



ARKANSAS STATE MIC3 COUNCIL

Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission

**ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
ARKANSAS STATE COUNCIL
OF THE
MILITARY INTERSTATE CHILDREN'S COMPACT COMMISSION
TO THE GOVERNOR
AND SENATE AND HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEES
COVERING ACADEMIC YEAR 2019-2020**

Executive Summary

Pursuant to the Arkansas Code Annotated (ACA) Section 6-4-305(f), the Arkansas State Council of the Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission (hereinafter Arkansas MIC3 Council, State Council, or Council and MIC3, respectively) hereby submits this report to the Governor of Arkansas and to the Education Committees of the Senate and House of Representatives of the Arkansas General Assembly.

This report covers the period from July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020. Because this Council is concerned with the support of children of military families enrolled in Arkansas public schools, that time period is referenced in this report as Academic Year 2019-2020, or AY 2019-2020.

ACA 6-4-305 requires this Council to report on the following areas (excerpted verbatim from ACA 6-4-305):

- (1) Information regarding the achievements of the State Council and public school districts regarding the support provided to military families under this subchapter;
- (2) Details of the reports regarding the compact in this state that are provided to the Military Interstate Children's Compact Council and actions taken by the Military Interstate Children's Compact Council that impact the state;
- (3) Details of cases and the outcomes of the cases brought to the State Council for resolution, in compliance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, 20 U.S.C. § 1232g, as it existed on January 1, 2019, and state student privacy laws;
- (4) Information regarding training that is provided to and completed by public school district personnel with respect to this subchapter;
- (5) Details regarding plans for future engagement efforts with military families under this subchapter; and
- (6) Any other information requested by parents and legal guardians of military families.

The Council has chosen to include a section of miscellaneous information, as well.

The Council has also decided to submit this report to the Commissioner of Education and the State Board of Education, and will submit this report to the MIC3 national office to satisfy the requirements of MIC3 Rule 2.102.

I. Achievements of the State Council and Public School Districts.

The achievements of the Council and public school districts during AY 2019-2020 have focused on implementing the changes brought about by Act 939 of 2019. A schedule of Council meetings and of subordinate groups committees and are at **Appendices A** and **B** respectively. Records of all meetings, including agendas, minutes, and materials discussed, are available online at <http://dese.ade.arkansas.gov/divisions/legal/military-families-and-veterans/meeting-agendaminutes>. Significant activities of the Council pertain holding the statutory Military Family Forum (pursuant to ACA 6-4-305), the organization of the Council, or recognition of schools.

- A. Military Family Forum. The State MIC3 Council had planned to hold two Military Family Fora during AY 2019-2020. The first was scheduled for April 4, 2020 at the Ebbing Air National Guard Station in

Fort Smith; the second was to be held at the Little Rock Air Force Base on April 11, 2020. Both events were to be held in conjunction with those installations' annual family day events. The COVID-19 pandemic caused the cancellation of both events. As a result, the Arkansas MIC3 Council decided to hold an on-line forum to be held on September 17, 2020.

- B. Organization of the State Council. During AY 2019-2020 the Council filled the several new positions created by Act 939 of the 2019 General Assembly. In July 2019 the Council selected Ms. April Cooper to serve as Military Family Education Liaison. The Council created a position of Vice Chair to be elected annually in March. At its March 2020 meeting the Council elected Ms. Andelyn Wright to serve as its first Vice Chair. The Council has also created four standing committees:

Awards Committee

Mission: To implement a program to recognize outstanding service to children of military families

Activities:

- Develop for the council's approval awards to recognize outstanding DMECs and appropriate recognition for departing council members
- Create a nomination process for awards
- Recommend to the council what the awards should include
- Oversee the Purple Star School award program

Military Family Forum Committee

Mission: To coordinate the council's military family forum.

Activities:

- Schedule the annual forum(s)
- Assign responsibilities for the events
- Coordinate publicity with the Outreach Committee
- Collect input received from families and prepare a report for the council

Outreach Committee

Mission: To coordinate the council's efforts to educate stakeholders about MIC3 and the state council, the operations of the council, and legal rights of children of military families in Arkansas.

