

**CONNECTICUT STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**  
**Hartford, Connecticut**

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Circular Letter: C-15

TO: Superintendents of Schools

FROM: Mark K. McQuillan, Commissioner of Education

DATE: June 2, 2009

SUBJECT: Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunities for Military Children

During the 2008 session, the General Assembly adopted the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunities for Military Children (the Compact), Connecticut General Statutes (C.G.S.) Section 10-15f. The Compact is designed to ensure uniform treatment at the state and local district level of military children transferring between school districts and states. It addresses key issues encountered by military families: eligibility, enrollment, placement and graduation. In addition, the Compact provides for a governance structure at both the state and national levels with enforcement and compliance mechanisms.

The Compact has implications not only for school districts located near military installations, but it also may affect school districts throughout the state. The key provisions affecting school districts are detailed below.

**Applicability**

The Compact applies to 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. Department of Defense personnel and other federal agency civilian and contract employees not defined as active duty members of the uniformed services.

## **Enrollment**

- Education Records: The compact requires that schools share records in a timely manner in order to expedite the enrollment and placement of students. Schools must provide, upon parental request, an unofficial copy of the student's records that may be hand carried to the receiving school in place of the official record. This unofficial record can then be used for preliminary placement while the receiving school requests the official records from the sending school. Once requested, the sending school has ten (10) days to provide the official records to the receiving school. Please note that C.G.S. Section 10-220h also requires Connecticut school districts to provide a child's education records to a new school within ten (10) days of notification from the receiving school.
- Immunizations: The Compact provides for specific timelines, thirty (30) days from the date of enrollment, for students to obtain the immunizations required in the receiving state.
- Age of Enrollment/Course Continuation: The Compact requires that a student continue his or her enrollment at grade level in the receiving state commensurate with his or her grade level from the sending state, regardless of any age requirements for enrollment that may exist in the receiving state.

## **Eligibility**

- Power of Attorney: Special power of attorney relative to the guardianship of a child of a military family and executed under applicable law shall be sufficient for the purposes of enrollment and all other actions requiring parental participation and consent.
- Tuition: A board of education shall be prohibited from charging local tuition to a military child placed in the care of a non-custodial parent or other person standing in loco parentis who lives in a jurisdiction other than that of the parent.
- Non-custodial parents: A military child, placed in the care of a non-custodial parent or other person standing in loco parentis who lives in a jurisdiction other than that of the custodial parent, may continue to attend the school in which he/she was enrolled while residing with the custodial parent. The Compact differs from the McKinney-Vento Act in that it does not require the school districts to pay for the transportation of the student to the district of origin.
- Extracurricular activities: The state and the school districts shall facilitate the opportunity for military children's inclusion in extracurricular activities to the extent that they are otherwise qualified.

## **Placement**

- Course placement/educational program placement: The receiving state shall initially honor the placement in educational courses based upon the student's enrollment in the sending state, including but not limited to honors, AP, vocational, technical and career pathways courses. The receiving school may perform subsequent evaluations to ensure appropriate placement.

- Special education services: The receiving school district shall provide comparable services based on the current IEP. The school district may perform subsequent evaluations to ensure appropriate placement of the student.
- Placement flexibility: School officials shall have flexibility in waiving course/program prerequisites, or other preconditions, for placement in courses/programs.
- Absences related to deployment: A student whose parent or legal guardian has been called to active duty or is on leave from or immediately returned from deployment to a combat zone or combat support posting, shall be granted additional excused absences at the discretion of the local education agency (LEA).

### **Graduation**

- Waiver requirements: LEA officials shall waive specific courses required for graduation if similar coursework has been satisfactorily completed in another LEA or shall provide reasonable justification for such denial.
- Exit exams: States shall accept exit/end-of-year exams from the sending state, national norm-referenced achievement tests or alternative testing in lieu of testing requirements for graduation in the receiving state.
- Transfers during the senior year: If a student transfers in his or her senior year and is ineligible to graduate from the receiving school after all alternatives have been considered, the sending and receiving schools shall ensure the receipt of a diploma from the sending LEA if the student meets its graduation requirements.

### **State Coordination**

- State Council: Each state must have a State Council to provide for the coordination among its agencies of government, local education agencies and military installations concerning the state's participation in, and compliance with, the Compact.
- Military Family Education Liaison: Each State Council shall designate a liaison to assist military families in coordinating military student education transition and the state in implementing the Compact. The Connecticut State Council has designated Marian D. Leverette, Mid-Atlantic Regional School Liaison Officer, as the acting Military Family Education Liaison for the State of Connecticut. Her contact information is:

Marian D. Leverette M.A.T., M.Ed.  
 Mid-Atlantic Regional School Liaison Officer  
 Naval Station Norfolk  
 Building KN Piersey Street  
 Norfolk, VA 23511  
 757-438-3661  
 e-mail: marian.leverette@navy.mil

If you have any questions regarding the Compact, please contact Attorney Laura Anastasio at 860-713-6520.

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