

MIC3 and Partner Organization Deployment Resources

On February 28, 2026, Operation Epic Fury, a U.S.-led military campaign, began. Targeting Iran to dismantle its security infrastructure, including command centers, air defenses, and naval assets. Reports describe this as the largest deployment of U.S. military power to the region in a generation, structured as a sustained campaign rather than a short-term operation.

As of March 5, 2026, the campaign involves more than 50,000 U.S. service members, approximately 200 fighter aircraft, two aircraft carriers, and supporting bomber units. General Dan Caine, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, has indicated that additional tactical assets are forthcoming, and U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) is evaluating the requirement for more personnel.

Given these developments, the Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission (MIC3) is committed to equipping members with resources to support families of deployed service members and the schools that serve them.

This document outlines key Compact-related considerations and provides links to partner resources. The Executive Committee encourages members to distribute this information to their State Councils and relevant stakeholders.

Compact Rules

The Compact Rules play a critical role in supporting the educational continuity and overall well-being of children of uniformed service members during Permanent Change of Station (PCS) transitions and periods of deployment. To effectively serve these students and their families, Commissioners should maintain a thorough understanding of Compact Rules Chapters 300–600, which are summarized in this document.

Given the potential for increased deployment activity, it is especially important for members to closely review **SEC. 5.105 – Absence Related to Deployment Activities** and **SEC. 6.101 – Eligibility for Enrollment**. These provisions directly address challenges families may face throughout deployment cycles, ensuring that students receive consistent support and that schools are equipped to respond to their unique needs.

Chapter 300 Transfer of Education Records and Enrollment

SEC. 3.101 ELIGIBILITY FOR TRANSFER AND ENROLLMENT

- Educational Records
 - Parents may request and schools can accept unofficial or “hand-carried” records and those records may be used for enrollment and placement of a military-connected child.
 - The sending school has 10 business days to send official records upon receipt of the receiving school's request.

SEC. 3.102 APPLICATION FOR TRANSFER OF STUDENT RECORDS AND ENROLLMENT

- Immunizations
 - Student has 30 days from enrollment to obtain any additional required immunizations.
 - If the immunization is a series of shots, the first shot in the series must be received within the 30-day window, and then the series must be continued.
- Kindergarten and First Grade Entrance Age

- Guarantees the child may continue their education and/or be promoted to the next grade level regardless of their age.
- For the Compact to apply, the child must have been enrolled and attended school in the sending state.

Chapter 400 Graduation

SEC. 4.101 WAIVER REQUIREMENTS

- Allows schools flexibility to waive courses required for graduation if a similar course is completed in another Local Education Agency (LEA).

SEC. 4.102 EXIT EXAMS

- States shall accept:
 - Exit or end-of-course exams required for graduation from the sending state;
 - National norm-referenced achievement tests;
 - Alternative testing, in lieu of the testing requirement for graduation in the receiving state.

SEC. 4.103 TRANSFERS DURING SENIOR YEAR

- Allow receipt of a sending school diploma as an alternative to accommodations for exit exams or graduation requirements that the student doesn't have time to meet.
- Should a waiver not be granted to a student who would have qualified to graduate from the sending school, the LEA shall provide an alternative means for acquiring coursework so graduation may occur on time.

Chapter 500 Placement and Attendance

SEC. 5.101 COURSE PLACEMENT

- Placement in courses and programs based on prior enrollment in the sending state.
- After initially placing the student into the course, the receiving school may perform an evaluation to ensure the appropriate placement and continued enrollment.

SEC. 5.102 EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM PLACEMENT

- The receiving state school shall initially honor placement of the student in educational programs based on current educational assessments conducted at the school in the sending state or participation/placement in like programs in the sending state.
- After initially placing the student into the course, the receiving school may perform an evaluation to ensure the appropriate placement and continued enrollment.

SEC. 5.103 SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES

- The Compact does **not** supersede the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).
- The receiving state will initially provide comparable services to those identified on the student's Individualized Education Program (IEP).
- The receiving state may perform evaluations to ensure appropriate placement.
- Does not require the LEA to provide the exact same programs as the sending school.

SEC. 5.104 PLACEMENT FLEXIBILITY

- LEAs have the flexibility to waive course or program prerequisites or other preconditions if similar coursework has been completed in another LEA.

SEC. 5.105 ABSENCE AS RELATED TO DEPLOYMENT ACTIVITIES

- Flexibility for schools to allow additional excused absences so the child may visit with their parent or legal guardian due to deployment or posting to a combat zone.
- The Commission defines the deployment window as one (1) month prior to and six (6) months after return.
- Provides discretion and flexibility to the LEA or school superintendent.

Chapter 600 Eligibility

SEC. 6.101 ELIGIBILITY FOR ENROLLMENT

- An LEA cannot charge tuition to military children placed in care of a non-custodial parent or person serving “in loco parentis.”
- A student can continue to attend his or her current school even if living with a non-custodial parent or person serving “in loco parentis.”
- The power of attorney for guardianship is sufficient for enrollment and all other actions requiring parental participation or consent.
- Providing transportation to and from school is the caregiver’s responsibility.

