



## Key Message

States have a valuable opportunity to facilitate improved local implementation of policies designed to support military-connected children and ensure families are empowered with the knowledge they need by clarifying requirements, enhancing communication efforts and streamlining access to information on state and local education websites.

## Analysis

Military families face distinct challenges due to frequent moves and varying educational requirements across states, directly impacting service member focus and readiness. When parents lack awareness of state policies intended to support their children, they're left to navigate complex systems during critical transition periods. This avoidable stress undermines family stability and, ultimately, mission readiness.

## Best Practices and Innovative Approaches

Military-connected students bring unique strengths and face distinct challenges as they transition between schools and states. By enhancing both the implementation of supportive education policies and the accessibility of critical information, states have a powerful opportunity to reduce barriers, ease transitions and affirm their commitment to military families.

### Policy Implementation

To facilitate effective implementation of the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children, or the Education Compact, states are encouraged to adopt statutory or administrative enhancements that clarify requirements and procedures:

- Build upon the state Education Compact statute by embedding detailed operational requirements into agency rules or companion statutes. These should:
  - Outline data collection and reporting protocols, define clear accountability measures, establish dispute resolution pathways – particularly for special education – and standardize credit transfer procedures to ensure smooth transitions for military-connected students.

According to War Department-sponsored research, "State Implementation of Four Initiatives to Support Military-Connected Students," examining the effectiveness of policies that states have enacted to support military-connected students (or in subsequent actions taken), the following states have been found to meet the information accessibility objectives of this initiative. This means that information about the Education Compact is included on a dedicated state webpage for military families:

Arizona, Arkansas\*, Connecticut, Delaware\*, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho\*, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Montana, New York, North Carolina\*, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin

The following states have been identified as meeting the policy implementation objectives of this initiative. This means the state has adopted one or more of our recommended enhancements to clarify requirements and procedures to improve implementation of the Education Compact:

Arkansas\*, Florida\*, North Carolina\*, Utah, Virginia\*

\*Indicates states identified by DSLO as best practice examples for information accessibility and/or policy implementation



- Clarify the role of the state Education Compact council (or equivalent) in educating school districts and military families about the protections and rights afforded by the Education Compact and relevant state and federal laws.
- Mandate recurring training for school administrators and enrollment staff to ensure consistent, informed implementation of the Education Compact and other military-specific education policies at the school level.
- Institute annual training for state Education Compact council members to equip them with the knowledge and tools needed to fulfill their responsibilities and engage effectively.

✓ **Innovative approaches:**

- ✓ **Include an active-duty military spouse, a representative of the state's high school sports association, a representative of a homeschool association and a staff member from the state's special education division as optional members on the state council.**
- ✓ **Through statute external to the Education Compact, provide similar support and resources as the Education Compact provides for other military-connected students, such as children of guard and reserve members on Title 32 orders, gold star families and DOW civilians.**
- ✓ **Develop a statewide articulation agreement that guarantees the transfer of credits between schools within the state and facilitates the acceptance of credits from out-of-state schools.**

**Outline data collection and reporting protocols.**

**EXAMPLES:**

**ARKANSAS**

**House Bill 1545**

<https://arkleg.state.ar.us/Home/FTPDocument?path=%2FACTS%2F2025R%2FPublic%2FACT501.pdf>

"Reporting enrollment of children of members of the uniformed services ~~armed forces~~ – Definition

(a) The Division of Elementary and Secondary Education shall require a public school to report the enrollment of a student ~~who is a child of a uniformed services family~~ with a parent who is an active duty or reserve component member of the armed forces as required by the Every Student Succeeds Act, 20 U.S.C. § 6311, as it existed on January 1, 2025:

(1) In the Arkansas Public School Computer Network; or

(2) As established by rule if the public school or public school district does not report information through the Arkansas Public School Computer Network.

(b) As used in this section, "armed forces" means a member of the active duty or reserve components of the United States Army, United States Navy, United States Air Force, United States Marine Corps, United States Space Force, United States Coast Guard, and National Guard."



**Clarify the role of the state Education Compact council (or equivalent).**

## ARKANSAS

**Arkansas Code of 1987 (2024), Title 6, Subtitle 2, Chapter 28, Subchapter 2, Section 6-28-201**

<https://law.justia.com/codes/arkansas/title-6/subtitle-2/chapter-28/subchapter-2/section-6-28-201/>

“The requirement for state coordination is established under § 6-28-106 and under § 6-4-302, Article VIII.”

