

## **Guide for Military Parents with Special Needs Children Regarding the Military Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children**

### **Compact Purpose**

The Interstate Commission on Educational Opportunity for Military Children, also known as the [Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission \(MIC3\)](#), is an [interstate compact](#) that supports *successful educational transitions* for military-connected students. Interstate Compacts are essentially contractual agreements between states, written into statute, that allow state governments to work collaboratively when addressing issues or concerns across boundaries.

While compacts are an effective mechanism for states to utilize and solve problems, it is not exhaustive in its coverage. Developed through a partnership between the Council of State Governments and the Department of Defense, the MIC3 does address the key issues encountered by military families: eligibility, enrollment, placement, and graduation.

### **What are the Legal Parameters of Compact Law?**

So how do interstate compacts influence state and federal laws and regulations? First, the rules and regulations of an interstate compact supersede any state laws or regulations and have the force and effect of statutory law. When a state joins an interstate compact, they are entering a contractual agreement between the states, enacted through legislative means, through the adoption of a [model compact language](#). This grants MIC3 the authority to implement consistent education practices when working in partnership with schools and military families.

Second, while the rules and regulations of an interstate compact supplant state law, it does not supersede federal law. Interstate compacts often are viewed as a way for states to work cooperatively to avoid federal intervention or a federally mandated solution. Member states of an interstate compacts are subject to the laws and regulations passed by the federal government.

### **So How Does the Compact Support Military Students?**

MIC3's state appointed Compact Commissioner is responsible for, among other duties, responding in a timely manner to Commission requests or referrals from other member states, School Liaisons, schools, military families, and the National Office. The Commissioner assists with education related cases, including those regarding Special Education, involving military-connected students through sharing of resources and promoting communication by connecting stakeholders. Prior to the MIC3, this mechanism of support was not available to military families when they transitioned between states, and they had no alternative when issues related to their children's education occurred.

## How Does the Compact Support Exceptional Family Members?

While the MIC3 allows states to collaborate, problem solve, and provide consistency certain education related areas, such as Special Education, are guided by federal law that mandates what states and interstate compacts must do to meet the needs of students with disabilities. The [Individuals with Disabilities Education Act \(IDEA\)](#) leaves room for states to interpret the rules and pass their own laws on how to apply them. However, state laws cannot contradict the IDEA, and states cannot provide less than the federal law requires. [IDEA Sec. 300.508 Due process complaint](#) outlines the process for individuals or agencies should a violation of the federal law is believed to have occurred.

The [Compact Rules](#) outline, in *Chapter 500 – PLACEMENT & ATTENDANCE, SEC. 5.103 Special Education Services*, how Compact Commissioners work within the confines of the federal IDEA law and their state Department of Education to assist military-connected families and the local education authority when issues related to Special Education occur. While the MIC3, as an interstate compact, does not replace the federal IDEA, it shares resources and promote communication to military families with exceptional family members.

### State and School District Links and Resources

Links to state division and district special education departments are provided below. \*Military Impacted Schools Association (MISA) member, which is an ex-officio member of the Commission.

#### Alabama

- DOE SPED Services: <https://www.alsde.edu/sec/ses/pages/home.aspx>
- \*[Daleville City Board of Education \(Fort Rucker\)](#)
  - a. [Special Education Services](#)

#### Alaska

- [Department of Education & Early Development SPED](#)

#### Arizona

- [Department of Education Exceptional Student Services](#)
- \*[Fort Huachuca School District \(Fort Huachuca\)](#)
  - a. [Special Services](#)

#### Arkansas

- [Division of Elementary and Secondary Education Special Education Unit](#)

- [ARKSPED portal](#)

## California

- [Department of Education, Special Education](#)
- [\\*Central Union School District \(Lemoore NAS\)](#)
  - [Special Education Services](#)
- [\\*Coronado Unified School District \(Naval Air Station North Island\)](#)
  - [Special Education](#)
- [\\*Fallbrook Union Elementary School District \(Camp Pendleton\)](#)
  - [Special Education](#)
- [\\*Oceanside Unified School District \(Camp Pendleton - Marine Corps\)](#)
  - [Special Education](#)
- [\\*Sierra Sands USD \(China Lake Naval Air Weapons Station\)](#)
  - [Special Education and PPS](#)
- [\\*Silver Valley Unified School District \(Fort Irwin\)](#)
  - [Special Education](#)
- [Travis Unified School District \(Travis AFB-AMC\)](#)
  - [Special Education](#)
- [\\*Wheatland School District \(Beale AFB-ACC\)](#)
  - [Special Education](#)

