

**SB**

**176**

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

ASD MEMORANDUM # 252 (2008-2009)

March 23, 2009

TO: SCHOOL BOARD

FROM: OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT *Carol Comeau*

SUBJECT: RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE INTERSTATE MILITARY  
COMPACT ON EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY FOR MILITARY  
CHILDREN

RECOMMENDATION:

It is the recommendation of the administration that the School Board approve a resolution in support of the interstate military compact on educational opportunity for military children (attachment A). It is further recommended that the School Board and administration communicate the support of the Anchorage School District to the Alaska Legislature, the State Board of Education and Early Development, and the Governor.

PERTINENT FACTS:

The United States Departments of Education and Defense signed a historic agreement in June of 2008. This historic agreement set the state for a formalized working agreement to work collaboratively to ease the challenges of transitions for military dependent students. As of the beginning of the 2008-2009 school year, the following states have passed legislation in support of military compacts: Arizona, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Missouri, North Carolina, and Oklahoma. Other states have legislation pending. Subsequent to that action, the State Board of Education and Early Development discussed the military compact and expressed strong support for Alaska entering into this compact. This was communicated to the Alaska Legislature and to Governor Palin.

Subsequently, Representative John Coghill, filed HB 137, "An act relating to the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children..." It is moving through the legislature during this first session of the twenty-sixth

legislature. Representative Dahlstrom has attended meetings relating to this issue as part of her legislative responsibilities.

The administration has reviewed the military compact and the proposed legislation and urges the School Board to pass this resolution in support of its guiding principles. The administration supports this compact because it validates our close working relationships and current practices with our military installations and dependent families. The Mat-Su, Fairbanks, Kodiak, and Sitka school districts are in support of this compact and are in the process of supporting this action for their districts. The administration would like to work with our military representatives and members of the legislature on this important legislation.

An information packet provided to school districts provides general information to the School Board in support of this administrative recommendation and is included as Attachment B.

CC

Prepared and approved by: Carol Comeau, Superintendent

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL BOARD  
ASDR 2008-2009-12

A RESOLUTION ENDORSING THE GUIDING PRINCIPLES OF THE INTERSTATE COMPACT ON EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY FOR MILITARY CHILDREN

WHEREAS, military students are faced with numerous transitions during their formative years, and

WHEREAS, moves during the school years, particularly the high school years, present special challenges to learning and future achievement, and


WHEREAS, there is a large and growing military student population in the Anchorage School District, and

WHEREAS, the Anchorage School District can help ease the school transition challenges faced by its military students through awareness, flexibility and accommodations as reflected in the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Anchorage School Board endorses the guiding principles expressed on Attachment B of this document, and urges all employees to institute these practices no later than the beginning of the 2009-2010 school year.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage School Board this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of March, 2009.

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL BOARD

  
Jeff Friedman, President

Pat Higgins  
Crystal Kennedy  
Jeannie Mackie

Macon Roberts  
Tim Steele  
John Steiner

Carol Comeau, Superintendent

# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Senate District H  
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Senator\_Charlie\_Huggins@legis.state.ak.us



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**Charlie Huggins**  
Senator

**Sectional**  
**SB 176**

**"An Act relating to an interstate compact on educational opportunity for military children; amending Rules 4 and 24, Alaska Rules of Civil Procedure; and providing for an effective date."**

**Section 1:** AS 14. Adds a new chapter:

**Chapter 34. Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children**

**Article I – Purpose**

This article describes the purposes of this compact which is to remove barriers to educational success for military children by facilitating enrollment, placement, and timely graduation; providing enforcement of rules, uniform collection and sharing of information; and promoting coordination, flexibility, and cooperation among member states.

**Article II – Definitions**

This article provides definitions for terms used throughout the compact.

**Article III – Applicability**

This article defines the children covered by this compact.

**Article IV – Educational Records and Enrollment**

This article outlines how sending and receiving states handle a military student's unofficial and official educational records. The Interstate Commission determines what information must be included in the records, and the time line for providing the records. It provides a 30-day grace period for immunizations. Kindergarten and first grade entrance is addressed for both grade level and age.

**Article V – Placement and Attendance**

This article describes course placement; education program placement, and special education services to address federal requirements for students with disabilities. Placement flexibility and absences related to deployment are also addressed.

