



Variation in Implementation

Takeaway: Differences were found between states in the specificity and contents of states' legislation and regulations regarding the four initiatives. In addition, variations were found in how the initiatives are implemented in schools.

Initiative Descriptions



Advance Enrollment (AE) is an initiative that allows parents to enroll their children in a public school based on military orders as opposed to traditional means of establishing residency (e.g., lease, mortgage statement).




Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children (Compact) is intended to reduce some of the challenges that students can encounter when they transfer to a new school. Specifically, the Compact is designed to address challenges that are related to enrollment, transferring records, immunizations, program placement, deployment-related absences, extra-curricular activities, and graduation.




AE


State Legislation


 **75%** of states have AE.


 **89%** of military-connected students live in a state with AE.

Of the states with AE:

 **66%** of states specify enrollment opportunities (e.g., course registration, specific programs).

 **76%** of states specify documentation required after arrival at the new duty station.

 **61%** of states specify documentation (e.g., evidence of orders) required at enrollment.

 **74%** of states specify a timeline for documentation required after arrival at the new duty station.

Participant Experiences as Discussed in the Qualitative Evaluation


“ [There were] no barriers. The process was easy. All we needed during the process was our orders. (Parent)


“ Kids are zoned for schools based on their address – if we had requested AE in one area and then lived elsewhere, that could have been tough on the kids and in terms of the effort required to change enrollment. (Parent)




Compact

State Legislation

 **100%** of states/DC approved legislation enacting the Compact.

 **49%** of state/DC Compact legislation matches the intent of the original Compact model language.

 **51%** of states made changes (i.e., at the time of enactment or in subsequent amendments) resulting in more protections, fewer protections, or changes with unclear consequences.

Participant Experiences as Discussed in the Qualitative Evaluation

“ Yes, at least for some things [schools are making use of the Compact], definitely for sports tryouts. (Parent)


“ Everyone is trying to make sure military kids are getting what they need – getting put in whatever classes they require. (Parent)


“ [Schools are] not [making use of the Compact] based on my experience. My daughter wasn't allowed to start school in [new city] because she was missing a shot although she was up to date with shots [at previous duty station]. (Parent)



MSI

State Implementation

 **65%** of state education department websites provided information on the percentage of students in each school who are military connected.

 **96%** of state education department websites provided information on the academic achievement of military-connected students in each school.

View the Full Reports

- <https://militaryfamilies.psu.edu/resources/view/mil-students-ed-success/>
- <https://militaryfamilies.psu.edu/resources/view/four-initiatives-military-students/>
- <https://militaryfamilies.psu.edu/resources/view/four-initiatives-evaluation/>

MSI (cont.)



There are **differences across states in who is considered to be affiliated with the military** for inclusion in the MSI. State definitions of military affiliated include **one or more** of the following:



Children of

- Active duty Service members
- National Guard and Reserve members
- Veterans and retired Service members
- Deceased Service members
- The Commissioned Corps of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- The Commissioned Corps of the U.S. Public Health Services

Participant Experiences as Discussed in the Qualitative Evaluation

“ We receive the data from the front office or from the students themselves. We use it to plan events, include military students in programs, and to provide access to the MFLC. (Teacher/Counselor)


“ I look for military-friendly schools, schools with a higher percent of military kids, Purple Star, programs for deployed families. (Parent)


“ Most schools are not showing the [MSI] data. (Parent)

“ We don't see the data at the school level. (School Administrator)


PSSP


State Legislation or Regulations


 **73%** of states have PSSP.


 **82%** of military-connected students live in a state with PSSP.


Of those states with PSSP and publicly available information about the requirements:


 **32%** of states have **school district requirements**.

 **65%** of states **require schools to select from a list of activities** (e.g., choose 1 of the following: school board resolution supporting military families, recognition of Month of the Military Child, or partner with local installation).

 **68%** of states **require professional development for staff** related to military families.

 **71%** of states **list additional required activities** (e.g., military recognition event, public military display).

 **76%** of states **require a transition program** supporting new students.

 **100%** of states **require a dedicated web page for military families** – the degree of specificity and required contents vary widely.

Participant Experiences as Discussed in the Qualitative Evaluation

“ [The school has] programs for military children such as yellow ribbon ceremony when a parent is deployed, Veteran's Day program, Anchored4Life, and the Month of the Military Child in April. (Parent)

“ Every school does a Veterans Day program because we are in a veteran heavy area – this is the only thing the school does. No changes were made to what they do for the military community, but they got that Purple Star designation. (Parent)

“ The lack of consistency across states. Some states are not funding it. Parents are misled into believing that schools are military friendly, when it is just a check-the-box. (Program Manager)