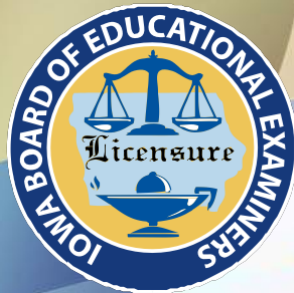


Home Base Iowa
Licensed Professions and Occupations

Annual Legislative Report
December 11, 2020



Iowa Board of Educational Examiners
Mike Cavin, Interim Executive Director
701 East Court Avenue, Suite A,
Des Moines, Iowa 50309

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BACKGROUND OF MILITARY EXCHANGE LICENSES AND BOARD OF EDUCATIONAL EXAMINERS

The Board of Educational Examiners (BoEE) developed the Military Exchange License in 2013 to assist with portability of teacher licensure for military spouses, recent veterans and their spouses. This allowed military veterans and spouses to waive testing requirements for three years, and allowed additional time to meet any course requirements. The rule went into effect August 28, 2013, prior to the Governor's Home Base Iowa initiative. Amendments to these rules were then adopted to ensure full compliance with Senate File 303. During the first two years of these new administrative rules (2014 – 2015), 50 military exchange and military career and technical licenses were issued. The 2020 data shows that 26 military applicants received benefits. This is down from 2019 with 32 military applicants receiving benefits through the BoEE Military Exchange program, but the same as 2018. The data for the 26 military family applicants in 2020 are presented below.

The benefits available to military families applying for teacher license fall into two categories. Testing requirements for licensure can be waived for three years, allowing the teacher to move into a teaching position more quickly and without the testing expense. Three individuals took advantage of this and received a Military Exchange license. The other 23 applicants qualified for a regular Iowa license, without needing testing, due to experience. They did benefit, however, from the reduced fees for licensure. The processing fee for a license (\$85) is waived for all military family applicants.

Iowa Code Section 272C.4.13:

Beginning December 15, 2016, annually file a report with the governor and the general assembly providing information and statistics on credit received by individuals for education, training, and service pursuant to subsection 11 information and statistics on licenses and provisional licenses issued pursuant to subsection 12.

SUBSECTION 11: CREDIT RECEIVED BY INDIVIDUALS FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, AND SERVICE IN 2020

In 2020, no veterans applied to receive credit for military experience and education for a Career and Technical Licenses in Military Science, based on hours of work-related experience in any military branches.

SUBSECTION 12: LICENSES AND PROVISIONAL LICENSES ISSUED IN 2019

Twelve veterans received benefits toward getting their Iowa teaching license:

- Folder number 1103408, U.S. Air Force veteran

- Folder number 1101114, U.S. Army veteran
- Folder number 1104567, U.S. Army veteran
- Folder number 1025454, U.S. Army veteran
- Folder number 1106749, U.S. Army veteran
- Folder number 1106850, U.S. Army veteran
- Folder number 1109216, U.S. Army veteran
- Folder number 1110468, U.S. Army veteran
- Folder number 1107957, U.S. Army veteran
- Folder number 1035870, U.S. Marine veteran
- Folder number 1109060, U.S. Navy veteran
- Folder number 1107137, U.S. Navy veteran

Seven spouses of military veterans received benefits toward getting their Iowa teaching license:

- Folder number 1104222, spouse of Air Force veteran
- Folder number 1105969, spouse of Army veteran
- Folder number 1104795, spouse of Army veteran
- Folder number 1104841, spouse of Army veteran
- Folder number 1106669, spouse of Army veteran
- Folder number 1023116, spouse of Marine veteran
- Folder number 1107063, spouse of Navy veteran

Seven spouses of active duty military received benefits toward getting their Iowa teaching license:

- Folder number 1106040, spouse of active duty Air Force
- Folder number 1104263, spouse of active duty Army
- Folder number 1104560, spouse of active duty Army
- Folder number 1105238, spouse of active duty Army
- Folder number 1100400, spouse of active duty Army
- Folder number 1109934, spouse of active duty Army
- Folder number 1110378, spouse of active duty Army

QUALITATIVE REPOSSES FROM MILITARY EXCHANGE FAMILIES WHO RECEIVED MILITARY EXCHANGE BENEFITS- 2018-2020

This information was collected for our Board and is included to better show the impact of the Military Exchange License.

