



# Arkansas Department of Education

*Transforming Arkansas to lead the nation in student-focused education*

**Johnny Key**  
*Commissioner*

Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission  
Attn: Mr. Richard Pryor  
1776 Avenue of The States  
Lexington, Kentucky 40511

**State Board  
of Education**

June 26, 2019

**Dr. Jay Barth**  
*Little Rock*  
**Chair**

Re: Annual Report on State Council

**Charisse Dean**  
*Little Rock*  
**Vice Chair**

Dear Mr. Pryor:

**Susan Chambers**  
*Bella Vista*

With regard to MIC3 policy 01-2017 on state coordination, I hereby submit the required report on the Arkansas State Council for the period July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019.

**Dr. Fitz Hill**  
*Little Rock*

1. The Arkansas State Council is composed of the following individuals:

**Kathy McFetridge**  
*Springdale*

**Member Name**

**Position**

Kaminar, John

6-4-304(a)(1) - Compact Commissioner

**Dr. Sarah Moore**  
*Stuttgart*

Thurman, Tony (Dr.) (Proxy - Aaron Randolph)

6-4-304(a)(2) - Superintendent of school district with greatest number of military children

**Ouida Newton**  
*Poyen*

Walker, Janice (Dr.)

6-4-304(a)(3) - President Pro Temp Appointment from the AEA

**R. Brett Williamson**  
*El Dorado*

Schneider, Dr. Kerry

6-4-304(a)(4) - Speaker of the House Appointment from the AAEEA

**Diane Zook**  
*Melbourne*

Vacant - Replacement Requested

6-4-304(a)(5) - Governor Appointment from School Boards Association

Roberts, Lenisha

6-4-304(a)(6) - Charter school leader with greatest number of military children

Harris-Ritter, Bilenda

6-4-304(a)(7) - Ex officio member from military installation

Vacant - Replacements Under Consideration

6-4-305 - Ex officio military family education liaison appointed by the council

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2. Points of contact for Arkansas are myself and Tiffany Donovan, Tiffany Donovan, Arkansas Department of Education. Ms. Donovan may be reached at 501-682-2155 or via e-mail at [tiffany.donovan@arkansas.gov](mailto:tiffany.donovan@arkansas.gov).

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Opportunity  
Employer*

3. During the twelve-month period of this report, the Arkansas State Council has accomplished the following:

- a. Conducted quarterly state council meetings on August 2, November 1, February 7, and May 8.
  - b. Presented training to district military education coordinators on June 19, 2018 at the Arkansas Department of Education Summit.
  - c. Promoted activities for Month of the Military Child statewide via social media, e-mail, and television.
  - d. Assisted in resolving one case of enrollment.
4. On January 24, 2019 the Commissioner of Education issued an official memorandum to all school districts in the state, the purpose of which was to provide guidance and authority for school districts to allow military families to enroll their children in Arkansas public schools prior to their actual arrival in the state.
5. On April 17, 2019 the Governor signed into law Act 939 of the 92<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly, which accomplished the following:
- a. Created several new positions for the Arkansas State Council.
  - b. Established new responsibilities for the State Council in addition to the existing responsibility of implementing the Compact within Arkansas.
  - c. Required all public school districts meeting certain enrollment criteria pertaining to military-connected students to appoint a District Military Education Coordinator (DMEC), and for the Arkansas Department of Education to provide training and resources for the DMECs.
  - d. Established advance enrollment of military-connected students in state statute.
  - e. Extended the protections of the Compact to the children of reserve component service members. (Please note that this was placed in a separate section of the Arkansas Code in order not to change the Compact statute.)

If you need any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully,



John I. Kaminar  
Colonel, Army Reserve (Ret.)  
Commissioner  
Chair, Arkansas State Council, Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission







