

## **State Pledge to Support Military Spouse Teachers**

*Due to the widely varying requirements for teacher certification and licensure across states, the process for a licensed teacher to attain certification and licensure in a new state may require extensive documentation and additional testing and coursework. This process is time-consuming, expensive, and often delays the obtainment of employment for military spouses who are expected to accomplish these requirements every two to three years due to military-directed moves. We recognize the need to act now to enable military spouse teachers to efficiently attain certification and licensure and obtain employment following a military move. Today our state pledges to support military spouse teachers and the financial well-being of military families by taking action to accomplish one or more of the following in our state:*

- *Accept current certification from other states as meeting requirements for licensure.* This measure would allow a state board or regulator to recognize active certification from another state as being equivalent to a certification issued in their own state, to accommodate gaps in employment for military spouses that have met certification and licensure requirements in another state.
- *Establish a special temporary license for military spouse teachers.* This temporary license should last the duration of the average military assignment—about three years—and be based upon acceptance of an existing certification and the prerequisite requirements fulfilled to have obtained that certification.
- *Waive or significantly reduce application, certification, and licensure fees* to alleviate the financial burden associated with obtaining certification and licensure in a new state.
- *Expedite application and adjudication processes* by allowing any or all of the following:
  - Permit the licensing board to grant a license based on an application certified by affidavit as being accurate and that verification documentation has been requested;
  - Provide the director of the overseeing agency with authority to approve applications on behalf of the licensing board;
  - Implement time saving options, such as submitting photocopies of state certificates and test scores, and allowing student copies of official transcripts to be submitted in unopened mailers; and
  - Establish a process for flagging applications from military spouse teachers and establishing deadlines for completing their adjudication.
- *Provide a grace period from content and pedagogy teaching assessments.* This would allow a military spouse with a current certification from another state to delay taking any additional state-specific content or pedagogy teaching assessments for a minimum of one year.