**Article VI – Eligibility**

This article provides information on enrollment eligibility. It prohibits the student from being charged a tuition if the student lives in a different jurisdiction, and allows the student to continue to attend the school they were enrolled in while residing with the custodial parent. The military student shall have as many opportunities as possible to participate in extracurricular activities, even if they have missed the application deadlines.

### **Article VII – Graduation**

This article facilitates on-time graduation by providing procedures for waivers, exit exams and transfers during a military student's senior year.

### **Article VIII – State Coordination**

This article establishes requirement for creation of a State Council or other existing body to provide coordination among its government, local and military agencies. Membership requirements are also addressed.

### **Article IX – Interstate Commission on Ed Opportunity for Military Children**

This article deals with creating the commission and its responsibilities, powers, and duties. It details membership, voting rights, meetings, executive committee, bylaws and rules, data collection, and a process for reporting alleged violations.

### **Article X – Powers and Duties of the Interstate Commission**

This article lists the powers and duties of the Interstate Commission: Dispute resolution; promulgate rules; issue advisory opinions; enforce compliance; and other powers and duties related to establishing and running and supporting the state councils at a national level.

### **Article XI – Organization and Operation of the Interstate Commission**

This article provides the structure for the Interstate Commission to organize, establish bylaws, set up executive and other committees, establish procedures for meetings, and providing for start-up rules for the initial administration of the compact.

### **Article XII – Rulemaking Functions of the Interstate Commission**

This article gives the Interstate Commission rulemaking authority, and rulemaking guidelines and a provision for judicial review of a proposed rule.

### **Article XIII – Oversight, Enforcement, and Dispute Resolution**

This article addresses oversight, enforcement and dispute resolution specifically. Oversight: Charges the executive, legislative and judicial branches of state governments regarding the purpose and intent of the Compact. It further states that the Interstate Commission shall receive all service of process and has standing to intervene. Further addresses consequences of default by a member state. Dispute Resolution: If requested the Interstate Commission will attempt to resolve disputes and provide rules for mediation and binding dispute resolution. Enforcement: The Interstate Commission shall enforce the rules and provisions of this compact and may initiate legal action to enforce compliance with the provisions of the compact.

### **Article XIV – Financing the Interstate Commission**

This article provides a method for the Interstate Commission to pay its reasonable expenses by collecting annual assessments from each member state. There are limits on incurring obligations and the need for accurate accounting of all receipts and disbursements, and the requirement for a yearly audit by a certified or licensed CPA.

**Article XV – Member States, Effective Date and Amendment**

States are eligible to become members, the compact becomes effective when no less than 10 states enact the compact into law and the member state passes the law. Rules for how amendments become effective and binding.

**Article XVI – Withdrawal and Dissolution**

This article addresses how member states withdraw from the compact, what their responsibilities of notice, time, and responsibility for assessments. This article also addresses reinstatement, and compact dissolution.

**Article XVII – Severability and Construction**

Provisions of this compact are severable and any portion deemed unenforceable does not affect the remaining compact. The compact should be liberally construed, and nothing in this compact inhibits other interstate compacts.

**Article XVIII – Binding Effect of Compact and Other Laws**

Nothing in this compact prevents the enforcement of other laws that are not inconsistent with this compact. Conflicting laws are superseded by the compact to the extent of the conflict. All rules of the Interstate Commission are binding on the members states. Any provisions that exceed constitutional limits are ineffective to the extent of the conflict of the member state.

**Sec. 14.34.020 Compact Administrator.**

Establishing a compact administrator and the duties of that office.

**Sec. 14.34.030 State Council.**

Establishes the state council as a subcommittee of the membership.

**Sec. 14.34.040 Regulations.**

The board may adopt regulations to implement this chapter.

**Sec. 14.34.090 Short Title.**

Interstate Compact of Educational Opportunity for Military Children

**Section 2:** Uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section:

INDIRECT COURT RULE AMENDMENTS. The changes made by Sec. 1 of this Act have the effect of changing Alaska Rules of Civil Procedure:

(1) Rule 4 – entitles the Interstate Commission to receive service of process of a judicial proceeding that pertains to a Compact provision or rule.

(2) Rule 24(b) - entitles the Interstate Commission to intervene in a judicial proceeding in which the validity of a compact provision or rule is at issue.

**Section 3:** Uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section:

CONDITIONAL EFFECT OF CERTAIN PROVISIONS.

Provisions set out in Section 1 concerning service of process and standing to intervene, take effect only if Section 2 receives two-thirds majority vote of each house required by the State Constitution.

