

**West Virginia Council for the Interstate Compact  
Educational Opportunity for Military Children  
Meeting Minutes  
January 12, 2024**

**Meeting Attendees:**

Phillip Cantrell (State Council Member)  
Michelle Blatt (State Council Member)  
Brittany Watson (State Council Member)  
Ryan Saxe (State Council Member) – via  
TEAMS  
Ryan Weld (State Council Member)

Robert Mellace (State Council Member)  
Chris Hendrix (DOD Representative) – via  
TEAMS  
Steven Queen (not a State Council Member)  
Electa Crowder (not a State Council  
Member)

- **Welcome, Roll Call and Introductions**
  - Mr. Mellace welcomed everyone to the meeting and conducted introductions.
- **Approval of Agenda/Minutes and Remarks from the State Compact Commissioner**
  - Mr. Cantrell asked for a motion to approve previous year's (1/17/23) meeting minutes and the current meeting's (1/12/24) agenda.
    - Brittany Watson made the motion
    - Michelle Blatt seconded the motion
    - Motion was carried
  - Mr. Cantrell provided opening remarks including thanking everyone for attending and their support. He shared his personal experience being in the military and how the Compact assisted his family each time they moved.
- **Remarks from State Superintendent of Schools**
  - Ms. Blatt shared how critical the Compact is to the work we do across the state. She is thankful that issues do not rise to the level of the Compact because our counties are proactive and take care of our students and families.
- **West Virginia Board of Education Career Readiness Goals**
  - The 3 E's – Education, Employment, or Enlistment
  - Caring for the whole child
  - Welcomes our military partners getting involved with schools
- **Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission (MIC3) Overview**
  - Mr. Mellace provided a brief overview of the Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission including who it is for and topics that are covered
    - A Compact Quick Fact Guide is available
    - The Importance of MIC3 in WV
      - Provides reassurance for service personnel that their children are taken care of both when entering and transferring out of WV
    - WV Approach

- Annual State Superintendent’s update message
  - Development of a brochure and guidance document for WV
  - WV Common Ground Partnership Activities
  - MIC3 Annual Business Meeting (ABM) Updates
    - Revisited the need for technical corrections to existing MIC3 Compact language – handout was provided.
      - Mr. Weld asked if the Legislature should run something to make the technical correction in WV’s State Code. He would be happy to sponsor a bill supporting the technical correction and assist. Mr. Mellace said he would send Mr. Weld the section of code and information for the technical correction from the national MIC3 office.
    - West Virginia’s best practices were highlighted at the national ABM.
  - West Virginia Case Update
 

• FY 2020 – 1	• FY2023 – 0
• FY2021 – 0	• FY2024 to date –
• FY2022 – 0 (1 inquiry)	0 (1 inquiry)
- **Common Ground Partnership Overview**
  - Supports MIC3 and WVBOE Career Readiness Goals
  - 20 Partnering Organizations and continuing interest
  - Started with the webpage and the Speakers Series
  - Grown to include
    - Purple Star Award – school and county
    - Purple Up Tool Kit – 4/15-19/2024 Spirit Week and 4/19/2024 Purple UP Day
    - Care Packages for Elementary School Educators in partnership with the WVNG
    - Military Signing Week – 4/24-28/2024
    - ASAVAB Mentor Request System and Self-help Resources
  - Common Ground Compact was last signed December 7, 2021. The Targeted Compact Re-Signing event is tentatively scheduled for November 2024.
- **Career Exploration for Students**
  - STEM Activity Brochure
  - WV National Guard in Education
    - Mr. Cantrell shared information on Mountaineer Challenge Academy (MCA), Future Leaders Program (FLP). Both programs are intended to be tools for educators to use to help students be successful.
  - Veteran Teacher Recruitment
    - Shared video message of Ms. Blatt encouraging retiring military service member to serve in WV schools.

- **Roundtable Discussion on MIC3 and the Common Ground Partnership**
  - Dr. Saxe complimented Mr. Mellace on how well put together the presentation is with useful information for schools and counties to use. Applauded the group for their support. Also, shared the resource of Varsity Tutoring, another free tutoring resource for the next 4 years.
  - Mr. Hendrix said on behalf of Admiral McCall, DOD representative, he applauds all that WV is doing and is proud to be a part of the group. He is excited about all the things WV is doing. Impressed with our state and what we do for our military members and families. He is going to request travel to WV during Military Signing Week. Dr. Saxe offered to host him at Huntington High School's military signing week event on Thursday, May 9, 2024.
- **Mr. Mellace shared closing remarks and the meeting was adjourned.**