**Arkansas Code of 1987 (2024), Title 6, Subtitle 2, Chapter 28, Subchapter 2, Section 6-28-204**

<https://law.justia.com/codes/arkansas/title-6/subtitle-2/chapter-28/subchapter-2/section-6-28-204/>

“(a) The purpose of the Arkansas Council for Military Children is to assist state and local education agencies, in collaboration with local military commands, in the promotion of the provisions of this chapter and the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children, § 6-4-301 et seq., in order to eliminate barriers to educational success faced by children of military families.

(b) The duties of the council are to:

(1) Assist state and local education agencies in the promotion and communication of the provisions of this chapter to inform public school district officials and uniformed services families;

(2) Assist state and local education agencies with the orientation and training of district military education coordinators on provisions of this chapter;

(3) Assist in the development and delivery of programs that inform uniformed services families of the need for self-identification in order to assure accurate accounting of children of uniformed services families enrolled in public school districts; and

(4) Assist in the development and administration of programs recognizing education agencies, public schools, and leaders who have established or contributed to programs facilitating successful school transitions of children of uniformed services families.

(c)

(1) The council shall meet at least quarterly or more frequently as decided upon by a majority of its members.

(2) The Chair of the Arkansas Council for Military Children may call special meetings.

(d) The council may:

(1) Form committees to carry out its purpose; and

(2) Enlist volunteer participation by knowledgeable individuals and organizations to assist in development and execution of programs.

(e)

(1) A majority of all council members shall constitute a quorum at council meetings.

(2) The absence of the Chair of the Senate Committee on Education or the Chair of the House Committee on Education or designees from each of the committees shall not count against a quorum.



(f) At least annually, the council shall hold a virtual or in-person public forum in a military community to receive feedback from Arkansas uniformed services families regarding the effectiveness of the provisions of this chapter.

(g) The council may provide recommendations to the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education regarding without limitation suggested:

(1) Legislative initiatives amending this chapter; and

(2) Rules applicable to the division and public school districts under this chapter.

(h) The council shall provide annually a report to the Governor, the State Board of Education, the Senate Committee on Education, and the House Committee on Education that includes without limitation the following:

(1) Information regarding the achievements of the council and public school districts regarding the support provided to uniformed services families under this chapter;

(2) Details of the reports provided to the Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission;

(3) The number of children of military families in each public school district transferring to or from another state or federal education agency in the previous year;

(4)

(A) Summaries of cases elevated to the chair for counsel and assistance in resolving cases involving:

(i) The transition of children of military families that were elevated by military families;

(ii) United States Department of Defense officials; or

(iii) Public school districts."

**Provide Education Compact-like benefits to the children of National Guard and reserve members in external statute.**

#### EXAMPLE:

#### ARKANSAS

Senate Bill (2019), Arkansas Code (2024), Title 6, Subtitle 2, Chapter 28, Subchapter 1

<https://advance.lexis.com/documentpage/?pdmfid=1000516&crid=cb8074fb-bf8b-4a9f-b93e-fe81a064ad13&nodeid=AAGAACAATAACAAAF&nodepath=%2fROOT%2fAAG%2fAAGAAC%2fAAGACAAT%2fAAGAACATAAC%2fAAGAACATAACAAAF&level=5&haschildren=&populated=false&title=6-28-104.+Definitions.&config=00JAA2ZjZiM2VhNS0wNTVILTQ3NzUtYjQzYyOyYWZmODJiODRmMDYKAFBvZENhdGFsb2fXiYCnseI0pIlgqpYkw9PK&pddocfullpath=%2fshared%2fdocument%2fstatutes-legislation%2furn%3acontentItem%3a6FY9-Y4S0-R03N-H1S6-00008-00&e-comp=6qf5kkk&prid=93380f19-0c70-4c66-8114-42d5f6b5e9ac>



“Section 6-28-104. Definitions.

As used in this chapter:

- (1) ‘Activated reserve components’ means members of the reserve component of the uniformed services who have received a notice of intent to mobilize or deploy under Title 10 of the United States Code, Title 32 of the United States Code, or state mobilization to active duty;
- (2) ‘Active duty’ means full-time duty status in the active, uniformed services of the United States, including without limitation members of the National Guard and reserve components of the uniformed services on active duty orders under 10 U.S.C. Chapters 1209 and 1210 or 42 U.S.C. § 204, as they existed on January 1, 2021;
- (3) ‘Deployment’ means the period of time six (6) months before a member of the uniformed services’ departure from his or her home or duty station on military orders through six (6) months after return to his or her home station;
- (4) ‘Dual status military technician’ means a federal civilian employee who is:
  - (A) Employed under 5 U.S.C. § 3101 or 32 U.S.C. § 709(b);
  - (B) Required as a condition of his or her employment to maintain membership in the Selected Reserve; and
  - (C) Assigned to a civilian position as a technician in the organizing, administering, instructing, or training of the Selected Reserve or in the maintenance and repair of supplies or equipment issued to the Selected Reserve;”