**Section 4:** Uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section:

CONDITIONAL EFFECT OF ACT; COMMISSIONER'S DUTY TO NOTIFY.

When Sections 1 and 2 of this Act will take effect and notification requirements when the 10 or more states have ratified this compact.

**Section 5:** Setting out the effective dates of this Act to be not less than 10 states other than this state ratify the Compact or July 1, 2009, whichever is later.

(26-LS0588\R)

## Case Study #1

### Commissioned Personnel

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Family of a Major General, United States Air Force; stationed in Virginia

Due to multiple reassignments for our family, my son attended ten different schools prior to graduating from high school. Though he was certified as academically advanced by previous school systems, he was denied advanced placement in one school system solely because he was not in that system for the required period of time. He was denied advanced placement in another system due to its different qualifying criteria as compared to previous jurisdictions. For one four year period during which we were reassigned each year, my son was required to read Romeo and Juliet for each of those four years despite having done so in each preceding state. He was denied the opportunity to participate in sports on more than one occasion because we were reassigned after team tryouts and he was told he was too late. Finally, we had to take the drastic measure of placing him in a private school after one reassignment because, in order for him to graduate on time from his assigned public school, he would have been required to stay in school for an extra year since the new school system refused to accept all of his credits that he had completed in the previous jurisdiction.

My daughter, currently a high school freshman, has attended seven different schools. She had an IEP (Special Education: Individual Education Plan) from one state that was not continued in the next state because her success out-scored their expectation of what her aptitude score indicated she could achieve. In our current state of residence, she is required to pass six course competency tests, even though she took some of those courses in a different state. Furthermore, the preparatory curriculum for these tests is different than in the last jurisdiction so her burden has been needlessly increased. What is most problematic is that, in order for her to graduate high school on time, she must pass an exit exam which is designed for students who have been in this particular state system for twelve years. For that reason, and because previously earned credits have not been accepted by the present jurisdiction, she must take summer school courses every summer for the next three years.

## Case Study #2

### Enlisted Personnel

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Family of a Technical Sergeant, United States Air Force; stationed in Florida

My daughter is 10 years old and is in the 5th grade. Our family moved to Patrick AFB, Florida from Kirtland AFB in New Mexico last May on military orders. My husband is in the Air Force. We enrolled my daughter in elementary school in Florida during the summer and her new school requested her school records in August from her previous school in New Mexico. By the middle of October, the records had not yet been sent to the new school. After repeated written requests, phone calls and emails from Florida school officials and myself to her previous school in New Mexico, some of her records arrived in late October. However, her complete record did not arrive until November 19<sup>th</sup>.

When her records finally arrived, the school transferred her to the fifth grade QUEST class which is an advanced placement class for students who are gifted and talented. This is where she should have been placed at the beginning of the semester. However, due to the inexplicable delay in transferring her records, her new school placed her in a less challenging learning environment. Therefore, she spent almost a whole semester in an inappropriate classroom setting. The effects of this delay, which may seem to be of little consequence to adults, have been severe and profound for my 10 year old. She was miserable in school for months, forced to study material she had already mastered. She was bored and restless, and she sometimes got into trouble as a result. She is also not where she should be academically and has some catching up to do.

Despite this setback, now that she is in the proper class, she is back to being my happy, well behaved student. However, had legislation such as the proposed compact been in place in time for my daughter, we could have avoided this situation entirely.



**COMMANDER, U.S. PACIFIC COMMAND  
(USPACOM)  
CAMP H.M. SMITH, HAWAII 96861-4028**

19 March 2009

Representative John Coghill  
Alaska State Capitol  
Room 214  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Re: **IN SUPPORT of HB 137:**  
Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunities for Military  
Children  
Hearing: Friday, March 20, 2009, 1:30 PM


Dear Representative Coghill and Education Committee Members:

The US Pacific Command wishes to formally register support for the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunities for Military Children. With over 12,000 school-age military dependents, Alaska ranks 15<sup>th</sup> in the nation for the number of military students educated within the state. Representing the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and Coast Guard, the children of our military families in Alaska come from and move to nearly every state in the country and numerous US Department of Defense schools around the globe. Each year, approximately one-third of our children transfer from Alaska and are replaced by incoming military-affiliated students. Because of the mobility imposed on families due to assignments and deployments, our children face significant educational challenges including enrollment, eligibility, placement, and graduation.

