



Supporting Educational Transitions for Military Children



What is the Issue?



- Washington State has 136,000 military active/reserve and families
- The average length of assignment to a military installation is two to three years.
- Common educational transition issues include transfer of records, transition to a new school, extracurricular activity flexibility, Junior/Senior High School year moves and graduation requirements.



Support for educational transitions

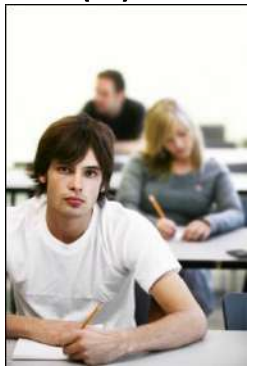
- Washington State joined the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children (2009)
- Substitute Senate Bill 5248 (2009) was passed placing the major components of the Compact into Washington State Law.

*The goal of these efforts are to remove
barriers to educational success
imposed for children
of military families
because of frequent moves
and deployment of parents.*



Washington Military Compact Law

- The goal of the Military Compact Law is to provide as much consistency as possible with other states relative to school policies and procedures, while honoring the existing laws that govern public education in our State.
- The Military Compact Law addresses key transition issues encountered by military families including enrollment, placement, attendance, eligibility and graduation.
- The Military Compact Law pertains to 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 are eligible for assistance under the compact
- The Military Compact Law applies to public schools only.



The **Purpose** of this presentation is to inform schools and families about the Military Compact Law



- The Compact Law is designed to resolve recognized education transition issues.
- The Compact Law is not intended to impact curriculum or local standards of education.

Key Military Compact Law Content

- Article I - purpose
- Article II – definitions
- **Article III - applicability**
- **Article IV - enrollment**
- **Article V – placement and attendance**
- **Article VI – eligibility**
- **Article VII – graduation**



Article III – Applicability



Applies to children of:

Active duty members of uniformed services

(includes activated Guard and Reserves)

Medically discharged members and veterans (for 1 year)

Members who die on active duty (for 1 year)

Does NOT apply to children of:

Inactive members of the national guard and military reserves

Members of the uniformed services now retired

Veterans of the uniformed services

Other U.S. DoD personnel and other federal agency civilian and contract employees

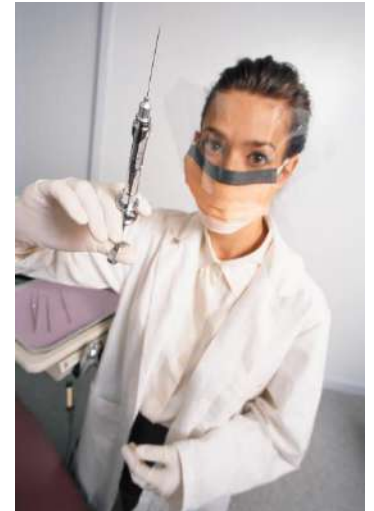
Article IV - Enrollment: Educational Records



- Parents will be provided a copy of an unofficial educational record.
- Unofficial educational records will be used to enroll and appropriately place the transferring student pending receipt of official records.
- Simultaneously, the receiving state will request an official educational record from the school in the sending state.
- The sending state will provide necessary information within 2 days and the official educational record as soon as possible (unless an unpaid fine is outstanding) *

Article IV – Enrollment Immunizations

- As required by the Washington State Board of Health, proof of full immunization or the commencement of a series of immunizations or certificate of exemption (for medical/religious/philosophical reasons) must be provided on or before the first day of attendance. *



Article IV - Enrollment: Kindergarten and First Grade Entrance Age

A student can continue in the same grade in the receiving state if district determines it appropriate and feasible. *

Washington State entrance age requirements are:

Kindergarten: must be 5 as of August 31 of the year of entry

1st Grade: must be 6 as of August 31 of the year of entry



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

Receiving state will initially honor placement in courses or programs based on the student's enrollment in the sending state if space is available. Although the receiving school must demonstrate reasonable accommodation, there is no requirement to create a course or additional space.

Receiving state *may* subsequently perform an evaluation to ensure the appropriate placement and continued enrollment. There is no guarantee of continued enrollment if student is not qualified.



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

- The receiving state shall initially honor current Individualized Education Program (IEP), until the receiving school district conducts an eligibility evaluation and develops, adopts, and implements a new IEP.



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

Additional excused absences to visit the parent or legal guardian due to deployment, or leave from deployment, shall be granted at the discretion of the LEA.

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 station. 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.



Article VI – Eligibility:

Eligibility for Enrollment

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



Article VI – Eligibility:

Eligibility for Extracurricular Participation

- State and local agencies shall facilitate the ***opportunity*** for inclusion in extracurricular activities regardless of deadlines as long as the child is otherwise qualified



Note:

- 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

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.

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



Reference Resources



OSPI Military Children Website

<http://www.k12.wa.us/LearningTeachingSupport/InterstateTransfers.aspx>