

MEMORANDUM FOR ALABAMA MILITARY INTERSTATE CHILDREN'S COMPACT

SUBJECT: 31 July 2019 Meeting Minutes

ATTENDEES:

Wanda Cooper, School Liaison Officer, Maxwell AFB
Jake Easter, Office of the Governor, State of Alabama
Kimberly Kozel, School Liaison Officer, Fort Rucker
Sheryl Gordon, MG, USA, Alabama National Guard
Patrick Mantell, CMSgt, USAF (Ret), Communications and Military Advisor
Brian Massey, Office of the Governor, State of Alabama
Nick Moore, Office of the Governor, State of Alabama (via TELCON)
David Pope, MSgt, USAF (Ret), Alternate Alabama Military Education Liaison
Dr. Douglas Ragland, Alabama Commissioner for Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission
Terry Roller, Alabama Military Education Liaison
Dr. Brian Selmeski, Chair, Maxwell AFB K-12 Working Group
Terry Travis, Alabama National Guard
Kim Vickers, Alabama High School Athletic Association (ASHAA)

1. Welcome/Update - Dr. Douglas L. Ragland, Alabama Commissioner.
 - Dr. Ragland opened the meeting at 10:06
 - He provided a brief history of the compact and how it began years ago with a very small group and no meeting. Now, we are growing year after year.
 - The purpose of our committee is to ensure that military transitions are successful and easy for families.
 - Dr. Ragland appreciates the support of Dr. Mackey and the Department of Education
 - Awareness of the compact is extremely important
2. Introductions
3. MIC3 Summary Presentation – (Slide presentation attached) Dr. Douglas L. Ragland
 - Facts and Figures
 - What are military students educated?
 - Interstate Compacts: What are they good for?
 - o Each state has similar legislation
 - o Supersedes inconsistent state laws
 - Training Objectives
 - Compact
 - o Applies to?
 - Active Duty
 - Title 10
 - Uniformed Members (NOAA, USPHS)
 - Medically Discharged or Retired, for 1 year
 - Perish on Active Duty, for 1 year
 - o Focuses on?

- Key educational transition issues
- Uniform treatment of military and civilian children
- Unique challenges
- K-12
- Does not:
 - Apply to pre-school or pre-K
 - Ask for preferential treatment
 - Impact curriculum
 - Apply to private, parochial, homeschool, or international schools
- Why is it important?
 - Education challenges of military children
 - Provides flexibility

Dr. Roller reminded the committee, the compact also applies to Public Charter Schools.

- Articles

- IV – Enrollment
- V – Placement and Attendance

Dr. Roller asked if anyone is seeing issues where a child with a deployed parent is not meeting the attendance policy or not getting final exams waived?

Dr. Ragland stated that Principals have discretion

Ms. Kozel has had clients with this issue. She communicated with the school and family. She recommended the communication take place before the deployment activity. Don't assume the school is aware and understands your situation. She thinks it has gotten better over time.

- VI – Eligibility

Ms. Vickers stated military transfer athletes are exempt from a rule where a student would be ineligible from athletics for one year if they accept financial aid. The ASHAA passed the new rule last week.

Dr. Selmeski shared a case he had last year where a student had to decline financial aid in order to compete. Additionally, Elmore County and Autauga County allow out of district enrollment, but students are ineligible for 1 year. He recommended we keep a constant dialog about this sensitive issue.

- VII - Graduation

- Resolution Process

- 10 Case Studies

- Highlights
 - Case # 1

- Ms. Cooper has a case where a child is PCSing out of Alabama. Alabama's classes start a few weeks before the classes at the new duty location. Does the child have to attend Alabama classes for the short period of time?

- Dr. Roller informed us 6 years old is the compulsory school age in Alabama
- Case #6
 - Dr. Roller thought this case was tricky because LEAs determine when they award credit.
 - Ms. Cooper has experience with a similar case. She worked with the school. The parents had orders and they had no choice but to leave during the last quarter of the school year. She contacted the district who in-turn worked with the school and the parent.
 - Ms. Kozel also had a similar case. She stated the Superintendent was very helpful. Prior communication would have been beneficial.
 - Dr. Roller stated the honors piece can be difficult. AP is guided by a national standard, but honors is not. It's not a problem unless if the student requires honors credits to qualify for an AP program during the next school year.
- Case #9
 - General Gordon asked when the compact states "Members of veterans who are medically discharged or retired for one year," does that mean medically retired or does that include a standard retirement?
 - The committee felt it meant any retirement from active duty
- Case #10
 - General Gordon told the committee that Title 10 soldiers are active duty only. Most AGR soldiers are Title 32 which means the compact does not apply to them, even if they are on full-time status.
 - Dr. Selmeski stated the State of Kentucky passed legislation that the compact shall be applied to Title 32 AGR and our forum could facilitate the same change in Alabama.
 - Dr. Ragland will get clarification from the National MIC3.
 - Dr. Selmeski added Arkansas has a bill that applies to government civilians as well.
 - The committee discussed the US Coast Guard in Alabama.

4. School Liaison Officers Update- Kimberly Kozel, and Wanda Cooper.

- Ms. Cooper told the committee about the upcoming K-12 meeting, September 13th at Alabama State University in Montgomery
 - Dr Selmeski – Compact is key, awareness is low. Transformation starts at the State level.
 - The training will have 2 tracks
 - Counselors / Registrars
 - District / State / Military leadership
 - Panel discussions
 - In April, the National Association of Federally Impacted Schools (NAFIS) were invited
 - They have agreed to come back and have a workshop in the afternoon of the 13th if we have enough interest.
 - General Gordon asked who is included in NAFIS.
 - Dr. Selmeski answered, anyone who works on federally owned property.

- General Gordon stated, many superintendents don't realize they are eligible and used Ft. Benning soldiers living in Alabama as an example.

5. Discussion

- Dr. Ragland will be attending the annual meeting October 23-24th. The Strategic Plan for the organization should be unveiled at the MIC3 Business Meeting.
- Ms. Cooper asked if we could have more meetings and suggested the additional meetings could be via TELCON.
- Dr. Ragland answered; we would meet once a year at a minimum.

6. Adjournment

- Dr. Ragland adjourned the meeting at 11:41

//SIGNED//
Dr. DOUGLAS L. RAGLAND
Alabama Commissioner for Military Interstate
Children's Compact Commission