Activities:

- Schedule opportunities to present to or meet with stakeholder groups on the council
- Develop promotional materials
- Oversee the council's social media accounts
- Coordinate activities for Month of the Military Child

Strategic Planning Committee

Mission: To develop and monitor implementation of the council's strategic plan

Activities:

- Develop for the council's approval a plan to advance the council's goals for the next three to five years
- Monitor the council's progress toward achieving its goals

- Update the plan periodically
- Develop for the council's approval its annual report to the governor and the House and Senate Education Committees

C. School Recognition. The Purple Star School Award is an honorary designation by the Council to recognize public schools that have met certain criteria to be considered military-friendly. The criteria and application process are available at <http://dese.ade.arkansas.gov/divisions/legal/military-families-and-veterans/purple-star-schools>

Currently 20 public schools have met the criteria. Additionally, the Cabot School District has been recognized as Arkansas' first Purple Star School district by having all schools within the district qualify for Purple Star School status.

II. Reports to the Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission and Actions Taken by the Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission.

The Council has decided to submit this report to MIC3 in fulfillment of ACA 6-4-305 and MIC3 Rule 2.102.

The only action taken by MIC3 during AY 2019-2020 is the re-election of Colonel (Retired) John Kaminar, Compact Commissioner for Arkansas and Chair of the Arkansas MIC3 Council, to a second one-year term as national chair of the MIC3.

III. Cases Brought to the State Council.

Typically cases are not addressed by the Council, but are addressed by the Compact Commissioner and/or Military Family Education Liaison. A matrix of cases addressed by the state Compact Commissioner or Military Family Education Liaison is at **Appendix C**.

IV. Training for Public School District Personnel.

It should be noted that ACA 6-4-309 assigns responsibility for training to the Arkansas Department of Education, not to the State Council. However, because the state Compact Commissioner/Council Chair and the Military Family Education Liaison are both staff members of the Arkansas Department of Education, training activities conducted by either of those staff members will be considered to have been conducted by the State Council. A schedule of training events conducted during AY 2019-2020 is at **Appendix D**.

V. Plans for Future Engagement.

During AY 2020-2021 the State Council will:

- A) Conduct at least one Military Family Forum, pursuant to ACA 6-4-305.

- B) Hold its regularly scheduled council meetings in various communities in order to facilitate attendance by members of the public.
- C) Initiate an outreach program through one or more social media platforms.
- D) Coordinate with the Arkansas Department of Education to conduct training statewide.
- E) Assist schools to become more military friendly through advancement of the Purple Star School program.

As the Council develops its strategic plan, more activities may be conducted.

VI. Other Information Requested by Parents and Legal Guardians of Military Families.

No requests to submit additional information have been received by the Arkansas MIC3 Council.

VII. Miscellaneous Information.

A table showing the number of children of military families who transferred into and out of Arkansas public schools during AY 2019-2020 is at **Appendix E**.

Point of contact for this information is John I. Kaminar, Military and Veterans Liaison, Arkansas Department of Education, Division of Elementary and Secondary Education, 501-683-5188, john.kaminar@arkansas.gov.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/

John I. Kaminar
Compact Commissioner for Arkansas and
State Council Chair

/s/

Andelyn Wright
State Council Vice Chair

Appendix A: Schedule of State Council Meetings During AY 2019-2020

DATE	GROUP	PURPOSE	LOCATION
July 16, 2019	State Council	Regular Meeting	Little Rock
September 17, 2019	State Council	Regular Meeting	Little Rock
November 12, 2019	State Council	Regular Meeting	Little Rock
January 14, 2020	State Council	Regular Meeting	Little Rock
February 21, 2020	State Council	Special Meeting to Consider Purple Star School Applications	Conference Call
March 17, 2020	State Council	Regular Meeting	Conference Call
March 23, 2020	State Council	Special Meeting to Discuss Month of the Military Child and the Military Family Forum	Conference Call
May 12, 2020	State Council	Regular Meeting	Conference Call

Appendix B: Schedule of Meetings of Committees and Subordinate Groups During AY 2019-2020

DATE	GROUP	PURPOSE	LOCATION
November 12, 2019	Ad Hoc Military Family Forum Committee	Special Meeting to Discuss the Military Family Forum	Little Rock
January 3, 2020	State Installation Representatives	Special Meeting Called by the Adjutant General	Camp Robinson
April 29, 2020	Military Family Forum Committee	Special Meeting to Discuss the Military Family Forum	Conference Call
May 8, 2020	Military Family Forum Committee	Special Meeting to Discuss the Military Family Forum	Conference Call
May 27, 2020	Strategic Planning Committee	Regular Meeting	Zoom Meeting
June 3, 2020	Awards Committee	Regular Meeting	
June 4, 2020	Outreach Committee Meeting	Regular Meeting	Zoom Meeting
June 10, 2020	Military Family Forum Committee	Regular Meeting	