**Facilitate the development and implementation of memoranda of agreement between school districts and military installations.**

**EXAMPLE:**

**FLORIDA**

**2024 Florida Statutes, Section 1003.05**

<https://www.flsenate.gov/Laws/Statutes/2024/1003.05>

“(1) The Legislature finds that school-aged dependents of military personnel, otherwise known as military students, are faced with numerous transitions during their formative years and that moves during the high school years provide special challenges to learning and future achievement. Recognizing the challenges faced by military students and the importance of military families to our community and economy, the Department of Education shall assist the transition of these students by improving the timely transfer of records, developing systems to ease student transition during the first 2 weeks of enrollment, promoting practices which foster access to extracurricular programs, establishing procedures to lessen the adverse impact of moves from the end of the junior year as well as before and during the senior year, encouraging or continuing partnerships between the military base and the school system, providing services for transitioning students when applying to and finding funding for postsecondary study, and providing other assistance as identified by department, school, and military personnel.



(2) The Department of Education shall facilitate the development and implementation of memoranda of agreement between school districts and military installations which address strategies for assisting students who are the children of active duty military personnel in the transition to Florida schools."

**Position designated personnel in schools specifically to assist military families and students in navigating the Education Compact and other supportive policies.**

#### EXAMPLES:

##### NORTH CAROLINA

**North Carolina Department of Education: School District Military Liaison Counselors**

<https://www.dpi.nc.gov/students-families/student-support/nc-supports-military-children/school-district-military-liaison-counselors>

"The mission of the Military Liaison Counselors is to research, develop, and implement programs and practices that will support military students and families in North Carolina. The Military Liaison Counselors work in partnership with military installations, community agencies, and area schools to provide outreach services to families as they transition in/out of our communities."

##### ARKANSAS

**House Bill 1545 (2025)**

<https://arkleg.state.ar.us/Home/FTPDocument?path=%2FACTS%2F2025R%2FPublic%2FACT501.pdf>

~~"(a) A Each public school with twenty (20) or more children of military families enrolled as students under this chapter or a public school district with at least three thousand (3,000) enrolled public school students district and open-enrollment public charter school shall:~~

~~(1) Incorporate into the policies of the public school district specific procedures that outline actions to take in support of students who are the children of military families who transition to and from the public school district; and~~

~~(2)(A)(1) Designate in each public school district a military family education coordinator to serve as the primary point of contact for each child of a military family and his or her parent or legal guardian;~~

~~(2) Annually by September 1 provide to the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education the name and contact information of the military family education coordinator; and~~

~~(3) Post in a section designated for Military Families on the website of the public school the contact information for the military family education coordinator.~~

~~(B)(b) The Each public school military family education coordinator shall:~~

~~(i)(1) Have Possess specialized knowledge regarding the educational needs of children of military families and the obstacles that children of military families face in obtaining an education and unique challenges faced by children of uniformed services families; and~~

~~(ii)(2) Be included in the establishment and adoption of a public school district's and public school's parent and family engagement plan as required under § 6-15-1702; and~~





(3) Serve as a navigator for uniformed services families by:

(A) Connecting the uniformed services families to appropriate public school resources; and

(B) Connecting families with other uniformed services families in the public school upon request."

**Appoint additional Education Compact council members to directly represent the needs of military families.**

**EXAMPLE:**

**VIRGINIA**

**Code of Virginia, Title 22.1, Chapter 24, Section 22.1-361**

<https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/22.1-361/>

"In accordance with the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children, there is hereby created the Virginia Council on the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children, hereinafter referred to in this section as the "Virginia Council." The Virginia Council shall consist of one member of the House of Delegates, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Delegates; one member of the Senate, to be appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules; seven nonlegislative citizen members, including the Superintendent of Public Instruction, one parent of a military child, and one representative from a military installation in Virginia, to be appointed by the Governor; the superintendent of a school district with a high concentration of military children and one military spouse who serves on the Department of Education's Military Student Support Process Action Team, to be appointed by the Superintendent of Public Instruction; and also the Governor, or his designee. The Department of Education shall employ a military family education liaison to provide staff support to the Virginia Council and to assist military families and the state in facilitating the implementation of this compact."

**Information Access**

To ensure information about the Education Compact is easily obtained and understood by military families, we recommend that state education agencies develop policies to:

- Publish and maintain updated information and related resources about the Education Compact on a state education webpage dedicated to military families.
  - Include specific processes for military families to address and elevate concerns from the lowest levels up to the state council.

