

The Virginia Council on the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children

Communications Plan Updated April 2011

Actions Undertaken to Provide Information on the Compact

2010

- *Dedicated Web Page* – May 2010. The Department of Education, on behalf of the Virginia Council on the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children (Virginia Council), developed a Web page dedicated to the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children (Military Compact) at: http://www.doe.virginia.gov/support/student_family/military/va_council/index.shtml. This Web page is in addition to the Web site that the Department had already established for military family support at: http://www.doe.virginia.gov/support/student_family/military/index.shtml.
- *School Division Links to Information* – May 2010. The public information officers of every school division were contacted by the Department, on behalf of the Virginia Council, and asked to provide a link to the Military Compact Web site on their school division Web pages.
- *First meeting of the Virginia Council* – May 25, 2010. At this meeting, Virginia Department of Education staff provided a general overview of the provisions of the Military Compact and public comment was received.
- *Superintendent's Memorandum* – August 6, 2010. This memorandum communicated to division superintendents information on the composition of the Virginia Council and information on the Military Compact regarding eligibility, enrollment, immunizations, placement and graduation.
- *Principals and Counselor's Memorandum* – August 2010. The Virginia Department of Education, on behalf of the Virginia Council, sent out the same information provided to division superintendents to principals and counselors.
- *School Liaison Officers Memorandum* – August 2010. The Virginia Department of Education, on behalf of the Virginia Council, sent out the same information provided to division superintendents to School Liaison Officers, as well as to the other interested parties who were part of the Department's listserv.
- *School Liaison Officer Meeting* – Virginia Department of Education staff, on behalf of the Virginia Council, attended a meeting of school liaison officers at Fort Belvoir to learn about issues surrounding the Military Compact and to answer questions.
- *Joint Military Services School Liaison Committee* - Virginia Department of Education staff, on behalf of the Virginia Council, attended a joint meeting of military personnel, division superintendents, and school liaison officers in Norfolk, Virginia.
- *Second Meeting of the Virginia Council* – November 10, 2010. At this meeting, Virginia Department of Education staff provided a detailed overview of the provisions of the Compact and existing Virginia law and regulation and an overview of the current work and future plans. Newport News Public Schools gave a presentation on providing resources for military families, and Major General (Ret.) Frank R. Faykes discussed childhood obesity issues. Public comment was also received.

- *Annual Meeting of the Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission* – November 15, 2010.

2011

- *Third Meeting of the Virginia Council* – January 5, 2011. At this meeting, Virginia Council members received presentations from the Virginia High School League and Prince George County Schools, discussed testing issues related to military transfer students and updated the communications plans.
- *2010 Annual Report Submitted to Governor McDonnell and Virginia General Assembly* – February 25, 2011. The Report provides information regarding the three meetings that the Virginia Council convened between May 2010 and January 2011, as well as other actions that were taken during calendar year 2010 to disseminate information regarding the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children to military families, school divisions, and other affected entities.
- *Superintendent's Memorandum* - The Virginia Department of Education, on behalf of the Virginia Council, released a series of guidance documents related to military transfer students after receiving guidance from the Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission.
 - [Alternate Provisions for Military Transfer Students to Meet Graduation Requirements](#) – April 1, 2011
 - [The Commonwealth of Virginia Observes Military Child Month](#) – April 8, 2011
 - [Guidance for Treating Students Transferring from Department of Defense \(DOD\) Schools for the Purpose of Implementing the Interstate Compact](#) – April 15, 2011
 - [Providing Flexibility to Military Transfer Students to Facilitate On-Time Graduation](#) – April 29, 2011
- *School Leadership Summit* – April 13, 2011. Virginia Department of Education staff, on behalf of the Virginia Council, attended a leadership summit, hosted by MCB Quantico, for military personnel, school division staff, and school liaison officers. The Summit provided information to school leaders about the unique support needed for military service members and their families during all stages of transition and deployment.

Future Actions to Be Undertaken to Continue to Provide Information on the Compact

- *Updated Web pages* - The Department of Education, on behalf of the Virginia Council, will continue to update the Virginia Council Web page with upcoming meeting dates, timely meeting minutes and presentations, and the latest resources. The Department will also continue to update the Web page established for military family support with the latest guidance documents from the Department, relevant legislation and useful outside resources. Recently contact information was added for the Virginia School Liaison Officers to the military family support Web page. The Web pages were last updated on April 26, 2011 to make them more user friendly for all users.
- *Superintendent's Memorandums* – The Department of Education, on behalf of the Virginia Council, will continue to release Superintendent's Memorandums to school divisions with guidance on pertinent issues related to military transfer students. The subject of the memos is determined by inquiries from families and school divisions on how to interpret the Military Compact.

- *Regular Meetings/Conference Calls with School Liaison Officers* – The Department of Education, on behalf of the Virginia Council, will schedule regular meetings and conference calls with all School Liaison Officers in Virginia to discuss timely issues in their region and answer questions.
- *Presentations to Educational Organizations* - Information on the work of the Virginia Council will be presented at the Virginia Association of Secondary School Principals (VASSP) summer conference in late June. The Department of Education, on behalf of the Virginia Council, will also reach out to additional groups to present information about the Military Compact at their meetings/conferences - the Superintendent’s Leadership Advisory Council; the Virginia Schools Board Association; and the Virginia Association of School Superintendents.
- *Response to Inquiries* – On behalf of the Virginia Council, the Virginia Department of Education will continue to promptly respond to all inquiries from military families and other interested parties and disseminate guidance from the Virginia Council and from the Military Interstate Children’s Compact Commission.
- *Visits to School Divisions* – Virginia Department of Education staff, on behalf of the Virginia Council, will visit school divisions with high concentrations of military families as the budget permits. Webinars, conference calls and video conferences can also be planned to keep in regular communication with school divisions.
- *Sample Leadership Summit* – the Virginia Council will provide a DVD copy of the School Leadership Summit held in Quantico to every school division and encourage school divisions to partner with local divisions to host similar summits statewide.
- *Coordination with “Serving Our Service Member Families” Initiative* - Virginia First Lady Maureen McDonnell recently launched the “Serving Our Service Member Families” Web site (www.SOS.virginia.gov), which provides an easy to use on-line connection between the families of deployed soldiers, sailors, Marines, airmen, and their fellow Virginians, businesses, places of worship, and civic and volunteer organizations to help meet their needs while a loved one is away serving the nation. The Virginia Department of Education, on behalf of the Virginia Council, will coordinate with the First Lady’s office to offer resources and information to families about educational opportunities for military children.