



MIC3 MEMBER PROFILE MONTANA



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 12th 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

Montana adopted the Compact in April 2013. The model language was adopted with modifications for statutory format. Additional articles were included for the Commissioner, State Council, the military family education liaison and the payment of dues. The dues are paid by the Montana Department of Military Affairs.

Bill sponsor(s): Representative David Niss

Location in Statute or Code: Montana Revised Statutes, Section 20-1-230

COMMISSIONER	BG(R) Harold Stearns, MTARNG	2013 – Present
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APPOINTING AUTHORITY: Governor

STATE COUNCIL

Article XIX was added to the Compact defining the State Council:

20-1-230. Article XIX

(1) *the following voting members:*

- (a) *the superintendent of public instruction, who shall serve as the chairperson;*
- (b) *the superintendent of a school district that includes a high concentration of military children, appointed by the governor;*
- (c) *a representative of a military installation, appointed by the governor;*
- (d) *a legislator, appointed by the senate president;*
- (e) *a representative of the executive branch of government, appointed by the governor; and*
- (f) *any other individuals recommended by a majority of the members of the state council listed in subsections (1)(a) through (1)(e); and*

(2) *the following nonvoting members:*

- (a) *the compact commissioner appointed under Article XX; and*
- (b) *the military family education liaison, appointed under Article XXI.*

STATE COUNCIL MEETINGS

State Council has been established and meets annually.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- The State Director for the Montana High School Association was added as a Council member.
- Montana has a member of the State House and the State Senate on the State Council.
- Participated in Military Observance Day at Great Fall Public Schools, home of Malmstrom Air Force Base.
- Participated in a special day for new military families to collectively get information, meet teachers and staff at Great Fall Public Schools.
- Tammy Lacy, Superintendent of the Great Fall Public Schools, and Hal Stearns, Montana Commissioner, presented a program about the Council to the state superintendents.

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING ATTENDANCE

Montana has attended every meeting since 2013.