



MIC3 MEMBER PROFILE

IOWA



OVERVIEW

The Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children was developed jointly by The Council of State Governments' National Center for Interstate Compacts and the U.S. Department of Defense, with input from policy experts, national associations, teachers, school administrators, military families, and federal, state, and local officials. The Compact eases interstate education transition challenges encountered by the children of active duty service members such as enrollment, eligibility, placement and graduation. On average, military students will attend six to nine different school systems from kindergarten to 12th grade.

Initial discussions about the Compact began in 2006, and drafting began early in 2007. First available for legislative consideration in 2008, the Compact was adopted by all 50 states and the District of Columbia in just 6 legislative sessions.

HISTORY

Iowa adopted the Compact in March 2009. The model language was adopted with modifications for the Iowa Code. The dues are paid by the Iowa Department of Education.

Bill sponsor(s): Representative Ray Zirkelbach

Governor Signed: March 26, 2009, 13th State to join the Compact

Location in Statute or Code: Iowa Code, Chapter 256H

COMMISSIONER	Misty Nissen	2019 – Present
	Tom Beasley	2009 – 2017

APPOINTING AUTHORITY: Governor

STATE COUNCIL

IA Code § 256H.2 (2016)

1. A council on educational opportunity for military children is created to provide advice and recommendations regarding this state's participation in and compliance with the interstate compact on educational opportunity for military children in accordance with section 256H.1.

2. The council shall consist of the following seven members:

a. The director of the department of education or the director's designee.

b. The superintendent, or the superintendent's designee, for the school district with the highest percentage per capita of military children during the previous school year.

c. Two members appointed by the governor, one of whom shall represent a military installation located within this state and one of whom shall represent the executive branch and possess experience in assisting military families in obtaining educational services for their children. The term of each member appointed under this paragraph shall be for four years, except that, in order to provide for staggered terms, the governor shall initially appoint one member to a term of two years and one member to a term of three years.

d. One member appointed jointly by the president of the senate and the speaker of the house of representatives as provided in sections 2.32A and 69.16B.

e. The compact commissioner appointed pursuant to section 256H.3 and the military family education liaison appointed in accordance with subsection 4, shall serve as nonvoting, ex officio members of the council unless already appointed to the council as voting members. The compact commissioner and the military family education liaison shall serve at the pleasure of the governor.

3. Nonlegislative members of the council shall serve without compensation, but shall receive their actual and necessary expenses and travel incurred in the performance of their duties. Vacancies on the commission shall be filled for the unexpired portion of the term in the same manner as the original appointments.



MIC3 MEMBER PROFILE IOWA



4. *The council shall appoint a military family education liaison pursuant to section 256H.1, article VIII of the interstate compact on educational opportunity for military children, to assist military families and the state in facilitating the implementation of this compact.*

5. *The council shall comply with the requirements of chapters 21 and 22.*

6. *The department of education shall provide administrative support to the council.*

STATE COUNCIL MEETINGS

The State Council meets annually.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- The Iowa Council served as one of the leads on the Lt. Governor's Public Engagement Event to understand and address the issues related to Iowa's military children and military-connected children. The accomplishments of the Public Engagement Event produced a training curriculum for Iowa K-12 schools, administrators, teachers and parents that eventually is to be embedded into Iowa's Home Base (all things military related) program.
- The Iowa Council has partnered with Iowa's Military Education Child Coalition and supports the coalition in supporting family events and programs geared towards Iowa's military children.
- The Iowa Council served on Iowa's Project Aware (childhood trauma) program and has volunteered to serve as a train the trainer for trauma training geared to recognize and better address trauma in children. The goal is for the Compact to reach out to Veteran Service Organizations across the state to conduct training sessions to build greater capacity within the state.
- The Iowa Council has partnered with Army One Source, Military One Source, the Military Child Education Coalition, the American Legion, and other Veterans Service Organizations to highlight concerns children may be experiencing trauma living with a veteran suffering from a trauma injury.