

Children of Military Families Policy

Special rights are guaranteed to students who qualify under the Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission as the offspring of active members of the uniformed armed forces including members of the National Guard and Reserve who are on active duty. Uniformed services include the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and Public Health Services. Also included in this definition are children whose uniformed services parents have been severely injured and medically discharged or retired. This inclusion extends for one year after the retirement or medical discharge. Offspring of members of the armed forces who died while on active duty, or as a result of injuries sustained on active duty, are also included in this definition for a period of one year after the parental death.

Parents in these categories will voluntarily self-identify to the District, and this data will be reported as required to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), which will then report it to the federal government.

Military children are entitled to timely enrollment and graduation, appropriate grade placement, and attendance during parents' deployment. The District is required to allow students to continue enrollment in the grade level from the local education agency in the sending state at the time of transition, regardless of age. If the student transfers between school years and has met the prerequisites in the sending school for advancement, he or she shall be placed in the next highest grade level. The District is required to initially honor placement of the student into educational courses based on the student's enrollment in the sending, school or educational assessments conducted at the sending school if courses are offered and space is available.

To facilitate the on-time graduation of children of military families, the District is required to waive specific courses required for graduation if similar course work has been satisfactorily completed in another local education agency. If there is reasonable justification for denial, the District must document this denial. Should a waiver not be granted to a student who would otherwise qualify to graduate from the sending school, the District must provide an alternative means of acquiring required coursework so that graduation may occur on time. The District is empowered to accept exit or end-of-course exams required for graduation from the sending state or national norm-referenced achievement tests or alternative testing, in lieu of testing requirements for graduation in the Commonwealth. The District may also require the student to take MCAS or PARC testing, if the student is able to take the tests prior to the end of grade 12. Alternately, the District will accept evidence or information from the sending or receiving district that demonstrates that the student has met the Commonwealth's graduation standard, either through a transcript of courses taken and grades received from the sending and or receiving district; a portfolio of work samples for the student that addresses the required high school

standards; standardized norm-referenced test results in the subject required by the receiving state for graduation; or other relevant information.

Students who transfer with special needs will be accommodated within the federal requirements of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), receiving comparable services to those the student received under a current Individualized Education Plan (IEP), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, or Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act in order to provide the student with equal access to education.

Transferring military students will also have access to extracurricular activities regardless of deadlines, to the extent to which they are otherwise qualified. When military students leave the District, Ipswich will forward records promptly.

ADOPTED: APRIL 2019

