http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3GGxpHHauK0
Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children
Military families move between postings on a regular basis. While reassignments can often be a boon for career personnel, they usually play havoc with the children of military families: losing and making new friends, adjusting to new cities and bases and changing schools. While the armed services has taken great leaps to ease the transition of personnel, their spouses and most importantly children, much remains to be done at the state and local levels to ensure that the children of military families are afforded that same opportunities for educational success as other children and are not penalized or delayed in achieving their educational goals by inflexible administrative and bureaucratic practices.

The average military student faces transition challenges more than twice during high school and most military children will have six to nine different school systems in their lives from kindergarten to 12th grade. With more than half of all military personnel supporting families, the impacts of reassignment and long deployments are a key consideration when making long-term life choices.
Specific impacts on military children include

- Transfer of Records –
- Course Sequencing –
- Graduation Requirements –
- Exclusion from Extra-Curricular Activities -
- Redundant or Missed Entrance/Exit Testing -
- Kindergarten and First Grade Entrance Age Variances -
- Power of Custodial Parents While Parents are Deployed
The Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children addresses these issues as well as compact enforcement, administration, finances, communications, data sharing and training. The compact establishes an independent compact operating authority, the Interstate Commission, which will be positioned to address future interstate problems and issues as they arise.

The development of interstate and intrastate solutions to these issues is of paramount importance to military families. While armed services personnel are serving our country, their children may, more often than not, be adversely affected by these and other educational policies. While many states and communities have responded on an ad hoc basis to ease the shift of military children, no comprehensive policy approach exists to improve the long-term educational transitions and outcomes of this constituency.
What is a Compact?

Simply stated, a compact is an agreement between two or more states for cooperative effort, mutual assistance, management, and regulation of public policy matters by the states, which transcend the boundaries of one state.

Authorized under Article I of the U.S. Constitution and dating as far back as the 1780s, compacts have been created to address a wide variety of issues that arise among the states. Many of the earliest compacts were designed to settle boundary disputes.

Throughout the 20th century, compacts became increasingly relied upon to manage and regulate state concerns in diverse areas such as:

- Emergency management assistance
- Environmental resource management,
- Multi-state taxation, transportation,
- Corrections, crime control and juvenile justice.

States ratifying compacts are bound to observe the terms of the agreement until the compact is formally renounced by the state. Compact provisions take precedence over conflicting state laws and inconsistent provisions of existing laws of a compact state.
Addressing the problem

The Council of State Governments (CSG), in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Defense Office of Personnel and Readiness, drafted a new interstate compact that addresses the educational transition issues of children of military families. Since July 2006, CSG has worked with a variety of federal, state and local officials as well as national stakeholder organizations representing education groups and military families to create the new interstate agreement.

While the compact is not exhaustive in its coverage, it does address the key issues encountered by military families: eligibility, enrollment, placement and graduation. In addition, the compact provides for a detailed governance structure at both the state and national levels with built-in enforcement and compliance mechanisms.
Applicability

The compact applies to the children of:
• Active duty members of the uniformed services, including members of the National Guard and Reserve on active duty orders;
• Members or veterans of the uniformed services who are severely injured and medically discharged or retired for a period of one (1) year after medical discharge or retirement; and
• Members of the uniformed services who die on active duty or as a result of injuries sustained on active duty for a period of one (1) year after death.

The compact does not apply to children of:
• Inactive members of the national guard and military reserves;
• Members of the uniformed services now retired not covered above;
• Veterans of the uniformed services not covered above; and
• Other U.S. Dept. of Defense personnel and other federal agency civilian and contract employees not defined as active duty members of the uniformed services.
Areas of emphasis

- Enrollment
- Eligibility
- Placement
- Graduation
Enrollment

- Educational Records -
- Immunizations –
- Age of Enrollment/Course Continuation-.
Eligibility

- Power of Attorney
- Tuition
- Non-custodial parents
- Extracurricular activities
Placement

- Course placement / Educational Program placement -

- Special education services –

- Placement flexibility –

- Absence as related to deployment activities –
Graduation

• Waiver requirements –

• Exit exams -

• Transfers during Senior year –
State Coordination

- State Council –
- Military Family Education Liaison -
National Coordination

• Interstate Commission –

• Rulemaking –

• Enforcement –

Effective Date

• 10 or more states – the compact was activated once 10 or more states had adopted the language. With the bulk of military children residing in just 20 states, the Drafting Team felt that 10 was sufficient to begin operations and create a sense of urgency for the remaining states.
Questions may be directed to:

BG(R) Norman E. Arflack  
Executive Director  
Commission on Educational Opportunities  
For Military Children  
2760 Research Park Dr.  
P.O. Box 11910  
Lexington, KY 40578-1910  
(859) 244-8069  
narflack@csg.org