



Virtual School Enrollment

States can minimize disruptions in education for military children by allowing them to participate in technology-based educational opportunities (virtual schools) while transitioning between duty stations.

Discussion Points:

1. **When military children move midterm, as a result of their parents' service, they are often disadvantaged due to missed deadlines for course completion or registration. Students could start courses virtually to maintain continuity and avoid losing credits.**
2. While the **Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children** provides opportunities for assistance during transition, it does not address virtual school support.
3. **Many states have state-governed virtual school systems that present opportunities** to improve transition education assistance. Often, military families transferring on official military permanent change of station orders are not eligible to register for courses until they are physically located within district boundaries.
4. **Military service members are routinely reassigned to new duty stations on a three- to four-year rotation, most often in the summer.** Their children need access to courses during PCS transfers to alleviate difficult schedules when students are required to make up classes in order to graduate without delay.
5. **States may consider modifying eligibility criteria to enable military children to participate in virtual school programs while stationed in another state.**
 - If coursework is required to help the child graduate on time, parents can enroll their children in the receiving state's virtual school network to make up gaps in graduation requirements.
 - If students transfer midterm, parents can enroll their children in the sending or receiving state's virtual school network so their children can avoid receiving incomplete grades.



About 185,000 military children move between schools annually. Of these, a third move during the school year and either lose education opportunities or receive incomplete grades.

Consequently, they may have to shift the normal course of study to attend summer school or add extra classes to a full curriculum, in order to graduate with their peers.