



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

2009 Wisconsin Act 329
[2009 Senate Bill 681]

**Interstate Compact on Educational
Opportunity for Military Children**

2009 Wisconsin Act 329 adopts the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children. The compact addresses school transition issues that may be encountered by children of military families. The compact defines “child of a military family” as a school-aged child who is enrolled in any of the grades from Kindergarten to 12 and who resides in the household of a person on active duty.

The compact contains provisions relating to: (a) educational records and enrollment; (b) placement and attendance; (c) eligibility for enrollment and extracurricular participation; and (d) graduation from high school. The compact also contains provisions setting forth the powers and duties of the Interstate Commission on Educational Opportunity for Military Children and provisions relating to member states to the compact such as the procedures for withdrawal from or dissolution of the compact.

The Act contains several provisions that differ from the compact, including the following:

- The compact authorizes the interstate commission to promulgate rules to achieve the purposes of the compact. Under the Act, a rule promulgated by the interstate commission is effective in a member state only if it is approved by the Legislature or the State Superintendent of Public Instruction.
- The compact authorizes the interstate commission to levy and collect an annual assessment from each member state to cover the costs of the commission’s operations and activities. The Act limits this assessment to the lesser of \$1,000 or the amount calculated by multiplying \$1 by the number of children of military families enrolled in public schools in Wisconsin.

This memo provides a brief description of the Act. For more detailed information, consult the text of the law and related legislative documents at the Legislature’s Web site at: <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/>.

- Under the compact, a member state may withdraw from the compact by repealing the statute that enacted the compact. Under the Act, a member state may also withdraw by enacting a law withdrawing from the compact.

As required by the compact, the Act also creates the State Council on the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children. The council consists of the following members under the Act:

- The State Superintendent.
- The superintendent of a school district with a high concentration of children of military families, appointed by the State Superintendent.
- A representative from a military installation, appointed by the State Superintendent.
- A member of the Senate, appointed by the Senate Majority Leader.
- A member of the Assembly, appointed by the Assembly Speaker.
- The compact commissioner, appointed by the State Superintendent, and the military family education liaison, appointed or designated by the state council, to serve as nonvoting members.

Under the Act, the members of the state council serve without compensation.

Effective date: Act 329 takes effect on May 27, 2010.

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