

September 2010

Florida Department
of Education

Florida Military
Compact Council

INTERSTATE COMPACT ON EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY FOR MILITARY CHILDREN



Florida—Supporting Military Students On the Go!

Florida's Military Compact Initiative

Schools can be one place where stability and normal routine provide an anchor for children during the challenges of deployment and the resulting disruptions to daily life. The predictability of the classroom helps to cushion the impact of deployment and the resulting disruption of daily routines. Alternatively, the stresses that may result from family separation have the potential to affect an entire school community and may interfere with the ability of students and staff to focus on learning. We encourage schools to prepare for this vulnerable population as activities are planned to welcome new students and their families.

The Florida Department of Education (FDOE) has included resources on its website for schools and military families at: <http://www.fldoe.org/military/>. The website resources include the rules for the Compact, current graduation and school entry requirements and national links for assistance.

Please take a moment to share activities and strategies that you have initiated to assist in easing the new school experiences for our military children. The Florida Military Compact Council looks forward to receiving your ideas. FDOE will compile these activities and disseminate them in future communications to you and the military families. Please send your ideas to Bettye Hyle via e-mail Bettye.Hyle@fldoe.org.



The Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission launched their new website. The website, <http://www.mic3.net>, is designed to better inform the public about the Interstate Compact for Educational Opportunities for Military Children and serve the needs of the families of our service men and women. It will also provide valuable resources, news, contact information, links, and recent rulings by the Commission.

About Us

As one of 35 states to become members of the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children, Florida recognizes the need to provide



supports to ease the trauma when children are uprooted from school as parents are transferred from base to base and state to state. The demands on military members and their families are not only increasing, but are becoming more complex.

Members of the Florida Military Compact Council include:

Mary Jane Tappen, Deputy Chancellor, Public School K-12

Kaye McKinley, Deputy Superintendent, Okaloosa County School District

Fred Fallman, Deputy Director, 6th Mission Support Group, MacDill Air Force Base

Joe Marino, Defense Coordinator, Office of Tourism, Trade and Economic Development, Appointee by Commissioner of Education of executive branch representative

Kelly Owens, School Board Okeechobee County, appointee of President of the Senate and Speaker of the House

Spessard Boatright, Compact Commissioner

Bettye Hyle, Student Services Team Leader, Bureau of Exceptional Education & Student Services, Administrative Support to Council

TBA, Military Family Education Liaison



The compact rules are designed to:

- ◇ Facilitate the transfer of education records and enrollment
- ◇ Promote smooth transitions to graduation
- ◇ Promote seamless transitions for course and educational placements
- ◇ Consider circumstances for excused absences
- ◇ Facilitate eligibility for enrollment in school and extracurricular participation.



RESOURCE

STOMP (Specialized Training of Military Parents) is a federally funded Parent Training and Information (PTI) Center established to assist military families who have children with special education or health needs. STOMP, begun in 1985, is funded through a grant from the U.S. Department of Education.

The staff of STOMP consists of parents of children with disabilities who have experience in raising them in military communities and traveling with their spouses to different locations.

<http://www.stompproject.org/>