SEC. 6.102 ELIGIBILITY FOR EXTRACURRICULAR PARTICIPATION

- State and LEAs shall “facilitate the opportunity” for inclusion in extracurricular activities regardless of paperwork or physical tryout deadlines, if the child is otherwise qualified.
- LEAs shall make a reasonable effort to allow eligible military students to participate in extracurricular activities offered by the LEA.
 - This includes public posting and distribution of information.

Support for families impacted by Operation Epic Fury deployments and evacuations to Safe Havens

The Safe Haven evacuation has begun, and is not limited to Bahrain. Most families are relocating to Ramstein Air Base in Germany, but some families will return to the United States to stay with relatives or settle temporarily. Additionally, more than 50K service members are deployed, leaving families and children behind. School Liaisons stand ready to provide guidance and training to school and district officials, with deployment kits may be available to offer additional support.

While the duration of these deployments and relocations remains uncertain, accommodating families with understanding, flexibility, and adherence to the Compact guidelines will be essential in helping students navigate their transitions during this difficult time. We sincerely appreciate your continued partnership and collaboration in supporting military-connected students and families, especially during challenging times like these.

- **Situational Awareness:** Lean on your MIC3 State SME (School Liaison) for information. Notify MIC3 Commissioners and State Departments of Education (DOE) about the potential arrival of students. While the exact number of families relocating to specific states is unknown, schools can proactively prepare to address enrollment questions. Some families may arrive with minimal documentation, and some will be temporarily living with other families.
- **Documentation and Procedures:** States should prepare for enrollment challenges, including lack of required state registration documentation.

- **Support for Rural Districts:** Families may relocate to areas far from installations familiar with military requirements. Provide contact information for the nearest School Liaison office to assist rural districts in supporting these families.
- **Local Resources:** Schools should compile resources such as School Liaison, Exceptional Family Member (EFMP) - Family Support, and Child and Youth Behavioral Military Family Life Counselor (CYB-MFLC) contact information to assist counseling teams.
- **Homeless Education Support:** McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act may apply and state-specific guidelines to support families in need.
- **Graduating Seniors:** Be prepared for families with graduating high school seniors applying the MIC3 Graduating Senior Compact rules. MIC3 Commissioners may need to be available to assist when disconnects occur.
- **Child and Youth Behavioral Military Family Life Counselor:** Share information on CYB MFLC assistance with parents. [CYB MFLC Locator](#)
- **Find your School Liaison:** For more information, contact your local School Liaison Program office. Use the locator tool on the [MilitaryINSTALLATIONS](#) website at: [Military OneSource School Liaison Roster](#)

Thank you for your attention to this matter and for your continued partnership in supporting military-connected families. Please let me or any of the other Military Service Headquarters School Liaison Program Managers know if you have any questions or need additional information.

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Partner Organization's Resources

Blue Star Families (BSF)

- [Blue Star Neighborhood](#): The nation's largest digital community solely focused on supporting military-connected families; has a special resource hub for deployment resources

- [Blue Star Support Circles](#): Facilitated, non-clinical cohorts for veterans and service members who want to learn about suicide prevention and gain the tools to support their community
- [Four Ways to 'Do Your Part' to Support Military Families](#): A page filled with opportunities to support military families, from volunteering to simple gestures that make a big difference.
- [A MilSpouse Checklist for Before Your Spouse Deploys](#)
- [Keeping Connections Strong During Deployments](#)

Department of War (DoW)

- [Military OneSource School Liaison Roster](#): Find your School Liaison - For more information, contact your local School Liaison Program office. Use the locator tool on the Military OneSource site for [MilitaryINSTALLATIONS](#).
- [Military OneSource - Deployment](#): From predeployment to homecoming and reintegration, Military OneSource and your local Military and Family Support Center provide the information, resources and services you need to master your MilLife.
- [Military OneSource – MilLife Guides: Support for Parents and Guardians](#)

Military Child Education Coalition (MCEC)

- [Supporting Children and Youth Through Challenging Events: Resources for Military Families and Professionals](#)

National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS)

- [Student Mental Health and Suicide Prevention \(Online Course\)](#): The NFHS is proud to bring you this course on Student Mental Health and Suicide Prevention in response to this reality. With a focus on wellness, including both physical and psychological, this course highlights causes, strategies and provides helpful resources. For students, their peers and anyone responsible for their care and well-being, take the course Student Mental Health and Suicide Prevention.

National Military Family Association (NMFA)

- [Deployment: Guidance for before, during, after deployment](#)

Additional Resources

[Military Family Resources | Center for Deployment Psychology](#)

[Community Support for Military Children and Families Throughout the Deployment Cycle](#) This PDF is available from the Center for the Study of Traumatic Stress (CSTS)

[The Deployment Life Study: Longitudinal Analysis of Military Families Across the Deployment Cycle](#)

[American School Counselor Association | Dealing with Deployment](#)

[Sesame Street for Military Families - Deployments](#): Offers great tools for younger children, including support around deployments.