



CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION

TOM TORLAKSON

STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

May 26, 2016

Dear County and District Superintendents, Charter School Administrators, and Middle and High School Principals:

INTERSTATE COMPACT FOR EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY FOR MILITARY CHILDREN

I am writing today to encourage you to become familiar with an important resource to help support our state's military children and ease their transition from school to school as their parents are transferred or deployed overseas or to other areas in the United States.

Chaptered as California *Education Code* sections 49701–49703, legislation passed in 2009 which authorized California's membership in the Interstate Compact for Educational Opportunity for Military Children (Compact). The Compact was developed by The Council of State Governments' National Center for Interstate Compacts, the Department of Defense, national associations, federal and state officials, departments of education, school administrators, and military families.

The Compact deals with the challenges of military children and their frequent relocations. It allows for uniform treatment as military children transfer between school districts and states. Sudden relocation due to deployment can happen with little notice, and school-age children find themselves moving to a school that may be very different from the one in which they started the school year. These changes can be difficult and disorienting for students, who must cope with uncommon academic and social pressures as they face the challenges of moving between different school systems.

The average military student faces transition challenges more than twice during high school and most military children will attend six to nine different school systems in their lives from kindergarten through twelfth grade. The Compact seeks to make transition easier for the children of military families so they are afforded the same opportunities for educational success as other children, and are not penalized or delayed in achieving their educational goals.

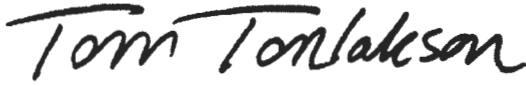
All 50 states are members of the Compact and California has one of the largest military populations with more than 100,000 children residing in our state at any given time. For more information about the Compact, please visit the California Department of Education Military Children Web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/pf/mc/>.

May 26, 2016
Page 2

I thank you for the work you are already doing to ensure we achieve this goal of providing the necessary resources for all California students.

If you have any questions regarding this subject, please contact Jacie Ragland, Education Programs Consultant, Educational Options, Student Support, and American Indian Education Office, by phone at 916-323-2568 or by e-mail at jragland@cde.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Torlakson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "T".

Tom Torlakson

TT:jr
2016-03285