## Colorado

- [Department of Education, Office of Special Education](#)
- [\\*El Paso County School District #8 \(Fort Carson, Peterson AFB\)](#)
  - [Special Education](#)

## Connecticut

- [State Department of Education Special Education](#)

## Delaware

- [Department of Education, Special Education for Families and Communities](#)

## Florida

- [Department of Education, Exceptional Student Education](#)

## Georgia

- [Department of Education, Special Education Services and Student Supports](#)
- [\\*Bryan County School District \(Fort Stewart\) Camden County Schools \(Kings Bay Naval Submarine Base\)](#)

- [Exceptional Student Services](#)
- \*[Camden County Schools \(Kings Bay Naval Submarine Base\)](#)
  - [Special Education Department](#)
- \*[Liberty County Board of Education \(Fort Stewart AFB\)](#)
  - [Department of Exceptional Learning](#)

#### Hawaii

- [Department of Education, Special Needs](#)

#### Idaho

- [Department of Education, Special Needs](#)

#### Illinois

- [State Board of Education, Special Education](#)
- \*[Mascoutah Community School Unit S.D. #19 \(Scott AFB-AMC\)](#)
  - [Special Services](#)
- \*[North Chicago CUSD #187 \(Great Lakes Naval Air Station\)](#)
  - [Special Education Process](#)

#### Indiana

- [Department of Education, Special Education](#)

#### Iowa

- [Department of Education, Special Education](#)

#### Kansas

- [State Department of Education, Special Education Services](#)
- \*[Fort Leavenworth School District \(Fort Leavenworth\)](#)
  - [Special Services](#)
- \*[Geary County Unified School District #475 \(Fort Riley\)](#)
  - [Special Education](#)

#### Kentucky

- [Department of Education, Special Education Services](#)

#### Louisiana

- [Department of Education, Children with Disabilities](#)
- \*[Vernon Parish School Board \(Fort Polk\)](#)

- [Special Education](#)

Maine

- [Department of Education, Office of Special Services](#)

Maryland

- [Department of Education, Special Education Services](#)

Massachusetts

- [Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, Special Education](#)

Michigan

- [Department of Education, Special Education](#)

Minnesota

- [Department of Education, Special Education](#)

Mississippi

- [Department of Education, Special Education](#)

Missouri

- [Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, Special Education](#)
- [\\*Knob Noster School District R-VIII \(Whiteman AFB-ACC\)](#)
  - [Special Services](#)
- [\\*Waynesville R-VI Schools \(Ft. Leonard Wood\)](#)
  - [Special Services](#)

Montana

- [Office of Public Instruction, Special Education](#)

Nebraska

- [Department of Education, Office of Special Education](#)
- [\\*Bellevue Public Schools \(Offutt AFB-ACC\)](#)
  - [Special Education](#)

## Nevada

- [Department of Education, Office of Inclusion Education](#)

## New Hampshire

- [Department of Education, Special Education](#)

## New Jersey

- [Department of Education, Special Education](#)
- [\\*Northern Burlington Regional County School District \(McGuire AFB-AMC\)](#)
  - [Special Services](#)
- [\\*North Hanover School District \(McGuire AFB-AMC\)](#)
  - [Special Services](#)
- [\\*Pemberton Township \(Ft. Dix, McGuire AFB-AMC\)](#)
  - [Special Services](#)

## New Mexico

- [Public Education Department, Special Education](#)

## New York

- [Department of Education, Special Education](#)
- [\\*Carthage Central SD \(Fort Drum\)](#)
  - [Special Education](#)
- [\\*Highland Falls School District \(U.S. Military Academy - West Point\)](#)
  - [Pupil Personnel Services](#)
- [\\*Indian River Central School District \(Fort Drum\)](#)
  - [Pupil Personnel Services](#)

