



Military Interstate Children's Compact Update

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What is a Compact?

- An interstate compact is a pact or agreement between two or more states
- A kin to treaties between two sovereign nations
- Most early interstate compacts resolved boundary disputes, but since the early 20th century, compacts have increasingly been used as a tool of state cooperation
- In some cases, an agreement will create a new multi-state governmental agency which is responsible for administering or improving some shared resource

What is the Military Interstate Children's Compact?

In 2006, the Council of State Governments (CSG), in cooperation with the US Department of Defense and Governors from 17 states drafted an Interstate Compact to address some of the educational challenges children of military families face when they transition from one deployment to the next.

Coverage:

- What: eligibility, enrollment, placement and graduation.
- Who: Children of active duty members of the uniformed services, National Guard and Reserve on Title 10 active duty orders, commissioned officers of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the United States Public Health Service (USPHS), and members or veterans who are medically discharged or retired for up to one year are eligible for assistance under the Compact. The Compact also covers students of members who perish on active duty for a period of one year following their death.
 - In Minnesota, 1,175 eligible children. Ranked 45 in size of military children population

What is the Military Interstate Children's Compact?

- Minnesota joined the Military Interstate Children's Compact in 2014 with the passage of Minnesota Statutes Section 127A.85
- Article VIII - State Coordination:
 - Each member state shall, through the creation of a State Council or use of an existing body or board, provide for the coordination among its agencies of government, local education agencies, and military installations concerning the state's participation in, and compliance with, this compact and Interstate Commission activities
 - Minnesota Statute designates the P20 Council as the State Council for purposes of the compact

What is the Military Interstate Children's Compact?

- Article VIII - State Coordination:
 - When conducting business required the compact, the P-20 partnership shall include a representative from a military installation appointed by the adjutant general (TAG) of the Minnesota National Guard
 - TAG has appointed the person who holds the position of State Family Programs Director for the Army Reserve and Minnesota Army National Guard
 - Outgoing: Captain Adam Gades
 - Incoming: Mrs. Marian Belinski

Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission (MIC3)

- National governing body for administration and implementation of the compact
- Commission is comprised of representatives from all 50 states plus the District of Columbia
- MN Statute states the Commissioner of Education or their designee is Minnesota's commission representative
- Headquarters in Lexington, KY. Three full time staff (Executive Director, Communications Associate, Administrative Assistant) plus General Counsel on retainer

MIC3 Pandemic Response

- Gathering resources and best practices from state departments of education and distributing them via a weekly email and social media
- Collecting and distributing Department of Defense pandemic related memorandums and information
- Opportunities for states to share lessons learned and best practices during a session at the Annual Business Meeting

MIC3 Annual Business Meeting

- Each fall, an Annual Business Meeting (ABM) is held with all 51 representatives
- Business Includes:
 - Leadership Elections
 - Reports from Committees and Partner Organizations
 - Panels with Military Impacted Students and Families
 - Annual Budget Approval

2020 MIC3 Annual Business Meeting

- The 2020 ABM was held virtually on October 1-2, 2020
- Leadership Election
 - Chair: Don Kaminar (AK)
 - Vice Chair: Laura Anastasio (CT)
 - Treasurer: Craig Neuenswander (KS)
- National Guard and Reserve Task Force Report

National Guard and Reserve Task Force Report

- Movement to add children of non-active duty National Guard and Reserve members to eligibility under the compact
 - States that have added: California, Kentucky, Tennessee, Utah, Arkansas
- Utah amended their compact language
 - MIC3 threatened lawsuit
 - Parties settled on establishing a task force to study the issue

National Guard and Reserve Task Force Report

- A seven member National Guard and Reserve Task Force (NGRTF) was established, chaired by Brig. Gen. (Ret) Kathy Berg (HI)
- NGRTF report and findings:
 - Some (but not all) National Guard and Reserve troops do move, but not nearly as frequently as their active duty counterparts
 - The majority of guardspeople or reservists that do move are part of the Selected Reserve
 - While the number of moves may be small, they are significant for the families and children that experience them

National Guard and Reserve Task Force Report

NGRTF Recommendation

- MIC3 should support expansion of the compact coverage to all members of the Selected Reserve, including Traditional, Active/Guard Reserve, and Military Technician (dual status) members for moves relating to changes in duty station and for deployments in any active duty status, including Title 10, Title 32, and State Active Duty (SAD)

Options for accomplishing this:

- Have all 50 states and DC amend their compact language to include coverage for the Selected Reserve; or
- Encourage all 50 states and DC to create legislation outside the compact language that expands coverage to the Selected Reserve and provide model language

National Guard and Reserve Task Force Report

MIC3 Action:

- Commission accepted the task force report and referred it to the MIC3 Executive Committee for further action
- Executive Committee is currently evaluating the proposal and how it could be implemented if adopted by the full commission

Questions?

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