



July 17, 2014

BG(R) Stephen R. Hogan, Executive Director
Interstate Commission on
Educational Opportunities for Military Children
2760 Research Park Drive
P. O. Box 11910
Lexington, KY 40578-1910

Dear Mr. Hogan:

Iowa's military demographics are roughly 26,000 Guard and Reserve (including AGRs, TARs, or military members who entered on active duty and are no longer in Iowa). Our veteran population is about 300,000. Today, Iowa has fewer than 300 Iowa National Guard members serving on combat deployments. The bulk of these service members are serving in Afghanistan. The rest are serving in Kosovo or Kuwait.

Reserve Forces assigned to Iowa (Navy, Marines, and Army) have similar numbers of military members deployed in support of contingency operations. This year, Iowa calculated its military connected children at 10,688 actually enrolled in Iowa K-12 schools. These are primarily the children of Guard or Reservists deployed and represent children with a family member (father / mother) serving on a Title 10 order.

In Iowa, assigned or attached SLOs provide services to Iowa's defined military-connected children, or any child who makes a reasonable connection to a military member. Often, these services include Military One Source, military family life counseling, and benefits available from the USDA-sponsored Operation: Military Kids. Few issues actually fall under the jurisdiction of the Iowa Compact Commission (ICC). Despite this fact, Iowa tries to apply the ICC's intent to those issues that come before us.

1. In academic year 2013-2014, the ICC had just one issue before it. The issue concerned a transfer student and Article VII, Section C:

C. Transfers during senior year – Should a military student transferring at the beginning of or during his or her senior year be ineligible to graduate from the receiving local education agency after all alternatives have been considered, the sending and receiving local education agencies shall ensure the receipt of a diploma from the sending local education agency, if the student meets the graduation requirements of the sending local education agency. In the event that one of the states in question is not a member of this compact, the member state shall use best efforts to facilitate the on-time graduation of the student in accordance with Sections A and B of this article.

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It was determined that the student in question failed to meet the requirements due to a shortage of credits.

2. In academic year 2013-2014, the ICC did not meet in person. This was primarily due to the fact that one commission member was mostly unavailable and attempts to coordinate a meeting with her availability failed.

3. Iowa paid its 2014 MIC3 dues assessment in July 2014.

Iowa continued to be a heavy Guard and Reserve state where issues brought before the ICC seldom qualify for relief from the ICC. The issues are seldom between states and ultimately revert to district superintendents or school board to decide. Iowa's two assigned SLO's, however, are often the first consulted whenever any issue concerning a military child arises. Both men have great expertise with Iowa's school superintendents and most issues involving military children are generally decided along the lines of the ICC. Iowa strives to provide all children, including military-connected ones, the best possible service leading to the best possible outcomes.

As a footnote, in 2010, 2011, 2012, and 2013, Iowa lead the nation in education opportunities for educators and others sponsored by DOD / MCEC. Iowa's Compact Commission works with DOD / MCEC, the Iowa National Guard, and the U.S. Army Reserves to promote these educational opportunities when they are available and encourages Iowa teachers, counselors, and administrators to attend these events.

Cordially,

Thomas A. Beasley, Chair
Iowa Compact for Educational Opportunity
for Military Dependents
Iowa Department of Education