



AUSA Family Programs Survey Summary

Results from a survey measuring the effectiveness of and familiarity with the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children within the military community.

April 2013

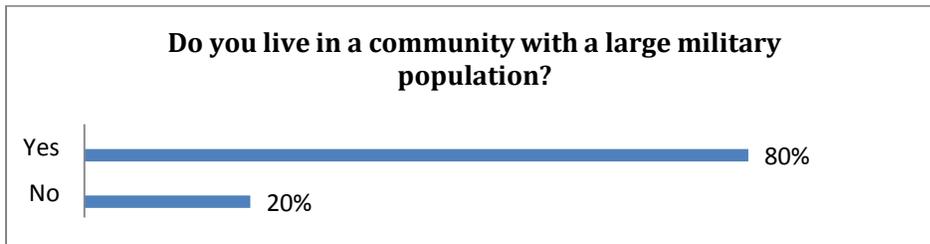
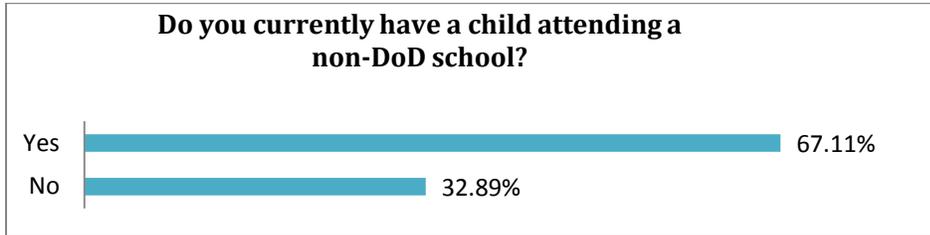
AUSA Family Programs Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children Survey Results

The survey was put together in order to gauge our audience’s (specifically military families) familiarity with the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children. The responses help shape the information we’ll present to them, and also give administrators and groups that work on the Compact a glimpse of how the Compact is or isn’t being used or implemented at the local level. There were eight questions and 76 survey respondents.

Summary of Results

Demographics and Community

Nearly 70% of respondents have a child in a non-DoD school, with the largest number (45%) in the 13-18 age range. They live in states with dense military populations such as Virginia, California, and Texas.



Familiarity with the Compact

Q. How familiar are you with the Interstate Compact?

Answer Choices	Responses
I have never heard of it	51.39%
I have heard of it, but I’m not sure what it is	30.56%
I’m familiar with it and experienced its benefits	19.44%

Free Response- How have you seen it applied at the local level?

Sample 1	“They are supposed to give military kids a reasonable amount of time when their parents return from deployment, but that did not work out for us.”
Sample 2	“Four schools, four states, four years - immediate transition into gifted programs in CO, analysis of schedule to see what qualifies for what classes here, immediate testing for accurate placement.”
Sample 3	“I have not seen it applied. I hoped it would help ease our transition by waiving registration but we did not qualify.”

Q. Do you feel your local school officials know about or understand how to implement the Interstate Compact?

Nearly 75% of those surveyed do not believe that their school officials are even familiar with the Compact, making it difficult to feel represented, even though their state has signed the compact.

Answer Choices	Responses
Yes, they are familiar with it and understand how to implement it	5.45%
Yes, they are familiar with it, but don't seem to know how to implement it	20%
No, I don't feel that local school officials are familiar with the Interstate Compact	74.55%

Suggestions/Ideas for Improvement

Q. What suggestions or ideas do you have for improving communication and connection between non-DoD schools and their military students?

Survey respondents suggested that each school have a military liaison counselor to greet incoming and transfer students and their parents. This would allow them to learn more about the Compact if they are unfamiliar, and would also allow for families to feel as though they have a personal advocate for any transfer issues they may face, in addition to parents having someone to turn to with questions or problems that arise. But many respondents would like for the connection to continue, with liaisons/ counselors checking in with students on a regular basis, keeping any emotional or behavioral issues due to moving or parents deploying from falling beneath the radar.

Sample 1	We have a military counselor that apparently comes out every so often. With our school being approximately 55% military, I would have liked to see her around a lot more. Each of my kids got to see her once during the past 9 months which my husband was gone for the majority of the time.
Sample 2	A representative / informed military parent in each school or district. One that meets with parents and educators when they come to a new school.
Sample 3	Having staff that truly understands the emotional cycle. Also having administrators who don't just suspend students when they are clearly having a difficult time while their parent is deployed.
Sample 4	A generic fact sheet can be printed or posted on every school's website that gives a short phrase about what it is, and how the people can get more information.
Sample 5	The School Liaisons at installations and at the State level for NG and Reserves provide training for administrators. Help provide and promote the use of the new book, "The School Administrator's Guide for Supporting Students from Military Families."
Sample 6	Require the schools that receive the IMPACT aid grant to attend meetings, create and implement a plan that supports the military children in their schools.