

Governor Sebelius signs bill to help military children



Governor Kathleen Sebelius has signed House Bill 2714 enacting the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children. The compact is intended to remove barriers to educational success imposed on children of military families caused by frequent moves and deployment of their parents.

“Changing schools and making new friends can be hard on children whose parents are in the military,” Sebelius said. “This bill will help ease the transition between schools by seamlessly transferring records.”

The compact will instantly transfer records and facilitate the student placement process, including qualification and eligibility for enrollment, student participation in extracurricular activities, scheduling, grading, and assessments.

The bill applies to children of active members of the military, including those members severely injured and medically discharged and those retired for a period of up to one year after retirement.

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.....Representative Sydney Carlin shepherded the bill through the legislature. “Last December I was invited by the Department of Defense to represent the State of Kansas at a Conference co-sponsored by the Army Quality of Life and the Council of State Governments. We were tasked to develop an Interstate Compact for the protection of the children of Active Duty Military Personnel.” As students are moved from Post to Post, there are many disruptions in their academic lives.

“We heard testimony from three families about the tremendous difficulties these moves create for students. I am so pleased that the policies we are implementing in this Compact are things that Kansas has already been doing. The difficulty has not been on our end, and leaders like Superintendent Ron Walker of USD 475, and Bob Shannon, USD 383, have worked to make seamless transitions for new students a part of the Kansas Board of Education Policy.”



I am also quite pleased that Kansas is the first state to have this Compact signed into law by our Governor. This assures us that we will have a voting member on the Compact for any future changes.” Sydney Carlin

The Compact states it would accomplish seamless transitions for students to new schools by providing instant records transfer and facilitation of the student placement process, including qualification and eligibility for enrollment, student participation in extracurricular activities, scheduling, grading, and assessments.

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