Appendix C: Summaries of Cases Brought to State Level During AY 2019-2020

CASE #	DATE INITIATED	DATE CONCLUDED	DESCRIPTION OF THE ISSUE	APPLICABLE STATE LAW OR COMPACT ARTICLE	OUTCOME
19-01	Aug 1, 2019	Aug 2, 2019	School for which an incoming 6 th grader was zoned was full. District informed parents that the student would be bussed to an overflow school within the district. Parents requested assistance to keep the student in the overflow school.	None	School district is in compliance with the law. The family has agreed to accept the overflow school.
19-02	Aug 9, 2019	Aug 12, 2019	Military family retiring in Arkansas wished to enroll their child in a different school district under the school choice provision.	None	DESE Military Family Education Liaison that a desegregation order prevented the family from being able to exercise school choice.
19-03	Aug 9, 2019	Aug 12, 2019	Arkansas military family on active duty in another state had difficulty getting their child's records sent from the private school in Arkansas to the public school in the new state.	None	DESE's Military-Veterans Liaison contacted the private school, which agreed to send the records directly to the new school out of state.
19-04	Aug 9, 2019	Aug 12, 2019	Arkansas military family on active duty in another state had difficulty getting their child's records sent from the private school in Arkansas to the public school in the new state.	None	DESE's Military-Veterans Liaison contacted the private school, which agreed to send the records directly to the new school out of state.
19-05	Aug 13, 2019	Aug 13, 2019	District replaced IEP with a 504 plan; requiring student to take an additional science course.	Articles V, VII	Compact Commissioner contacted DMEC in Cabot, who resolved the issue.

Appendix D: AY 2019-2020 Training Activities

DATE	LOCATION	SUBJECT/CONTENT	# OF ATTENDEES	PRESENTERS
Jun 19, 2019*	Hot Springs	District Military Education Coordinator Training	13	J. Kaminar
July 9, 2019	Little Rock	District Military Education Coordinator Training	24	J. Kaminar
Jul 31, 2019	Little Rock	District Military Education Coordinator Training	12	J. Kaminar
Sep 10, 2019	Guy Fenter Education Services Cooperative	District Military Education Coordinator Training	9	A. Cooper, J. Kaminar
Sep 19, 2019	Bryant	District Military Education Coordinator Training, Introduction to MIC3	11	J. Kaminar
Oct 15, 2019	Fort Smith (Ebbing Air National Guard Station)	Orientation to the Interstate Compact	9	J. Kaminar
Oct 17, 2019	Little Rock	District Military Education Coordinator Training, Orientation to the Interstate Compact	7	A. Cooper, J. Kaminar
Nov 13, 2019	Little Rock	District Military Education Coordinator Training, Orientation to the Interstate Compact	7	A. Cooper, J. Kaminar
Dec 12, 2019	Little Rock (ArSBA Conference)	Is Your District Military Friendly?	12	A. Cooper, J. Kaminar
Jan 14, 2020	Jacksonville (Little Rock Air Force Base)	Orientation to the Interstate Compact	9	J. Kaminar, T. Williams
Jan 27, 2020	Little Rock (eSTEM High School)	District Military Education Coordinator Training, Orientation to the Interstate Compact	28	J. Kaminar

*This event falls outside of AY 2019-2020, but is included here because it was the first training event conducted to implement Act 939 of the 2019 General Assembly.

**Appendix E: Children of Military Families Transferring Into and Out of Arkansas Public Schools
During AY 2019-2020, By Branch and Component of Service**

BRANCH AND COMPONENT OF SERVICE	# OF CHILDREN OF MILITARY FAMILIES WHO TRANSFERRED OUT OF ARKANSAS PUBLIC SCHOOLS	# OF CHILDREN OF MILITARY FAMILIES WHO TRANSFERRED INTO ARKANSAS PUBLIC SCHOOLS
AIR FORCE	163	19
AIR FORCE RESERVE	16	4
AIR NATIONAL GUARD	18	0
ARMY	67	23
ARMY NATIONAL GUARD	21	7
ARMY RESERVE	14	3
COAST GUARD	0	1
MARINE CORPS	7	2
MARINE CORPS RESERVE	1	0
NAVY	14	7
NAVY RESERVE	1	0
PARENTS IN MULTIPLE BRANCHES OF SERVICE	3	0
TOTAL	325	66

Data provided by the Arkansas Department of Education Data Center as of May 21, 2020.