## North Carolina

- [Department of Public Instruction, Students with Disabilities](#)
- [\\*Cumberland County Schools \(Ft. Bragg\)](#)
  - [Student Services](#)
- [\\*Hartnett County School District \(Fort Bragg\)](#)
  - [Student Support Services](#)
- [\\*Onslow County Board of Education \(Camp LeJeune\)](#)
  - [Exceptional Children Services](#)
- [\\*Wayne County Public Schools \(Seymour Johnson AFB\)](#)
  - [504 Services](#)

## North Dakota

- [Department of Public Instruction, Special Education](#)
- [\\*Grand Forks School District \(Grand Forks AFB-ACC\)](#)
  - [Special Education](#)
- [\\*Minot Public School District #1 \(Minot AFB-ACC\)](#)
  - [Special Education](#)

## Ohio

- [Department of Education, Special Education](#)

## Oklahoma

- [Department of Education, Special Education Services](#)
- [\\*Altus Public School \(Tinker AFB\)](#)
  - [Special Education](#)
- [\\*Choctaw-Nicoma Park Public Schools \(Tinker AFB\)](#)
  - [Special Services](#)
- [\\*Lawton Public Schools \(Fort Sill\)](#)
  - [Special Education](#)

## Oregon

- [Department of Education, Special Education](#)

## Pennsylvania

- [Department of Education, Special Education](#)

## Rhode Island

- [Department of Education, Special Education](#)
- [\\*Public Schools of Middletown \(Naval Education Training Centers, Newport\)](#)
  - [Special Education](#)

## South Carolina

- [Department of Education, Special Education Services](#)

## South Dakota

- [Department of Education, Special Education Programs](#)
- [\\*Douglas School District 51-1 \(Ellsworth AFB-ACC\)](#)

## Tennessee

- [Department of Education, Special Education](#)
- [\\*Clarksville-Montgomery County School System \(Fort Campbell\)](#)
  - [Special Education](#)

## Texas

- [Education Agency, Special Education](#)
- [\\*Burkburnett Independent School District \(Sheppard AFB-AETC\)](#)
  - [Special Education](#)
- [\\*Copperas Cove ISD \(Fort Hood\)](#)
  - [Special Education](#)
- [\\*El Paso Independent School District \(Ft Bliss\)](#)
  - [Special Education](#)
- [\\*Fort Sam Houston Independent School District \(Fort Sam Houston\)](#)
  - [Special Programs](#)
- [\\*Killeen Independent School District \(Fort Hood\)](#)
  - [Special Education](#)
- [\\*Lackland Independent School District \(Lackland AFB-AETC\)](#)
  - [Special Needs](#)
- [\\*Randolph Field Independent School District \(Randolph AFB-AETC\)](#)
  - [Instructional Services](#)
- [\\*Schertz-Cibolo-Universal City ISD](#)
  - [Special Education](#)

## Utah

- [State Board of Education, Special Education Services](#)

## Vermont

- [Agency of Education, Special Education](#)

## Virginia

- [Department of Education, Special Education](#)
- [\\*Chesapeake Public Schools \(NSA Hampton Road Northwest Annex/St. Julien's Creek Naval Ammo Depot\)](#)
- [\\*Prince George County Public Schools \(Fort Lee, Federal Reformatory, National Military Park\)](#)
- [\\*Virginia Beach City Public Schools \(Norfolk Naval Base, Ft. Story\)](#)



## Washington

- [Office of Public Instruction, Special Education](#)
- [\\*Bremerton Schools \(Naval Base Kitsap\)](#)
  - [Special Education](#)
- [\\*Central Kitsap School District #401 \(Navy Base Kitsap\)](#)
  - [Student Services](#)
- [\\*Clover Park School District \(Joint Base Lewis-McChord\)](#)
- [\\*Medical Lake School District \(Fairchild AFB\)](#)
  - [Student Services](#)
- [\\*Oak Harbor Public Schools \(Naval Air Station Whidbey Island\)](#)
  - [Special Education](#)

## West Virginia

- [Department of Education, Office of Special Education](#)
  - [Resources for Children with Disabilities](#)

## Wisconsin

- [Department of Education, Special Education Team](#)

## Wyoming

- [Department of Education, Special Education Programs](#)

## **U.S. Department of Defense and Other Resources**

- [DODEA Schools, Special Education](#)
- [Military One Source, Special Needs](#)
- [Specialized Training of Military Parents \(STOMP\)](#)