The passage of this bill allows Alaska to join with other states to create the Interstate Compact, a program that seeks to remove barriers to educational success due to the frequent military moves. The Interstate Compact provides a venue for states to work together which allows our military families to fulfill the mission of serving our country without penalizing the education of their children.

I wholeheartedly support and urge the passage of House Bill 137. Thank you for all you do for the children of military families who, in their own way, also serve our country.

Sincerely,

  
Stephen D. Tom  
Major General, U.S. Army  
Chief of Staff



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
PACIFIC AIR FORCES

MAR 19 2009

General Carrol H. Chandler  
PACAF/CC  
25 E Street, Suite G-214  
Hickam AB HI 96853-5420

Representative John Coghill, Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Education  
Alaska State Capitol  
Juneau, AK 99801

**Re: IN SUPPORT OF HB137**  
Hearing: Fri, 20 Mar 09 at 0800

Dear Representative Coghill and Committee Members

Partnership and collaboration are longstanding keystones for military and local community support to Alaska public school students. In this spirit, I provide my support to House Bill HB137 "Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunities for Military Children."

HB137 is groundbreaking legislation written specifically for the unique requirements of a transient student population. Issues such as enrollment, testing standards and graduation requirements are addressed through the interstate compact. These types of standards allow a military student to progress without fear of having to reaccomplish work to meet a new requirement after a move. Additionally, this compact provides an avenue for states to not only establish this list of standards but to collaborate on future issues as they arise.

I look forward to increased cooperation with those who set policy for and educate our children in Alaska. The changes implemented from HB137 will directly impact the social, emotional and academic experience of transitioning students who attend Hawaii public schools.

I personally appreciate the hard work and dedication of all those involved with HB137. Thank you for your submission and continued support of our military families.

Very respectfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carrol H. Chandler".

CARROL H. CHANDLER  
General, USAF  
Commander



REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF:

**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY, PACIFIC  
FORT SHAFTER, HAWAII 96869-5100

Office of the Commanding General

18 MAR 09

State Representative John Coghill  
House District 11- North Pole  
State Capitol, Room 214  
120 4th Street  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Re: In SUPPORT of HB# 137 "Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunities for Military Children"

Dear Representative Coghill:

The United States Army, Pacific (USARPAC) would like to inform you of our support for the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunities for Military Children (House Bill #137). When considering the number of school-age military children impacting each state, Alaska has approximately 12,000 school-age military dependents attending public, private, and homeschooling venues. As these students move from state to state, many of them encounter considerable challenges when dealing with enrollment, eligibility, placement, extra-curricular activities, and graduation requirements. Often, military students lose course credits due to multiple school transfers and are often improperly placed in courses due to the varying school requirements.

USARPAC appreciates all that Alaska public schools have done on behalf of our military children regarding transition and deployment issues. The Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunities for Military Children will only serve to compliment and augment what is already being done in the Alaska public schools. Additionally, this bill will join Alaska with other states in an effort to streamline the school transition process and create much needed uniformity between states.

For these reasons, USARPAC supports this compact and encourages the Alaska House of Representatives to pass House Bill #HB137. If you need additional information, please contact my Well Being/Education Specialist, Ruth Davis, at 808-438-4177 or E-mail [nancy.ruth.davis@us.army.mil](mailto:nancy.ruth.davis@us.army.mil).

Sincerely,

Benjamin R. Mixon  
Lieutenant General, US Army  
Commanding General



**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
HEADQUARTERS, U.S. ARMY ALASKA  
724 POSTAL SERVICE LOOP #5000  
FORT RICHARDSON, ALASKA 99505-5000

March 18, 2009

REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF:

Office of the Commanding General

Honorable John Coghill  
Alaska House of Representatives  
House District 11- North Pole  
State Capitol, Room 214  
120 4th Street  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Subject: Support of House Bill #137, "Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunities for Military Children"


Dear Mr. Coghill:

The United States Army Alaska (USARAK) would like to inform you of our support for the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunities for Military Children (House Bill #137). In the state of Alaska, there are approximately 12,000 school age children of active duty military personnel. As these students move from state to state, many of them encounter considerable challenges when dealing with enrollment, eligibility, placement, extra-curricular activities, and graduation requirements. Often, military students lose course credits due to multiple school transfers and are sometimes improperly placed in courses due to the varying school requirements. The Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunities for Military Children will help to ease this frustration and will aid military students in the school transition process.

