

 MILITARY INTERSTATE CHILDREN'S COMPACT COMMISSION	Number: 6-2019
Advisory Opinion issued by: Cherise Imai, Executive Director Richard L Masters, General Counsel	Dated: September 26, 2019 Approved: October 10, 2019
Requestor: State of Tennessee	
Description: Does the Compact require Grade Point Average (GPA) recalculations?	

I. Background

Pursuant to Article X, Section C. of the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children (hereinafter ‘Compact’) the State of Tennessee has submitted a request for an advisory opinion concerning clarification of an issue pertaining to the Compact.

II. Issue

The Commissioner from Tennessee has requested guidance from the Military Interstate Children’s Compact Commission concerning the applicability of the Compact to GPA recalculations by school districts or local education authorities (LEA).

III. Applicable Compact Provisions or Rules

Article V. A. 1. of the Compact provides as follows:

“A. Course placement – When the student transfers before or during the school year the receiving school shall initially honor placement of the student in educational courses based on the student’s enrollment in the sending state school and/or educational assessments conducted at the school in the sending state if the courses are offered . . . Continuing the student’s academic program from the previous school and promoting placement in academically and career challenging courses should be paramount when considering placement. . . “

IV. Review and Analysis

Typically, LEA’s place like courses on the board approved grading scale and then compare students within that particular school for the purposes of class ranking. Because of that reality, it is important when this ranking is done at the school level that all students are evaluated on equal terms. In addition, the Commission has previously clarified in *MIC3 Advisory Opinion 7-2017* that the Compact requires that the receiving school district must “honor the placement of the student in educational courses based on the student’s enrollment in the sending state school” and that continuing the

student's progress from the previous school is a paramount consideration when making placement decisions. Consequently, a receiving state school is not allowed to withdraw credit and corresponding grades previously awarded for courses completed in the sending state public school where the sending state declines to do so.

However, the foregoing provisions of the compact do not require public school districts each member state to use identical grade point averages and this has been left to the discretion of each of the state departments of education (state education authority or SEA) or LEA. For this reason, it is appropriate for the Commission to not interfere with an SEA and/or LEA's discretion to determine what grading scale is required.

V. Conclusion

In summary, based on the relevant provisions of the Compact, referenced authorities and analysis, the foregoing provisions of the compact do not require public school districts each member state to use identical grade point averages and this has been left to the discretion of each of the SEA or LEA.