

**Maryland State Council Meeting**  
**Interstate Compact for Educational Opportunity for Military Children**  
**Friday, November 15, 2019**

**Minutes**

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**Attending:**

Dr. Theresa R. Alban, Superintendent, Frederick County Public Schools  
Tashina Andrus, School Liaison Officer, Naval Support Activity, Bethesda  
Rene Averett-Sanzone, Executive Director, Parents' Place of Maryland  
Carol Beck, Director of School Innovations, Maryland State Department of Education, (MSDE)  
Sarah Bonise, School Liaison Officer, Fort George G. Meade  
Michelle Boone, School Liaison Officer, Annapolis, United States Navy  
Dr. Marone Brown, Specialist School Safety, (MSDE)  
Lindi Budd, Chief, Maryland Excellence Counts in Early Learning in School Age Care (EXCELS), (MSDE)  
Kimberly Crutchfield, School Liaison Officer, Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling  
Teresa Dantzler, Ombudsman, MSDE  
Horace Franklin, School Liaison Officer, Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling  
Mary Gable, Assistant State Superintendent and MD Commissioner for the Interstate Compact, (MSDE)  
The Honorable Anne Kaiser, Maryland House of Delegates (via phone)  
Sunny Lee, School Liaison Officer, Joint Base Andrews  
Lynne Muller, Section Chief, Student Services and School Counseling, (MSDE)  
Dawn Simpson, School Liaison Officer, Patuxent River  
Colonel Erich Spragg, Garrison Commander, Fort George G. Meade  
Mrs. Rene Spragg, Fort George G. Meade  
Ryan Voegtlin, Director, Anne Arundel County Student Services  
Flavia Walton, Representing Military Families (via phone)  
Andy Warner, Maryland Public Secondary Schools Athletic Association, (MPSSAA), (MSDE)  
Anne Wheeler, Division of Early Intervention/Special Education, (MSDE)

**Notes:**

Welcome and Introductions

Mary welcomed the attendees.

Mary Gable the Maryland Commissioner, provided an overview of the history and comprehensiveness of the Compact for the State Council members and invited guests. Maryland enacted legislation to join the Interstate Compact for Educational Opportunity for Military Children (Compact) in 2008 and was signed by the Governor in 2009. All 50 states and the District of Columbia have joined the Compact. The national office that oversees the Compact is the Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission (MIC3) located in Kentucky. The link below leads to several videos on the MIC3 website that may be

helpful in sharing information about the Compact. Information includes an overview of the Compact and its provisions. <https://www.mic3.net/video-page.html>

The Maryland State Council is comprised of several members appointed by the Governor, Colonel Erich Spragg, Garrison Commander, Fort George G. Meade who serves as the Department of Defense, (DoD) member of the State Council, school liaison officers (SLOs), and representatives of the MSDE. Only appointees can vote.

Lindi Budd, Early Childhood (Maryland Excels), Early Childhood Pilot Program provided information about a pilot program underway to increase access to quality child care for military families. The DoD provides a child care fee subsidy to eligible families. The subsidy requires that the child care program meet federal accreditation standards. However, demand exceeds supply in many areas, resulting in military families being on waiting lists for approved programs. There is not a firm end date for the pilot. Maryland is also one of two states that is part of a pilot program which enables military families to utilize programs that, while not accredited, are included in the State's quality rating system. The program was launched in October 2019. Ms. Budd will make sure that information is provided to everyone in this group. Ms. Budd provided the following information/brochures:

*Find and Afford Quality Child Care in the Community, Military Child Care in Your Neighborhood-Plus Pilot, Letter-DoD Expands Access to Quality Child Care for Military Families.*

The Family Network has a search service for child care slots. The search tool includes the state quality rating. Any program that has a quality rating of 3 can accept military families with the fee subsidy.

### Overview of Materials

The materials in the folder provided to each attendee describe the Compact, including an overview, a frequently asked questions, and statistics about the number of children served and cases resolved from the MIC3 National Office Case and Inquiry Summary Report. The Rules of the Interstate Compact can be found at: [www.mic3.net](http://www.mic3.net). Mary noted that most issues that arise relative to the transfers of students in military families are managed at the local level, in schools and local school systems, with School Liaison Officers and at the State level. Maryland is a small state, but ranks 8<sup>th</sup> in the number of children in military families (about 18,000).

Mary shared the MIC3 Commission's Strategic Plan for 2020-2011. The plan includes the vision, mission and purpose of the Commission as well as the three major goals of the MIC3. The Commission will continue to work on creating and implementing goals through its committees.

### Cases

While a few cases that states encounter are referred to the national office of the Commission, most questions are resolved locally and are about ensuring that students can access all school programs when the family moves. Mary shared examples of commuting cases handled this year. Issues are generally

resolved by the appropriate SLO and the local school system. If more assistance is needed, the State office should be contacted who will work with the local school system to attain a fair resolution. Since the goal of the Compact is to level the playing field for military students, resolutions are sought which serve the military student who faces multiple transfers while not creating special exemptions beyond those allowed in the Compact.

A discussion followed around the challenge that arise when a school or program admits students by lottery. Col. Spragg noted that the notice of orders typically is given to a military member in March, often after school systems have run lotteries for the coming year. Lottery issues can be complex, for the military family and the local school systems.

Col. Spragg spoke about how some military children feel isolated since many students in school already have relationships from their years together in the community. Mental health issues were discussed briefly. Flavia Watson, member of the State Council, contributed her expertise related to mental health to the discussion. There was a discussion of the importance of facilitating the transfer of students into a new school community; and a note about the risk that can be posed by a new student not fitting in. Dr. Alban discussed a Frederick County program called Amplify Student Voice in (Amplify) which students have learned to provide peer-to-peer support in their school communities. Lynne Muller (MSDE) noted that there is increased use of Restorative Circles to build classroom community, an approach considered an alternative to discipline, but one that has a broader role in building school community. Horace Franklin, SLO, shared information about his ambassador program.

Mary Gable noted that if a military spouse is an educator, he/she can get assistance in the transfer of the license from the MSDE Certification Office which prioritizes military requests.

#### Military Students/ MD report card

On December 3, 2019, the Maryland State Board of Education will release the second year of the new Maryland Report Card. Under the Federal Every Student Succeeds Act, there is now a military identifier in the student data.

#### Training

Horace Franklin, SLO, mentioned that educating school system staff about the needs of military families and the role of the SLO is ongoing. He asked for some input on reaching out to Directors of Student Services and School Counselors. Lynne offered to facilitate having this topic on the agenda of statewide meetings for these groups. The MSDE hosts meetings of school system staff twice a year and happy to include the topic.

#### Special Needs / Parent's Place

Rene Averett-Sanzone, Executive Director of Parents' Place attended and shared information with the group about the Parent's Place and its services, which focus on children with special needs. The program also does parent advocacy and training.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 am.