



# The Interstate Compact

On Educational Opportunity for Military Children

# Implementation Update

Presenter's Name

Presenter's Contact Information

Date

*This information is provided by the Department of Defense in collaboration with the Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission.*

# Implementation

- Interstate Compact has tremendous potential to assist our children
- 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 liaisons (SL) and the Military Representatives to the various State Councils

# Minimize School Disruption for Military Children During Transition and Deployment

- **Issue:**  
Frequent moves = many schools with non-standard policies = educational delays
- **Goal:**  
States participate in an interstate compact providing a uniform policy to resolve challenges military children face moving between school systems

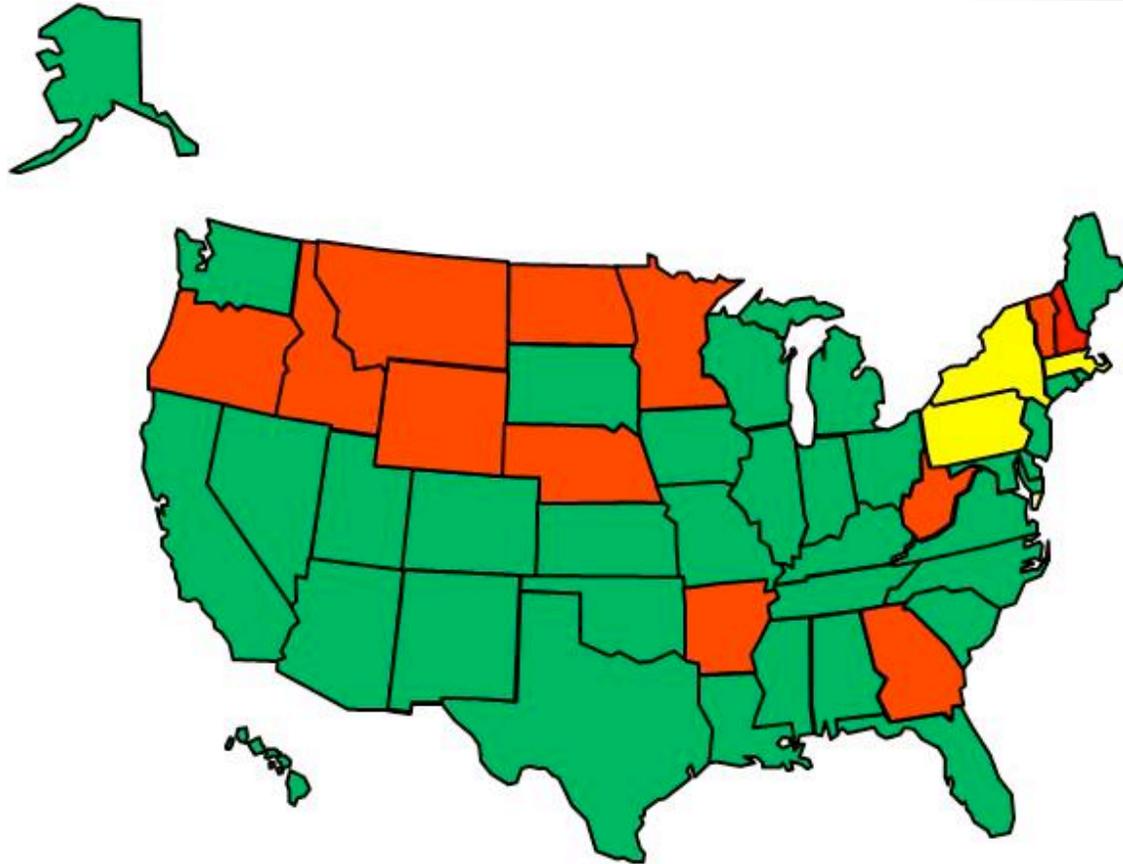


# Minimize School Disruption for Military Children During Transition and Deployment

## Background

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

# Minimize School Disruption for Military Children During Transition and Deployment



**35 member states cover the majority of our military students.**

# What Does the Compact Actually Do?

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

## 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 ten business days (except for any school break) of receiving a request from the receiving school

## What's not covered:

- Receiving unofficial records free of charge
- Giving parents the right to request a copy of every paper in the student file



# Article IV - Enrollment: Immunizations

## What's included:

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

## **What's included:**

- A student can continue in the same grade in the receiving state regardless of entrance age requirements, if he/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/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 he/she was eligible to enroll

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

## 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

## What's included:

- Receiving state will initially provide the same services identified in the student's Individual Education Plan (IEP) 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 Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA)

