

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**August 2006****CSG group to explore compact on educating military children**

The Council of State Governments, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Defense, is assembling a national advisory group to examine the creation of a new interstate agreement that would address educational transition issues for children in military families.

According to the Military Education Coalition, the average military student changes schools more than twice during high school, and most military children will be in six to nine different school systems from kindergarten to 12th grade.

Frequent transitions between schools can delay a military child's educational achievement because of inflexible administrative and bureaucratic practices. These students are specifically impacted by:

- *The transfer of records.* Children in military families often are placed in classes incorrectly because of time lapses between entry into school and the arrival of transcripts, particularly for students involved in special education, gifted education, English as a second language, and Advanced Placement courses.
- *Course sequencing.* Varying prerequisite course requirements among states can result in repetitive course content or incorrect placement.
- *Graduation requirements.* In some states, specific courses are required for graduation, which may prevent students from graduating on time if they are unable to enroll in the necessary coursework.
- *Exclusion from extra-curricular activities.* Students who enroll in school after auditions, tryouts, elections and membership recruitment periods often are eliminated from activities that promote connectedness to their new school communities.

CSG anticipates two meetings of the advisory group in the Washington, D.C., area in late-September and late-October. The advisory group will examine ways to make these transfers as seamless as possible by determining a future course of action regarding interstate cooperation on these issues.

For more information on this initiative, contact John J. Mountjoy, director of the National Center for Interstate Compacts, at (859) 244-8256 or jmountjoy@csg.org.

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