

MEMORANDUM

TO: Florida Base Commanders

FROM: Hershel Lyons

DATE: May 6, 2016

SUBJECT: Military Dependent Children Transfer Student Placement

The average military student faces transition challenges more than twice during high school and most military children will attend six to nine different school systems from kindergarten to 12th grade. Enrollment and placement of children of active duty military families is under the guidelines of the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children.

The following are the objectives of the compact.

- Make transition easier for the children of military families so they are afforded the same opportunities for educational success as other children, and are not penalized or delayed in achieving their educational goals.
- Require that upon receipt of education records by the school in the receiving state, the school shall enroll and appropriately place the student as quickly as possible based on the information provided, pending validation of the official education records.
- Require that the student's receiving school, pending receipt of official education records, must accept the unofficial education records.
- Provide that a transferring student must be allowed to continue in the academic program in which the student was enrolled at his or her former school, including, e.g., English as a second language, exceptional student education, gifted, honors, advanced placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE) and career and technical courses. Program placement must occur based on prior participation or educational assessments conducted at the student's former school. Additional information is available on the Florida Department of Education's [Military Families](#) webpage.

HERSHEL LYONS
CHANCELLOR OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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In order to facilitate on-time graduation for transferring military children enrolled any time in high school, as specified in section [1000.36](#), Article VII, Florida Statutes (F.S.), the following provisions apply:

- A school district must waive specific courses required for graduation if similar course work has been satisfactorily completed in another school district or shall provide reasonable justification for denial. If a waiver is not granted to a student who would qualify to graduate from a school of the sending state, the school of the receiving state must provide an alternative means of acquiring the required course work so that graduation may occur on time.
- States must accept exit or end-of-course (EOC) exams required for graduation from a school in the sending state.
- If a transitioning student who transfers in his or her senior year is ineligible to graduate from a school in the receiving state after all alternatives have been considered, both the sending and receiving state schools must ensure the receipt of the diploma from the sending state school if the student meets the graduation requirements of the sending state school. We encourage the receiving school to allow the student to participate in all local graduation activities.

In addition, if a transfer student's transcript shows a final course grade and course credit in Algebra I, Geometry, Biology I or U.S. History, the transferring course final grade and credit is honored without the student taking the requisite statewide, standardized EOC assessment, and without the assessment results constituting 30 percent of the student's final course grade (s. [1003.4282\(7\)](#), F.S.). However, in order for a student to earn a scholar diploma designation specific EOC assessments must be passed (s. [1003.4285](#), F.S.). For more information, please refer to the academic advisement flyers, "What Students and Parents Need to Know" on the [Graduation Requirements](#) webpage.

We appreciate your commitment to offer families support and resources that provide a positive school experience. For additional information, please contact Curtis Jenkins, staff support for the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children, at 850-245-7851 or Curtis.Jenkins@fldoe.org.

HL/cj

cc: Curtis Jenkins
Mary Jane Tappen, Vice Chancellor of K-12 Public Schools
Monica Verra-Tirado, Bureau Chief of Exceptional Education and Student Services