

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR MILITARY CHILDREN

The District is committed to facilitating the placement, enrollment, graduation, data collection, and provision of special services for students transferring into or out of the District because their parents are on active duty in the U.S. Armed Services, as outlined in the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children. The School Committee believes it is critical to remove barriers to educational success imposed on children of military families because of frequent moves and military deployment.

Definitions:

- **Active duty** means full-time duty status in the active uniformed service of the United States, including members of the National Guard and Reserve on active duty orders.
- **Children of military families** means school aged children, enrolled in kindergarten through 12th grade, in the household of an active duty member of the uniformed service of the United States, including members of the National Guard and Reserve serving on active duty.
- **Deployment** means the period one month before the service members' departure from their home station on military orders through six months after return to their home station.
- **Education(al) records** means official records, files, and data directly related to a student and maintained by the school including, but not limited to, records encompassing all the material kept in the student's cumulative folder.

Self-identification by parents in the military is voluntary. **Eligible students** are those who are children of:

- Active duty personnel;
- Active duty personnel or veterans who have been severely injured and medically discharged or retired for a period of one year after medical discharge or retirement; or
- Active duty personnel who die while on active duty or as a result of injuries sustained on active duty for a period of one year after death.

Students are not eligible for the provisions of the Compact if they are children of inactive Guard or Reserves, retired personnel, veterans not included above or U.S. Department of Defense personnel and other federal civil service employees and contract employees.

The District's responsibilities to eligible children include the following:

- Sending schools must send either official or unofficial records with the moving students and receiving schools must use those records for immediate enrollment and educational placement.
- Simultaneously, the receiving school must request official records and the sending school shall respond within 10 days with the records.
- Immunization requirements of the District may be met within 30 days from the date of enrollment (or be in progress).

- Receiving schools must initially honor placement of students in all courses from the sending school. These include, but are not limited to, Honors, International Baccalaureate, Advanced Placement, vocational-technical, and career pathway courses if those courses are offered in the receiving school and space is available.
- Receiving schools must also initially honor placement of programs similar to those of the student in the sending state, including, but not limited to, English language education programs. Receiving schools are not precluded from performing subsequent evaluation to ensure the appropriate placement and continued enrollment of the student in courses and programs.
- In compliance with federal and state laws, students with IEPs are entitled to receive special education services in the receiving school in accordance with 34 CFR Part 300.323(e) and (f) as applied to transferring special education students.
- The District will exercise, as deemed appropriate, the right to waive prerequisites for all courses and programs, while also maintaining its right to reevaluate the student to ensure continued enrollment, as deemed appropriate.
- Students of active duty personnel shall have additional excused absences at the discretion of the District for visitations relative to leave or deployment.
- An eligible student living with a noncustodial parent or other person standing in loco parentis shall be permitted to attend the school in which he or she was enrolled while living without the custodial parent without any tuition fee imposed.
- The District high school will accept exit or end-of-year exams required from the sending state, national norm-referenced tests, or alternate testing instead of testing requirements for graduation in the District (receiving state). If this is not possible, the alternative provision of the Interstate Compact shall be followed in order to facilitate the on-time graduation of the student in accordance with Compact provisions.

LEGAL REFS: M.G. L. 15E: *Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children*
Massachusetts Valor Act

Approved: 5/9/2019