The Interstate Teacher Mobility Compact (ITMC) is an interstate occupational licensure compact. Interstate compacts are constitutionally authorized, legislatively enacted, legally binding agreements among states. The ITMC will allow teachers to use an eligible license held in a compact member state to be granted an equivalent license in another compact member state, lowering barriers to teacher mobility and getting teachers back into the classroom more seamlessly.

What is the ITMC?

The ITMC utilizes a different model than other interstate occupational licensure compacts. Compact Member states submit licenses that are eligible for the compact and meet a set of criteria outlined in the legislation. To be eligible, a license must require a bachelor’s degree and completion of a state-approved program for teacher licensure like a teacher preparation program at a college or university. Furthermore, for a license to be eligible under the compact it must be unencumbered (i.e., not restricted, probationary, provisional, substitute or temporary.) Teachers holding a compact-eligible license can apply for licensure in another member state and receive the closest equivalent license without submitting additional materials, taking state-specific exams or completing additional coursework. Special carveouts were created for some populations in the compact to support equitable access. Due to the mobility patterns of military spouses, the barriers to receiving a license that would be considered unencumbered under the compact are much higher. Teachers meeting the definition of an eligible military spouse will be able to use a temporary or provisional license for the purposes of the compact. Career and Technical Education Teaching Licenses often do not require a bachelor’s degree as a requirement for licensure, so the compact allows these licenses to be considered eligible without that requirement.

How does the ITMC work?

The ITMC utilizes a different model than other interstate occupational licensure compacts. Compact Member states submit licenses that are eligible for the compact and meet a set of criteria outlined in the legislation. To be eligible, a license must require a bachelor’s degree and completion of a state-approved program for teacher licensure like a teacher preparation program at a college or university. Furthermore, for a license to be eligible under the compact it must be unencumbered (i.e., not restricted, probationary, provisional, substitute or temporary.) Teachers holding a compact-eligible license can apply for licensure in another member state and receive the closest equivalent license without submitting additional materials, taking state-specific exams or completing additional coursework. Special carveouts were created for some populations in the compact to support equitable access. Due to the mobility patterns of military spouses, the barriers to receiving a license that would be considered unencumbered under the compact are much higher. Teachers meeting the definition of an eligible military spouse will be able to use a temporary or provisional license for the purposes of the compact. Career and Technical Education Teaching Licenses often do not require a bachelor’s degree as a requirement for licensure, so the compact allows these licenses to be considered eligible without that requirement.

How does the ITMC affect state licensing authority?

It is important that states remain fully in control of their own teacher licensure and the compact will not close any existing pathways to teacher licensure or teacher mobility. The ITMC aims to provide additional tools to state licensing authorities to more efficiently license out of state teachers and get them into the classroom. State licensing authorities will also appoint their state’s representatives to the Interstate Teacher Mobility Compact Commission, which serves as the administrative body of the compact.

How does the ITMC differ from the NASDTEC Interstate Agreement?

The ITMC differs from the NASDTEC Interstate Agreement in several important ways:

- The ITMC is governed by the participating states through the compact commission rather than an external body.
- The ITMC is a contractual, enforceable agreement.
- The ITMC includes an agreement for sharing information.
- The ITMC supports both teacher mobility and state licensing agencies.