USARAK appreciates all that Alaska public schools have done on behalf of our military children regarding transition and deployment issues. The Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunities for Military Children will only serve to complement and augment what is already being done in the Alaska public schools. Additionally, this bill will join Alaska with other states in an effort to streamline the school transition process and create much needed uniformity between states.

For these reasons, USARAK supports this compact and encourages the Alaska House of Representatives to pass House Bill #137.

Sincerely,



Stephen R. Layfield  
Major General, U.S. Army  
Commanding Officer



**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
HEADQUARTERS, U.S. ARMY ALASKA  
724 POSTAL SERVICE LOOP #5000  
FORT RICHARDSON, ALASKA 99505-5000

March 18, 2009

REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF:

Office of the Commanding General

Honorable John Coghill  
Alaska House of Representatives  
House District 11- North Pole  
State Capitol, Room 214  
120 4th Street  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Subject: Support of House Bill #137, "Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunities for Military Children"

Dear Mr. Coghill:

The United States Army Alaska (USARAK) would like to inform you of our support for the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunities for Military Children (House Bill #137). In the state of Alaska, there are approximately 12,000 school age children of active duty military personnel. As these students move from state to state, many of them encounter considerable challenges when dealing with enrollment, eligibility, placement, extra-curricular activities, and graduation requirements. Often, military students lose course credits due to multiple school transfers and are sometimes improperly placed in courses due to the varying school requirements. The Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunities for Military Children will help to ease this frustration and will aid military students in the school transition process.

USARAK appreciates all that Alaska public schools have done on behalf of our military children regarding transition and deployment issues. The Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunities for Military Children will only serve to complement and augment what is already being done in the Alaska public schools. Additionally, this bill will join Alaska with other states in an effort to streamline the school transition process and create much needed uniformity between states.

For these reasons, USARAK supports this compact and encourages the Alaska House of Representatives to pass House Bill #137.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Layfield".

Stephen R. Layfield  
Major General, U.S. Army  
Commanding Officer



**Kodiak Island Borough School District**

Office of the Superintendent

722 Mill Bay Road

Kodiak, AK 99615

(907) 481-6200

March 2, 2009

Twenty-Sixth Alaska State Legislature  
House of Representatives  
State Capitol  
Juneau, AK 99801

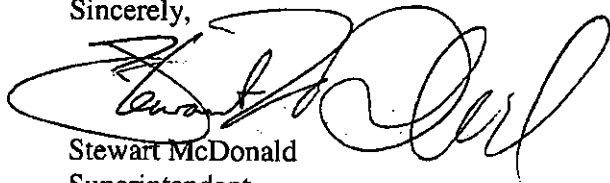
Dear Representatives:

Kodiak Island Borough School District wholeheartedly endorses House Bill 137. A substantial number of Kodiak Island students come to us from the United States Coast Guard as well as the United States Navy.

We eagerly join this compact's intent to remove the barriers to educational success imposed on the children of military families due to the frequent moves and deployment of their parents. We will be committed to supporting and enforcing the rules and provisions of this compact. It is our District's goal to provide uniform collection and sharing of information; and to promote coordination, flexibility and cooperation between educational systems and families in order to achieve educational success for the student.

We thank Representative Coghill for sponsoring House Bill 137. His concern is for the best interest of the children whose parents are serving this nation with such honor. We appreciate their service and this bill represents a small token of thanks as well as removes several obstacles that are imposed upon their children during their service to our country.

Sincerely,



Stewart McDonald  
Superintendent

# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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[www.akrepublicans.org/huggins/](http://www.akrepublicans.org/huggins/)

## Charlie Huggins Senator

April 1, 2009

To: Senator Hollis French, Chair  
Senate Judiciary Committee

From: Senator Charlie Huggins

Subject: Request to Schedule SB 176 for a Hearing

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I respectfully request the scheduling of SB 176, "An Act relating to an interstate compact on educational opportunity for military children; amending Rules 4 and 24, Alaska Rules of Civil Procedure; and providing for an effective date," for a hearing before the Senate Judiciary Committee at your earliest convenience.

Please contact Josh Tempel, staff person for the Joint Alaska State Legislative Veterans' Caucus, with any questions on the details of this bill. Josh's phone number is 465-4066.

Please find attached pertinent information for the committee.

Thank you.

Attachments