



Florida—Supporting Military
Students On the Go!

History...

The adoption of the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children (Compact) by all 50 states and the District of Columbia is no small feat. Only four interstate compacts have been adopted by all 50 states in the last 50 years.

This Compact—which was developed jointly by The Council of State Government’s National Center for Interstate Compacts and the Department of Defense, with input from policy experts and stakeholders from 18 different organizations and national associations, including representatives of parents, teachers, school administrators, military families, and federal, state and local officials—eases education transition issues faced by the children of active-duty service members transferring between school districts and states. Most military children will attend six to nine different school systems during their education from kindergarten to 12th grade. The Compact allows for uniform treatment of military children when dealing with issues of enrollment, eligibility, placement and graduation when transferring schools.

Initial discussions about the Compact began in 2006, and drafting of the Compact began early in 2007. The Compact was first available for legislative consideration in 2008. This means that the Compact was adopted by all 50 states and the District of Columbia in just six legislative sessions.

Of course, the Military Interstate Children’s Compact Commission (Commission) would not be where we are today had it not been for the first 11 states that passed legislation to adopt the Compact. The Compact was set up so that it went into effect when adopted by 10 states, which happened on June 23, 2008, when the governor of Florida signed the state’s compact law. By the time of the first Commission meeting in Phoenix, AZ, in November of 2008, there were 11 state compact members represented by their respective state commissioners.

Arizona (Joey Strickland)
Missouri (Bert Schulte)
Kansas (Brad Neuenswander)
Connecticut (Laura Anastasio)
Oklahoma (Lindy White)
Michigan (Thomas Bell)

Florida (Spessard Boatright)
Colorado (Cheryl Serrano)
North Carolina (David Phillips)
Kentucky (Mark Needham)
Delaware (Susan Haberstroh)

For more information on the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children or the Military Interstate Children’s Compact Commission and the next steps in its development, please visit the MIC3 website at www.mic3.net or contact Stephen R. Hogan, executive director for the Military Interstate Compact Commission, at shogan@csg.org or 859-244-8133.

Service...

For Peer-to-Peer Specialty Consultation call the Military One Source at 1-800-342-9647



A new peer-to-peer specialty consultation service began this summer, which offers support and connects service members and their families to professionals who understand military life and challenges. We all have times when our ability to handle our stress is challenged. Talking with someone who understands the challenges we are facing and have been through similar trials can relieve the impact of the stress.

Military One Source now offers confidential peer-to-peer specialty consultations with peer consultants who have a master's degree in psychology or social sciences and first-hand experience as a service member or a military spouse.

A confidential peer-to-peer specialty consultation is a relaxed conversation about the challenges of military life such as deployment and frequent relocation. Service members and their spouses are eligible to receive this service for up to 180 days after separation from the military. You can schedule your confidential peer-to-peer specialty consultation by calling the Military One Source at 1-800-342-9647.

Did You Know?

According to the Compact, in the event that official education records cannot be released to the parents for the purpose of transfer, the custodian of the records in the sending state shall prepare and furnish to the parent a complete set of unofficial educational records containing uniform information as determined by the Commission. Upon receipt of the unofficial education records by a school in the receiving state, the school shall enroll and appropriately place the student based on the information provided in the unofficial records pending validation by the official records, as quickly as possible. In the event a state or local education agency charges a fee for copies of educational records, such a fee shall not exceed the reasonable cost of reproduction.



RESOURCES

[Florida Military Families](#)

The Florida Department of Education has a number of timely resources for military families transitioning in and out of Florida public schools.

[SAMHSA-Military Families](#)

This resource provides help for military families and veterans dealing with behavioral health issues associated with military service. The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) offers support through technical assistance for state, territory and tribal behavioral health systems assisting service members, veterans and their families.

[The Education Directory for Children with Special Needs](#)

This Education Directory for Children with Special Needs provides military families with children who have special needs the information they need to make informed assignment decisions and easier transitions.

[Military Child Education Coalition \(MCEC\)](#)

MCEC offers a full array of online and face-to-face courses for continuing education. For a complete listing of these courses, visit [MCEC Trainings and Events](#).





ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

*M*ilitary Impacted Schools Association

The Military Impacted Schools Association (MISA) is a national organization of school superintendents. Their mission is to serve school districts with a high concentration of military children. MISA is also part of the National Association of Federally Impacted Schools.

Formed in 1986, MISA works on funding (Impact Aid), legislation, partnerships and programs for military families on the move.

Education is an important quality of life program for military families. MISA partners with the Department of Defense Education Activity, National Military Family Association and military leaders to ensure that all military children are afforded a quality education.

MISA works with local school districts and commanders to highlight best practices and partnerships that can further meet the needs of military families.

For more information visit their website at <http://militaryimpactedschoolsassociation.org>.

*M*ilitary Child Initiative

The Military Child Initiative assists public schools with improving the quality of education for highly mobile and vulnerable young people with a special focus on military children and their families. The Initiative provides national, state and local education agencies, as well as schools, parents and health, child welfare, juvenile justice and educational professionals with information, tools and services that enhance school success. For more information visit <http://www.jhsph.edu/research/centers-and-institutes/military-child-initiative/>.

*B*uilding Resilient Kids

“Building Resilient Kids” is a course for school administrators, support staff and teachers to help all students meet life’s challenges with resilience, focusing primarily on students from military families.

You can learn about:

- Military lifestyle and culture
- Challenges of military students
- Separation, reunion, death, disability and coping
- Strategies for school staff
- Increasing student engagement and connectedness
- Social, emotional and academic problem solving
- Promising practices for your district, school or classroom
- Building stakeholder partnerships

To learn more or register for this web course go to http://www.jhsph.edu/research/centers-and-institutes/military-child-initiative/training_course/.

*T*utor.com for U.S. Military Families

Tutor.com for U.S. Military Families is a Department of Defense-funded program that allows eligible students from U.S. military families to connect to a live tutor online at any time for one-to-one help with homework, studying, test prep, proofreading and more. The service is available at no charge to all students in grades K-12 and some adults in Active Duty, National Guard and Reserve families. Check it out at <http://military.tutor.com/home>.

Effects of Deployment on Military Children

On September 18, 2015, MacDill Air Force Base, located in Tampa, FL, hosted a workshop, “Effects of Deployment on Military Children.” Educators, military families, civic leaders and professionals working with military students participated in the workshop originated in a research-based study conducted in Hawaii. “The Military Child Education in Hawaii Study” is a military child initiative that conducted an in-depth study on how deployment affects military children and provides recommendations for people working with military children on how to overcome the negative effects of deployment.

This military child initiative complements base commander Colonel Daniel H. Tulley’s education strategy: to ensure military children are placed in rigorous academic programs and in a safe school environments while sharing the same opportunity for education success as other students, in accordance with the Compact. It is also a way to create teacher awareness of the cycle of deployments, its effects on military children and families, as well as how important it is to overcome the deployment challenges to ensure mission readiness.

Dr. Robert Blum and Dr. Lynne Blum conducted the one-day workshop on the results of the Hawaii study. The four areas that were the focus of the research were school engagement, transitions, mobility and deployment.

For further information on the study, contact Nelly Richards at nelly.richards@us.af.mil.

