



# MIC3 MEMBER PROFILE WISCONSIN



## OVERVIEW

The Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children was developed jointly by The Council of State Governments' National Center for Interstate Compacts and the U.S. Department of Defense, with input from policy experts, national associations, teachers, school administrators, military families, and federal, state, and local officials. The Compact eases interstate education transition challenges encountered by the children of active duty service members such as enrollment, eligibility, placement and graduation. On average, military students will attend six to nine different school systems from kindergarten to 12<sup>th</sup> grade.

Initial discussions about the Compact began in 2006, and drafting began early in 2007. First available for legislative consideration in 2008, the Compact was adopted by all 50 states and the District of Columbia in just 6 legislative sessions.

## HISTORY

Wisconsin adopted the Compact in May 2010. The model language of the Interstate Compact was adopted with modifications for statutory format. Portions governing the appointment of the State Commissioner and State Council were added elsewhere in statute separate from the Interstate Compact language. The dues are paid by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction.

**Bill sponsor(s):** Senator John Lehman

**Governor Signed:** May 13, 2010, 31<sup>st</sup> State to join the Compact

**Location in Statute or Code:** Wisconsin Statute, Chapter 115.997

<b>COMMISSIONER</b>	Shelley Joan Weiss	2010 – Present
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**APPOINTING AUTHORITY:** Commissioner and the State Council appointed by the State Superintendent of Public Instruction pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes 14.91.

## STATE COUNCIL

### **ARTICLE VIII — STATE COORDINATION.**

(a) Each member state shall, through the creation of a state council or use of an existing body or board, provide for the coordination among its agencies of government, local education agencies, and military installations concerning the state's participation in, and compliance with, this compact and interstate commission activities. While each member state may determine the membership of its own state council, its membership shall include all of the following:

1. The state superintendent of education.
2. The superintendent of a school district with a high concentration of children of military families. A member state that does not have a school district deemed to contain a high concentration of children of military families may appoint a superintendent from another school district to represent local education agencies on the state council.
3. A representative from a military installation.
4. One representative from the legislative branch of government.
5. One representative from the executive branch of government.
6. Representatives from other offices and stakeholder groups the state council deems appropriate.

(b) The state council established or existing body or board designated by each member state under par. (a) shall appoint or designate a military family education liaison to assist children of military families and the state in facilitating the implementation of this compact.

(c) A compact commissioner responsible for the administration and management of the state's participation in the compact shall be appointed by the governor or as otherwise determined by each member state.

(d) The compact commissioner appointed under par. (c) and the military family education liaison appointed or designated under par. (b) shall serve on the state council as nonvoting members of the state council, unless either is already a full voting member of the state council.

## STATE COUNCIL MEETINGS

The State Council meets twice a year.

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS



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- The Association of Wisconsin School Administrators (AWSA) and the Wisconsin Association of School District Administrators (WASDA) have featured articles on the Interstate Compact and the Council every year since 2010.
- AWSA invites the Commissioner to share a message and materials at their various conferences every year.
- The Commissioner and State Council have shared information with the Wisconsin Counselors Association.
- Commissioner Weiss shared information with Lisa Koenecke, Board Member for the American Association of School Counselors.
- Commissioner Weiss presented at Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction Conferences.
- Commissioner Weiss was interviewed on Wisconsin Eye, a program on the statewide public access channel.
- Commissioner Weiss interacted personally with several state Senators and Representatives on behalf of the Council and the Compact (providing information).
- Commissioner Weiss conducted the research and shared information on the existing actions to add the children of National Guard and Reserve members to gather information on state educational databases.
- Commissioner Weiss participated in two trainings sponsored by the Military Child Education Coalition and have promoted the training throughout the state.
- Commissioner Weiss worked with two Superintendents and the School Liaison Officer to coordinate statewide celebrations for the Month of the Military Child and is working on the 2017 celebration at Fort McCoy.
- Commissioner Weiss is working with a large, local school district to plan a local celebration for the April 2017 Celebration of the Military Child.
- Commissioner Weiss met with representatives from the State Adjutant General's office and the State National Guard Family Program on the Compact and Council.
- Commissioner Weiss met with USO representatives and shared information on the Compact and Council.
- Commissioner Weiss shared information at Military Appreciation Day for the Milwaukee Brewers Baseball Team.
- Commissioner Weiss coordinated with the state program to make statewide newspapers and other print resources available to military members who have deployed or moved out of state.
- Commissioner Weiss facilitated communication between the Adjutant General's office and the State Superintendent's office to create the "See it, Say Something" campaign message in Wisconsin.
- Commissioner Weiss visited several school districts sharing information, brochures, and posters.
- Commissioner Weiss met with the State PTO to share information.
- Commissioner Weiss met several times with and received strong support from Dave Anderson, Executive Director of the Wisconsin Interscholastic Association of Athletics (WIAAA).
- The Wisconsin State Superintendent, Tony Evers, has disseminated a written press release and a video every April to focus on the needs of military children.
- Commissioner Weiss worked with school districts and families to resolve issues that have arisen. All issues have been resolved positively.

### ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING ATTENDANCE

Wisconsin has attended every meeting since 2010.