

## **GENERAL INFORMATION REGARDING THE INTERSTATE COMPACT**

The average military student will transition into six to nine different school systems over the course of his/her life between kindergarten and 12th grade. While transitioning into a new school can be stressful for any child, factors such as moving to a new state or country and/or having a parent deployed add to the level of stress a student may experience. As of August 1, 2009, Maryland, now along with all 50 states and DC, belongs to the **Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children** to ensure that children of military families enroll in our public schools quickly and efficiently, and have every opportunity to participate in the programs and activities their new school has to offer.

The Interstate Compact establishes an independent operating authority, the Interstate Commission, which is positioned to identify and address key education issues encountered by military families: eligibility, enrollment, placement, and graduation. The compact objective is to promote flexibility and cooperation between and among states to help remove barriers to educational success that sometimes emerge with frequent moves due to military reassignment and/or deployment. The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) works with the Interstate Commission, as well as with local school systems, to further develop guidelines and materials for school administrators and staff that support the implementation of the Interstate Compact.

Maryland has many military installations within our borders and, as a transfer-friendly state, has many policies and practices in place that serve to ease the transition of all students into our public schools. However, the Interstate Compact does include additional guidelines aimed at expediting children of military families' enrollment and placement which may deviate from state or local policy. Any law of Maryland that conflicts with the terms of the Interstate Compact is, by law of Maryland, considered "superseded to the extent of the conflict." 2009 Session Laws ch. 501.

Questions about this document or the Interstate Compact should be directed to Mary Gable, Assistant State Superintendent and Maryland Commissioner for the Interstate Compact at 410-767-0473 or [mary.gable@maryland.gov](mailto:mary.gable@maryland.gov).