA

# Issue Resolution Process: Under Development



The Interstate Commission and State Councils are defining the process....School Liaisons should provide input at various levels according to Military Service protocol

# Summary

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Interstate Compact has tremendous potential to assist our children as they move from school to school

Compact implementation will be neither quick nor entirely uniform

- Requires strong advocacy to overcome inertia

Best advocates will be knowledgeable parents supported by active School Liaison Officers and the Military Representatives to the State Councils

- Interstate Commission now has a website
  - <http://www.mic3.net/index.aspx>

# The Compact provides a valuable tool to help our families!