**EXAMPLES:**

**OHIO**

**Ohio Department of Education and Workforce: Students and Families Affiliated With the Military**

<https://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Other-Resources/Military-Resources/Students-and-Families>



Ohio maintains a comprehensive webpage of resources on the state department of education website, including detailed information and links on enrollment options for military-connected students, transition resources, military school liaison contact information, and a variety of military-specific provisions and programs such as Advance Enrollment, Open Enrollment, the Education Compact and the Purple Star Schools Program. The state's website also has a webpage to support service members, veterans and military spouses who are educators or would like to teach in Ohio.

**Ohio Department of Education and Workforce: Students and Families Affiliated With the Military**  
<https://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Other-Resources/Military-Resources/Students-and-Families>

"Over 15,000 students in Ohio are members of military families. Frequent moves and family separations through deployments, as well as reintegration issues, can make life especially challenging."

**Ohio Department of Education and Workforce: Enrollment Options for Students From Active-Duty Military Families**  
<https://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Other-Resources/Military-Resources/Students-and-Families/Enrolling-New-Students-in-Active-Duty-Military-Fam>

"Ohio supports military families as they navigate transitions both into and out of the state. On average, active-duty military families change duty stations every two to three years, and military-connected students may change schools six to nine times before graduating.

Schools and districts that service [Wright-Patterson Air Force Base](#), Ohio's largest military installation, are most impacted by these enrollment flexibilities. Other schools and districts around the state may also be impacted, as these enrollment flexibilities are available to active-duty service members that work at reserve units, as military recruiters, and as Reserve Officer Training Corps instructors.

In Ohio, active-duty military families have two enrollment options to reduce barriers and improve educational options: [...]"

## IDAHO

**Idaho Department of Education: Supporting Military Families**  
<https://www.sde.idaho.gov/supporting-military-families/>

The Idaho Department of Education maintains a comprehensive webpage of resources on the state department of education website, including information about the Education Compact, in addition to other policies, laws and programs that support military-connected students and families.

"Idaho is dedicated to supporting military families as they move in and out of the state and recognizes military youth may experience education challenges when they move under military orders with the service member. Some education-related barriers may include enrollment in the receiving school, placement in courses, credit transfers, participating in extracurricular activities, and the ability to meet credit requirements to graduate on time."



**NORTH CAROLINA****North Carolina Department of Public Instruction: Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission**

<https://www.dpi.nc.gov/students-families/student-support/nc-supports-military-children/military-interstate-childrens-compact-commission>

The North Carolina Department of Public Instruction maintains a dedicated webpage for military families that provides in-depth information and resources on the MIC3, Military Student Identifier, military liaison counselors, DOW school liaison officers and other state resources.

"North Carolina is a proud member of the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children. North Carolina is committed to the education of the children of our military service members while their home is in our state.

The North Carolina State Council for the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children (state council) was formed to support easing transitions for children of military families as they move between states due to their sponsor's military service. Frequent moves and deployments are hallmarks of the last decade and more of service in our nation's military."

**DELAWARE****Delaware Department of Education: Education for Military-Connected Youth**

<https://education.delaware.gov/educators/whole-child-support/family-services/military-connected-youth/>

Delaware maintains a comprehensive webpage of resources on the state's Department of Education website, including detailed information and links on a variety of military-specific provisions and programs, such as MIC3, the MSI and the Purple Star Schools Program.

"Military children, youth and their families are a special part of Delaware's population. On average, military students will attend six to nine different school systems from kindergarten to 12th grade. Our schools play an important role in providing supports to students during transitions and difficult times."

**ARKANSAS****Arkansas House Bill 1545 (2025)**

<https://arkleg.state.ar.us/Home/FTPDocument?path=%2FACTS%2F2025R%2FPublic%2FACT501.pdf>

"(i) The council shall post on its website or post by utilizing another form of public notice, including without limitation social media, information for uniformed services families, including without limitation information regarding:

(1) The purpose, duties, membership composition, meeting agendas, and meeting minutes of the council; [...]"



## Conclusion

The best practices and innovative approaches outlined in this document demonstrate that meaningful progress is already underway across the country. States that prioritize clarity, consistency and communication are not only improving educational outcomes for military-connected students – they are also strengthening family stability and contributing to mission readiness.

Continued collaboration between state education agencies, local school districts and the War Department is essential to enable us to collectively build on existing progress and further improve consistency in implementation and awareness of key initiatives designed to support military-connected students. Together, we can ensure that every military-connected student is welcomed, supported and empowered to thrive – no matter where their journey takes them.