# Article V - Placement and Attendance: Placement Flexibility

## 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

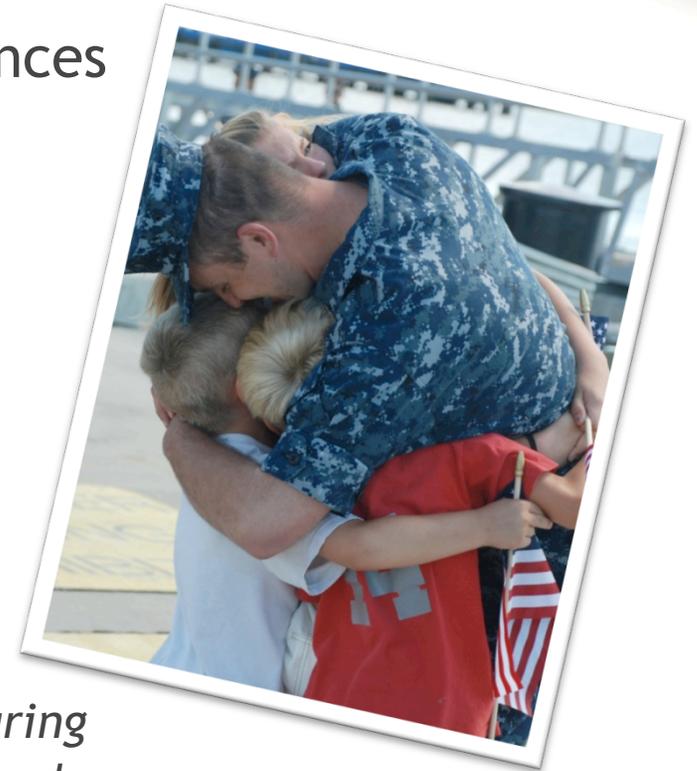
## What's included:

- 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

## **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/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 where a move is within a state; the Compact only covers moves between member states and during deployment

# Article VI - Eligibility: Eligibility for Extracurricular Participation

## 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 states or LEAs
- Although the receiving school must demonstrate reasonable accommodation, there is no requirement to hold open or create additional spaces



# Article VII - Graduation

## **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

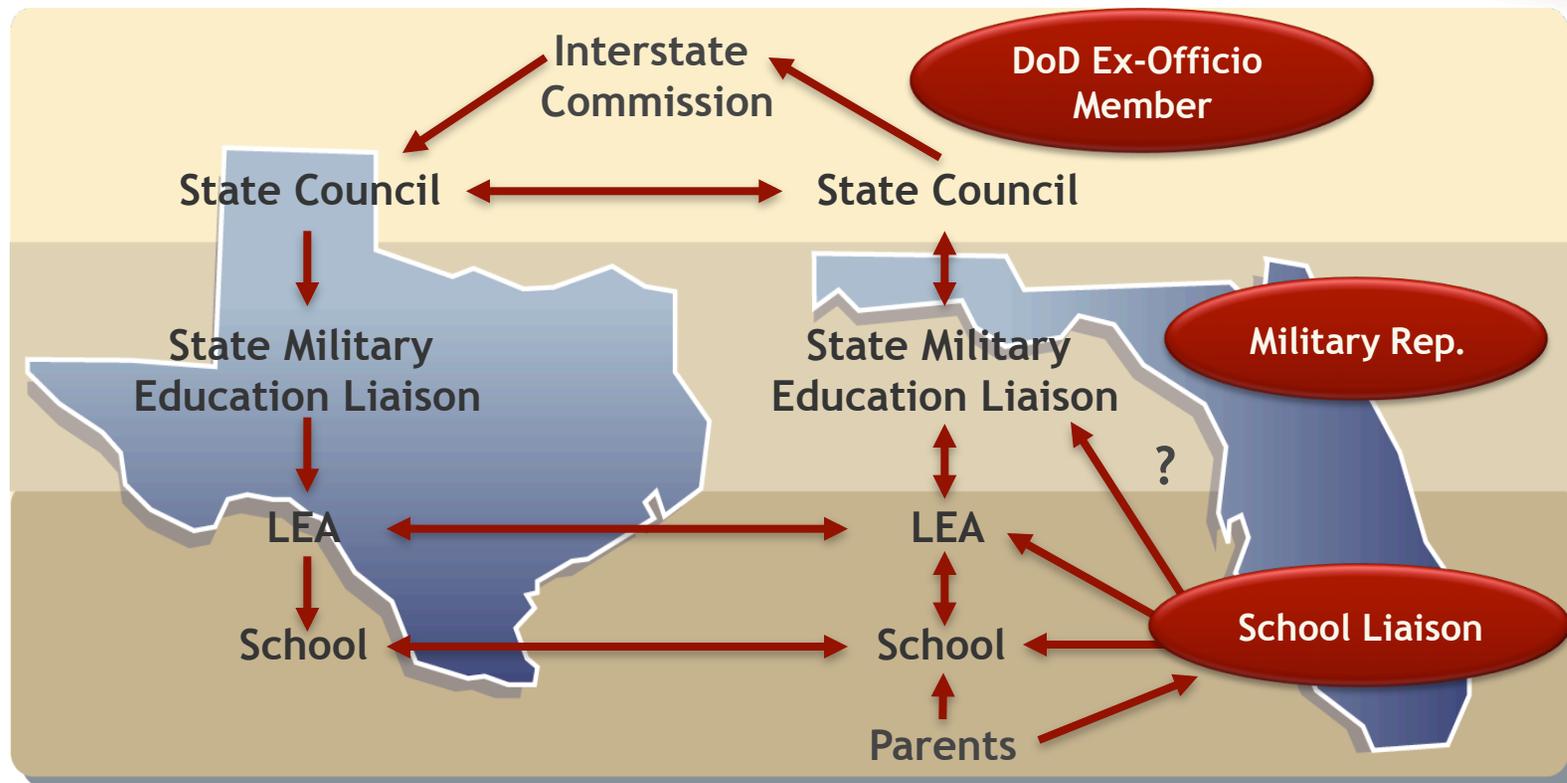
# Article VII - Graduation

## 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



# Issue Resolution Process: In Development



## Sending State

## Receiving State

The Interstate Commission and State Councils are defining the process. School liaisons (SL) should provide input at various levels according to their military Service protocol.

# Summary

- 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 liaisons and the Military Representatives to the State Councils

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

