

A PEATC

Do You Know...



Military Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Students with Disabilities – Factsheet for Virginia’s Military Families

The **Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children (MIC3)** is an agreement among all 50 states and Washington, D.C., that helps military families when transferring schools. It ensures smoother transitions by addressing enrollment, placement, eligibility, and graduation. It applies to all K-12 students, including students with disabilities receiving special education services, and is managed by the Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission (MIC3).

Key Areas Covered by the Compact

Placement & Academic Progress

- Schools must honor a student’s previous placement in a **comparable program** while allowing for evaluations. Placement **cannot be delayed** until after the evaluation is completed.
- Schools are encouraged to allow students to advance in coursework rather than requiring them to repeat subjects already taken.

Graduation

- Schools **may waive** specific graduation requirements if similar coursework was completed in a previous school. If a waiver is denied, a justification must be provided.
- Schools must accept **exit exams** or alternative tests from the previous state when determining graduation eligibility. The receiving school decides which tests are accepted.
- If a senior transfers and graduation requirements cannot be met at the new school, both schools **must work together** to allow the student to graduate from the sending school.

Special Education Services

The MIC 3 does not include any specialized provisions for students receiving services under an **Individualized Education Program (IEP)**. However, the following apply.

- Students with disabilities **must receive** services comparable to those in their **IEP** from their previous school, though the exact program may differ.
- Military families retain all **IDEA procedural safeguards** and access to dispute resolution options, such as mediation and due process.
- If a student is eligible for **compensatory services**, the previous school division remains responsible.

Military liaison personnel may participate in **IEP meetings** and receive student-related information with parent consent.

While not directly related to MIC3, the 2025 **Virginia General Assembly** passed legislation that when a child with disabilities enrolls in a new school division due to a service member relocation, the school must work with the family and previous school to ensure the child receives comparable special education services and accommodations without delay. This process is to begin as soon as the school receives the needed documentation.

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Eligibility and Enrollment

- **School Attendance:** Children of deployed members living with a caregiver can stay in their school if transportation is provided.
- **Enrollment Before Arrival:** Parents can enroll children with military orders; a permanent address is required within 120 days to avoid tuition fees unless reassigned sooner.
- **Power of Attorney:** Allow for enrollment and any school-related decisions requiring parental consent.
- **Extracurricular Activities:** Students can participate, but schools are not required to hold spots for them.
- **Unofficial Records:** Accepted for enrollment and placement until official records arrive.
- **Immunizations:** Students can enroll and have 30 days to obtain required immunizations.
- **Kindergarten & First Grade Enrollment:** Children can continue in their grade, even if state requirements are different.

Who is Covered by the Compact?

- Full-time **active-duty service members**, including National Guard and Reserve members on active duty.
- Service members who are **medically discharged or retired** (for up to **one year** after the event).
- Service members who **died in active duty** or from injuries sustained during service (for up to **one year** after death).
It **does not** cover children of:
 - Service members who have **separated from active duty** or the reserve.
 - Civilian employees or contractors working for the military.

Additional Excused Absences

- Students may be given extra excused absences to visit with their deployed parent or guardian.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION/RESOURCES:

[The Military Interstate Compact | DoDEA](#)

[VA Military Relocating.pdf](#)

[Military Families Things to Know When Moving to Virginia.pdf](#)

[MIC3 Guide for Parents School Officials and Public Administrators.pdf](#)

PEATC's mission focuses on building positive futures for Virginia's children by working collaboratively with families, schools and communities to improve opportunities for excellence in education and success in school and community life.

For more information about us, please contact:

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