

IOWA INTERSTATE COMPACT COMMISSION FOR MILITARY CHILDREN

Academic Year
2021-2022



**COMMUNITY COLLEGES &
WORKFORCE PREPARATION**
PROSPERITY THROUGH EDUCATION

**IOWA DEPARTMENT
OF EDUCATION**



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Background

Iowa is the temporary home to approximately 1,116 active duty military service members and 2,015 active duty military dependents residing in the state. Iowa is also the long-term home for 13,379-plus military Guard and Reserve personnel and their families. Iowa also has over 9,500 military dependent school-aged children who are family members of those serving in the Iowa National Guard, the U.S. Army Reserves, the Iowa Air National Guard, the Marines, the Marine Reserves, the Navy, the Navy Reserves and the U.S. Army. Iowa has military installations located in Des Moines (Fort Des Moines) and Johnston (Camp Dodge). There are many Guard, Reserves and Armed Forces Reserve Centers across the state.



The Iowa Compact Commission for Educational Opportunity for Military Dependents (known in short form as the Iowa Compact) is designed to assist military families with their transition to Iowa and to the public school system. The Iowa Compact addresses key educational transition issues encountered by military families, including enrollment, placement, attendance, eligibility and graduation. Children of active duty members of the uniformed services,

National Guard and Reserve on active duty orders and members or veterans who are medically discharged or retired for one year, are eligible for assistance under the Iowa Compact. The Iowa Compact uses a comprehensive approach to provide a consistent policy in every school district that military dependents choose to enter. The Iowa Compact has no funds to support an annual meeting, pay dues, etc. Finally, it should be noted that the Iowa Compact applies only to interstate transfers, not in-state transfers.

Statutory Requirements



Iowa was the 14th state to sign on to the Interstate Compact in 2009. Since then, all 50 states and territories have signed on to the Interstate Compact. Each state pays dues as a member of the Interstate Compact. The dues are used to cover the cost of the operations and activities of the interstate compact and its staff.

Pursuant to Iowa Code section 256H, the Iowa Compact is a Governor-appointed council that has been established for the purpose of removing barriers to educational success imposed on the children of military families because of frequent deployment of their parents (Iowa Code section 256H.1.1). The seven-member commission consists of a school superintendent or designee; the Iowa Department of Education Director or designee; two gubernatorial appointments, one who is appointed as the Iowa Compact chairperson, and another is the military families' education liaison, and a joint appointment made by the Iowa Legislature (Iowa Code section 256H.2.2).



The Iowa Interstate Compact Commission

The following have been appointed as members of the Iowa Compact:

Governor Appointed	Department Appointed
Leah Johnson Compact Commissioner	Dennis Harden, Ed.D, CTE Bureau Chief Iowa Department of Education Director Designee
Martha Kester Military Installation Representative	Laura Kacer, Superintendent Johnston Community School District
Executive Branch Representative Vacant	Chris Cox Military Family Education Liaison
Iowa Legislature Representative Vacant	

The Department-appointed members were chosen because of their affiliation to having children of military personnel (including the National Guard) within their school districts, being connected to school-related issues for such children, or having a long-standing relationship to the military or the National Guard.

The Iowa Compact is required to meet at least once each calendar year for the purpose of addressing issues involving the dependents of military families seeking resolution such as:

1. Official, unofficial, or hand-carried education records or transcripts;
2. Continued enrollment at the same grade level when transferring between states;
3. Course and program placements, including special education services, in all subject areas;
4. Waiving of course and program prerequisites and other pre-conditions; and,
5. The granting of additional absences due to situations related to deployments.

A full description of the issues is detailed in Iowa Code sections 256H.1.4, 256H.1.5, 256H.1.6, and 256H.1.7.

Current Status/Activities

- No student issues were brought before the Iowa Compact during the 2021-2022 academic year.
- The annual board meeting of the Iowa Military Interstate Compact Commission was held on April 6, 2022.
- Commissioner Johnson attended the Fall Family Festival in October 2021.



COMMUNITY COLLEGES & WORKFORCE PREPARATION

PROSPERITY THROUGH EDUCATION

The Division of Community Colleges and Workforce Preparation within the Iowa Department of Education administers a variety of diverse programs that enhance Iowa's educational system and help to prepare a skilled and knowledgeable workforce. Divided between two bureaus — the Bureau of Community Colleges and the Bureau of Career and Technical Education — the division is committed to providing and supporting opportunities for lifelong learning. In addition to working with Iowa's 15 public community colleges on state accreditation, program approval, equity review, and data reporting, guidance is also provided in the areas of career and technical education, workforce training and economic development, adult education and literacy, military education, the state mandated OWI education program, the GAP Tuition and PACE programs, Senior Year Plus and the Statewide Intermediary Network program.