

Educational Stability Programming

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR MILITARY CHILDREN

The Essex North Shore Agricultural and Technical School District (ENSATSD hereafter) and Essex North Shore Agricultural and Technical School (ENSATS hereafter) are committed to ensuring continued enrollment, attendance, and the opportunity to succeed in school for students experiencing housing or living transitions due to a family member's military status or connection as it is appropriate and necessary to remove barriers to educational success imposed on children of military families because of their parents'/guardians' frequent moves and deployment. In an effort to facilitate the placement, enrollment, graduation, data collection and provision of special services for students transferring into or out of the District because of their parents/guardians being on active duty in the U.S. Armed Services, ENSATSD supports and will implement its responsibilities as outlined in the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children.

Definitions

Children of military families means school aged children, enrolled in kindergarten through 12th grade, in the household of an active duty member of the uniformed service of the United States, including members of the National Guard and Reserve serving on active duty.

Deployment means the period one month before the service members' departure from their home station on military orders through six months after return to their home station.

Education(al) records means official records, files, and data directly related to a student and maintained by the school including, but not limited to, records encompassing all the material kept in the student's cumulative folder.

The requirements, applicable to eligible students, which must be fulfilled, are listed below. Eligible students are those who are children of active duty personnel, active duty personnel or veterans who have been severely injured and medically discharged, and active duty personnel who die on active duty within one year of service. Students are not eligible for the provisions of the Compact if they are children of inactive Guard or Reserves, retired personnel, veterans not included above or U.S. Department of Defense personnel and other federal civil service employees and contract employees.

ENSATSD's responsibilities to eligible children include the following:

- Sending schools must send either official or unofficial records with the moving students and receiving schools must use those records for immediate enrollment and educational placement.

- Simultaneously, the receiving school must request official records and the sending schools shall respond within 10 days with the records.
- Immunization requirements of the receiving school may be met within 30 days from the date of enrollment (or be in progress).
- Receiving schools must initially honor placement of students in all courses from the sending school. These include, but are not limited to, Honors, International Baccalaureate, Advanced Placement, career technical, and career pathway courses if those courses are offered in the receiving school and space is available. The receiving schools must also initially honor placement of like programs to those of the student in the sending state, including, but not limited to, Gifted and Talented programs, and English Language programs. Receiving schools are not precluded from performing subsequent evaluation to ensure the appropriate placement and continued enrollment of the student in courses and programs.
- In compliance with federal law, special education students must be placed by the existing IEP with reasonable accommodations in the receiving school.
- The ENSATSD will exercise, as deemed appropriate, the right to waive prerequisites for all courses and programs, while also maintaining its right to re-evaluate the student to ensure continued enrollment, as deemed appropriate.
- Students of active duty personnel shall have additional excused absences at the discretion of ENSATS for visitations relative to leave or deployment.
- An eligible student living with a noncustodial parent or other person standing in loco parentis shall be permitted to attend the school in which they were enrolled while living without the custodial parent/guardian without any tuition fee imposed.
- ENSATS will accept exit or end-of-year exams required from the sending state, national norm-referenced tests, or alternate testing instead of testing requirements for graduation in the ENSATS (receiving state.) If this is not possible, the alternative provision of the Interstate Compact shall be followed in order to facilitate the on-time graduation of the student in accordance with Compact provisions.

To identify or refer a student eligible for support and intervention consistent with this policy, contact the ENSATSD Military Family Point of Contact:

Sandra Goldstein, MSW, Director of Guidance
sgoldstein@essextech.net (978) 304-4700

Should a concerns regarding ENSATSD's implementation of this policy arise, please forward a written statement to:

The Office of the Superintendent
 Essex North Shore Agricultural and Technical School District
 562 Maple Street
 Hathorne, MA 01937

For more information see also:

[Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children.](#)

1."Best interest of the child" shall be determined utilizing the guidance provided in G-2: "In determining a child or youth's best interest, an LEA must, to the extent feasible, keep a homeless child or youth in the "school of origin" unless doing so is contrary to the wishes of the child or youth's parent or guardian, or unaccompanied youth."

LEGAL REFS: M.G. L. [15E](#);

Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children