Hi Linda,

Yes! I remember working with you and your help during the license process.

As for my comments about the program, I was extremely pleased with the process. Iowa is the 5th state I have been licensed in and it was by far the most military spouse friendly. It was a quick process and I appreciated the waiving of certain fees and not needing to take additional tests to qualify for a teaching license.

I am currently teaching. I am a 2nd grade teacher at Washington elementary in the Davenport school district. It has been a great school year despite all the added stress due to Covid. The staff has been extremely knowledgeable and welcoming.



I have attached a photo of my family.

Again, thank you for all your help earlier this year. I hope you have a great holiday season and stay healthy!

Caitlin Boettcher

I have been a military spouse for almost 11 years and I have always greatly appreciated an organization that understands the frequency of moving and the adaptations a spouse goes through during every move if they have a career. I am currently not teaching, I am staying home with my two children. I taught for 7 years and all those years being in a military community. I always want to maintain my license everywhere we move in case an opportunity for teaching arrives and suits my family.

Thank you for reaching out.

Ana Maurer

Hello, Dr. Espey,

You were, in fact, the person who issued my Military Exchange Teaching license. Thank you!

While I initially received a teaching license while my husband was on active duty in Arizona, he subsequently retired. As such, I have researched getting a license in 2 other states as we have moved a few times since he retired from active duty service. For example, in Oklahoma I had to pay application and testing fees. I did not have to take any additional coursework, but I did have to pass the professional exams that a graduating new teacher was expected to pass. This was probably three times the out of pocket expense that I paid in Iowa.

Also from my personal experience, Iowa is the only state where I sought a teaching license that extended military exchange licenses to spouses of veterans and not just active duty. While, theoretically, most veterans and their families settle down in one location upon retirement, this was not our case. We have continued to move and attempt to find our forever place as we still have a school age child and my husband continues his transition to the civilian world. Extending this benefit to a veteran's spouse is much appreciated and often overlooked by other states.

While I was not in education while my husband was on active duty, I did experience the constant job changes and starting over with each change of station. Many of my friends chose to stay in one location and have their active duty spouse take unaccompanied or nearby tours of duty to avoid moving children and maintain their own careers. All military families make choices that are best for their situation, but having a state like Iowa understand and make the transition so much less complicated makes it so much easier for military families to make those moves together with no impact on either spouses' career.

I truly appreciated the waiving of fees and the seamless transition to a Military Exchange license from my previous teaching license in Oklahoma. While we have moved many times while active duty and retired, they are still stressful. Being able to quickly, inexpensively, and easily receive my teaching certification made the transition so much smoother and gave me the opportunity to quickly look for a position in a school district rather than the 3 to 4 months it took in Oklahoma to receive my certification. I currently work as a substitute teacher in the Waukee Community School District in Waukee, Iowa. Substitute teaching gives me an opportunity to have a flexible schedule, provide a needed service within a district, and make contacts for a possible full time teaching position in the future as my daughter gets older.

I can't even begin to thank you and the state of Iowa for making this process so convenient and not cost or time prohibitive. The Governor's Home Base Iowa Initiative is truly an impressive program that greatly benefits military families, active and retired, and makes Iowa an even more attractive destination beyond being a beautiful place to live with very friendly people. Starting over in a new location, even if you do it frequently, can be a bit of an overwhelming prospect. Offering the Military Exchange license through this program to active duty and veteran's spouses, makes the transition much less stressful and much easier to quickly settle into a new home. As a side note, I love that this program began from someone reading an article in USAA magazine. We have been members of USAA since the early 1990's.

I hope this is not too long!
Best regards,
Julie Ortiz



Hi, Linda,
Thank you for your email. I wanted to give you a little background about our military family. I am a retired teacher with 25 years of teaching experience in Alabama. I applied for a teaching certificate in Iowa to fulfill requirements for a part time virtual teaching position. My husband is currently a member of the Alabama Army National Guard and our son is a paratrooper at Fort Bragg, NC. Thank you for recognizing our military family with your benefits.
The attached picture is from my son's first visit home after the emergency deployment of his unit to Iraq this past January.

