



## KENTUCKY STATE COUNCIL MILITARY INTERSTATE CHILDREN'S COMPACT COMMISSION

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**BLAINE HEDGES**  
Commissioner

**TO:** Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission (MIC3)

**FROM:** Colonel Blaine Hedges, USA Retired  
Commissioner, Kentucky State Council

**DATE:** June 28, 2019

**SUBJECT:** 2019 Annual Report on Kentucky MIC3 State Council

**PURPOSE:** To provide an annual report summarizing the Commonwealth of Kentucky's State Council activities, to include membership and key points of contact

### Activities of the State Council

#### **MIC3 Annual Conference** (October 17-18, 2018; Cleveland Ohio)

Kentucky State Council Commissioner attended the annual conference and continues to be an active member of its Finance Committee.

#### **State Council Annual Meeting** (November 26, 2018; Frankfort, Kentucky)

The State Council meets at least once each calendar year, with its meeting held on November 26, 2018 in Frankfort, Kentucky. The MIC3 National Executive Director, Ms. Cherise Imai provided an updated report through teleconference, to include an overview of national initiatives, along with the office case & inquiry summary. The state update was provided by member Tracy Goff-Herman, Kentucky Department of Education (KDE). Included was member discussion on a CY 2018 case study outcome in regards to a military dependent student's high school credit transfer. Kentucky continues to resolve the majority of its compact cases and inquiries at the state, district and school levels in a timely manner.

KDE continues to provide support and assistance to local districts regarding the MIC3. Specifically during this past year, KDE has focused on raising awareness to local school districts and parents about the voluntary submission of information regarding students with military connections. KDE supports local districts in understanding and implementing the Military Student Identifier (MSI). Military-connected students, including students with a parent who is a member of the Armed Forces, are recognized as a distinct student group. More than 80 percent of military-connected pupils attend public schools. Students with parents and/or guardians who serve full-time in the military, move and change schools frequently. The Military Student Identifier provides educators with critical information to personalize attention to military dependent children.

KDE maintains information for parents and local districts regarding the Compact and the collection of related data at: [KY Dept of Education - Support our Military Families in School Transitions.](#)

### **Supporting Legislation**

The Kentucky General Assembly 2019 Legislative Session continues to pass key policy supporting military families, with a focus on their dependent students.

- House Bill 399 – Allows military families transferring on official orders to pre-enroll their children in a school district before they have their new address.
- House Bill 356 – Allows service members, spouses, or dependents to keep Kentucky residency status for post-secondary education if the service member is enrolled or accepted to a post-secondary school and then receives orders to transfer out of state.

### **Month of the Military Child**

Governor Matt Bevin designated April in Kentucky as the “Month of the Military Child”. In partnership, the MIC3 State Council, Kentucky Department of Education, along with other groups highlighted various supports available for military families and their children throughout the state. One event of interest included the Fort Knox Scott Middle School celebration of the military child (Press Release attached; April 11, 2019). The school assembly was well attended, to include Kentucky’s Governor Matt Bevin presenting a proclamation and keynote address; Fort Knox Commanding General, Major General Evans; Garrison Commander, Colonel (R) Patrick Kaune; State Council Commissioner, Colonel (R) Blaine Hedges and other community elected officials.

### **Annual State Dues Assessment**

Kentucky promptly paid its Fiscal Year 2020 dues assessment for membership in the MIC3.

### **Advancing Federal Outreach**

The State Compact Commissioner, Col (Ret) Blaine Hedges, visited the United States of America Second Lady, Mrs. Karen Pence on June 6, 2019 in Washington, D.C. In interest of Mrs. Pence’s strong advocacy for military service members and their families, the Executive Director of the Kentucky Commission on Military Affairs provided an overview of Kentucky’s military workforce initiatives, highlighting career-skill program partnerships. In relation to MIC3, Col (Ret) Hedges included discussion on the State Council actions supporting military school-aged dependents, providing her a better understanding of the Compact’s function, effective strategies and asset to military families.

### **Military Student Identifier Update**

As part of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) requirements, the U.S. Department of Education requires school districts to identify students who are armed forces family members. This information is a voluntary submission by parents and guardians. Kentucky’s Student Information System (KSIS) includes a “Military Connections” tab to track guardian data for those who are active duty military personnel. A student is considered to be military connected if a parent or guardian is a member of the armed forces on active duty or serves on full-time National Guard duty. KDE continues to promote the importance of this data collection to public schools and districts.

Information related to the collection of this data can be found at Kentucky Department of Education’s website: [KSIS Data Standard – Census \(Section G: Military Connections\)](#)  
[Sample Data Collection Form for Local Districts and Schools](#)

### **State Council Membership**

As required by Kentucky Revised Statutes 156.730, the following membership include:

- Colonel (Ret) Blaine Hedges, State Council Commissioner
- Commissioner Wayne Lewis, Kentucky Department of Education
- Colonel Patrick Kaune, Garrison Commander of Fort Knox, Kentucky
- Senator Tom Buford, Kentucky General Assembly
- Representative Myron Dossett, Kentucky General Assembly
- Ms. Mary Ann Gemmill, Superintendent of Christian County Schools
- Ms. Teresa Morgan, Superintendent of Hardin County Schools
- Ms. Tracy Goff-Herman, Academic Program Manager, Kentucky Department of Education

### **Kentucky Key Points of Contact**

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