Cindy Moore



Hello Dr. Espey,

I am happy to answer the questions about the Military Exchange license and special benefits for military families. This is my third move as a military spouse and obtaining my teaching license from state to state can be quite an obstacle. My first move was from Minnesota to Kansas and it was relatively easy to obtain my Kansas license; I needed to show my current Minnesota license, proof of course work and I believe PRAXIS results. There may have been other items I needed to supply, however, it has been a while and I cannot remember exactly. I do remember it was easier than I had anticipated.

My next move was from Kansas to New York. I did not attempt to obtain a New York license for a few reasons. To be quite honest, I did not want to have to go through all the tests and requirements New York required. Also, I knew my husband and I would not be in New York very long as a move would ensue (which it did only after two years). Therefore, I took the time while there to work on and obtain my Masters Degree.

The next move was from New York to Iowa. Obtaining my Iowa license was not difficult, it was however more involved than from Minnesota to Kansas. Iowa requires a few more documentation which is not difficult, just inconvenient. However, it was very easy to obtain my Iowa license and I really appreciated not having to re-test and do other requirements which I have already done; albeit in other states.

As for the fees, it is appreciated to have them reduced and/or waived. With so many moves, this could become quite costly; especially for younger teachers who are perhaps lower on the pay scale.

I am not currently teaching in Iowa, however, I am hopeful a position will become available for the next school year.

I hope I answered your questions appropriately. Feel free to contact me again, I am happy to help in any way.

Deborah Franzeen

Thank you for your email. To answer your question about how the reduced and waived fees for military benefitted me and my family; it helped move my career quicker. It took me years to reach the career goals I was at prior to our move and it felt disheartening when I had to relinquish my title to move to another state. It felt like I was recycled to the bottom again, but with the help of Iowa BoEE and the reduced and waived fees, I was able to jump start my career in Iowa a lot sooner than I expected. I am



currently working as an individual aid to a preschool student three days a week at MFL MarMac and subbing for all grades and subjects two days a week. I couldn't be more excited about what lies ahead and look forward to continuing my career in the great state of Iowa.

Before I close this email, I do have a question: I would like to add coaching endorsement to my licensure so I would be able to pursue that path as well. On the website it states a "5 semester hour" coursework. What does that entail?

Thank you for your time and your support. We are proud to serve your military.

Very respectfully,
Chessie Andrist

Hello!

I would say that getting an Iowa teaching license was the easiest to get and I have (or had) licenses in 5 states. I truly appreciated not having to take classes or tests, especially since I have been teaching 20 years. The reduced fee is also appreciated as we actually don't know if we will be relocating to Iowa yet so I actually got the IA license as a way to be ahead of the game. Sadly, because we don't know if or where we will be going, I'm in the process of getting a couple licenses and having fees for classes, tests, etc, really starts to add up. At this time we are in still in Nevada but I have started looking at districts in Iowa, again, as a way to stay ahead of the game.

Thank you!
Sarah Marlott

Thank you for reaching out to me for my experience with the Iowa Military Exchange License. At the time of my application for the Iowa Military Exchange License, I was preparing for retirement from the military and my husband, retired military himself, had been working at the Rock Island Arsenal for the last year of my service, so we were also preparing to move to Bettendorf. Upon retirement, I wanted to have as many employment options available to me as I could, so applying for the Iowa license made good sense to me.



The process for applying for the license was very user friendly, and I didn't have any problems with the process or getting my Iowa license. I appreciated the ease and reduced cost of the process since I had so many things going on in my life going on during that time frame (transitioning from military, selling a home, moving, sending last kid off to college). The reduced fees cost savings could not have come at a better time for me, making the application an easy decision. The Military Exchange License program is very beneficial to military members, who oftentimes are experiencing the same complexities of life I mentioned above.

As for me personally, I am currently not working. Upon retirement from the military, I chose to take several months off to enjoy life and the things I love to do - spending a great deal of time with my horse, hiking, and being available when my college aged kids and husband need me. I haven't decided yet what my future employment looks like, but I definitely appreciate the option of teaching in Iowa, may take advantage of the opportunity in the future.

As requested, I attached a picture of my family that was taken on the day of my retirement ceremony.

Please let me know if you have any additional questions. I am happy to assist.

Sincerely,
Sharon Hultquist