



# ARKANSAS STATE MIC3 COUNCIL

## Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission

### AGENDA

#### ARKANSAS STATE COUNCIL OF THE MILITARY INTERSTATE CHILDREN'S COMPACT COMMISSION

Tuesday, March 17, 2020

10:00 A.M.

~~Ebbing Air National Guard Station~~

~~Family Support Squadron Headquarters, Building 188, Room 103~~

~~Fort Smith, Arkansas~~

**DUE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC, THIS MEETING WILL BE HELD BY TELECONFERENCE/  
WEB-BASED CONFERENCING ONLY**

Log On To: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/121084669>

Call In To: (312) 757-3121, Access Code: 121-084-669

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- I. Call to Order and Roll Call
  - II. Approval of Agenda\*\*\*
  - III. Introduction of New Members and Guests
  - IV. Approval of Minutes (January 2020 and February 2020)\*\*\*
  - V. Chair's Report
    - A. Student Cases
    - B. Update on Implementation of Act 939
  - VI. Reports by Committees, Task Forces, or Liaisons
    - A. Department of Defense Liaison (Col. D. Floyd)
    - B. Ad Hoc Committee on Military Family Forum (B. Harris-Ritter)
  - VII. Old Business
    - A. Status of Appointees
    - B. Statewide Outreach
    - C. Strategic Planning
    - D. Twitter Account for State Council (Postponed)
  - VIII. New Business
    - A. Election of a State Council Vice Chair\*\*\*
    - B. Creation of Standing Committees (Outreach, Forum, Awards, Strategic Planning) \*\*\*
    - C. Month of the Military Child
  - IX. Public Comments
  - X. Date/Time/Place for Next Meeting – May 12, 2020, 10:00 AM, Location TBD
  - XI. Adjournment\*\*\*

\*\*\* Indicates a vote is required



# ARKANSAS STATE MIC3 COUNCIL

## Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission

### MEETING MINUTES

#### ARKANSAS STATE COUNCIL OF THE MILITARY INTERSTATE CHILDREN'S COMPACT COMMISSION

Tuesday, March 17, 2020

10:00 A.M.

Teleconference/Web-Based Conferencing

#### **I. Call to Order and Roll Call**

The Arkansas State Council of the Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission (Council) met Tuesday, March 17, 2020, via teleconference/web-based conferencing. Chair John Kaminar called the meeting to order at 10:00 A.M.

##### PRESENT:

Mr. John Kaminar (Chair)  
Ms. Amy Arnone  
Ms. Jody Bergstrom  
Mr. Shawn Cook (MFEL)  
Ms. April Cooper  
Mr. Brian Melton  
Mr. Erasmo Reyes  
Ms. Tanya Sharp (Proxy for Dr. Debbie Jones)  
Dr. Janice Walker  
Ms. Terri Williams  
Ms. Andelyn Wright

##### EXCUSED:

Ms. Bilenda Harris-Ritter  
Dr. Kerry Schneider  
Mr. Lance Taylor

##### ABSENT:

Rep. Bruce Cozart  
Dr. Bryan Duffie  
Sen. Jane English  
Col. Derrick Floyd (DOD Liaison)  
Ms. Lenisha Roberts  
Dr. Tony Thurman

#### **II. Approval of Agenda**

Ms. Bergstrom moved, seconded by Mr. Cook, to approve adoption of the meeting agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **III. Introduction of New Members and Guests**

Mr. Kaminar introduced new members to the Council. Mr. Shawn Cook, Lakeside School District, is the superintendent from the school district in the 4<sup>th</sup> congressional district with the most military-connected students. Ms. Amy Arnone, Jacksonville North Pulaski School District, is the Governor's appointee for the state-at-large. Ms. Tanya Sharp is serving as proxy for Dr. Debbie Jones.

**IV. Approval of Minutes (January 2020 and February 2020)**

The January and February 2020 meeting minutes were reviewed by Council members. There were no corrections. Ms. Sharp moved, seconded by Dr. Walker, to approve the adoption of the meeting minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

**V. Chair's Report**

**A. Student Cases**

Mr. Kaminar said there have been no new student cases.

**B. Update on Implementation of Act 939**

Mr. Kaminar said the Governor's Office has approved the rules to be released for public comment. The Division of Elementary and Secondary Education will publish a Commissioner's Memo with more information regarding the public comment time period.

**VI. Reports by Committees, Task Forces, or Liaisons**

**A. Department of Defense Liaison (Col. D. Floyd)**

There was no report.

**B. Ad Hoc Committee on Military Family Forum (B. Harris-Ritter)**

Mr. Kaminar reported on Ms. Harris-Ritter's behalf that the Ad Hoc Committee meeting which was to follow the meeting of the full Council has been postponed and will be rescheduled for a later time. Family Fest at the Ebbing Air National Guard Station has been postponed and there is no new date yet. It is also uncertain whether the Little Rock Air Force Base's Family Fest will be postponed or otherwise cancelled at this time.

Mr. Kaminar asked the Council members to consider whether the Military Family Forum needed to be held in a different way or if the Council would rather wait to see when the Family Fests are rescheduled to a different date. He noted that all in-person gatherings would be dependent on the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic situation. Ms. Williams suggested the July 4<sup>th</sup> Liberty Fest as a possibility; however, Mr. Kaminar noted that the date would be considered outside of the time frame for the Council to meet the requirement during. Ms. Bergstrom said they have an annual event in June at Fort Chaffee and all soldiers are required to visit all booths. Mr. Kaminar said summer events may not have good attendance, but would be possibilities.

Mr. Kaminar said the Council will meet via conference call in a couple weeks to make decisions regarding next steps. He will email a Doodle poll to determine Council availability.

Dr. Walker joined the meeting, creating a quorum. The Council members were able to vote on previous agenda items for the meeting.

**VII. Old Business**

**A. Status of Appointees**

Mr. Kaminar said all Council member spots had been filled for the present. This item will not appear on future agendas unless otherwise required.

## **B. Statewide Outreach**

Mr. Kaminar said there was an event at Little Rock Air Force Base on January 14, 2020, for parents to learn more about the interstate compacts. Approximately 12 parents attended. On April 17 and May 7, 2020 there are trainings scheduled for Military Education Coordinators. Future trainings will be COVID-19 situationally dependent. Mr. Kaminar and Ms. Williams were invited to a Texas education summit scheduled for April 8, 2020, to show Texas what a strong MIC3 council looks and acts like. Their attendance at this summit is also COVID-19 situationally dependent.

## **C. Strategic Planning**

Mr. Kaminar said that some ideas have been added by Council members to the Google Sheet for strategic planning. He encouraged everyone to continue posting all ideas for the Council for future discussion.

## **D. Twitter Account for State Council (Postponed)**

This item was not discussed.

# **VIII. New Business**

## **A. Election of a State Council Vice Chair**

Mr. Kaminar opened the floor for nominations for Vice Chair for a one year term. He stated that Ms. Harris-Ritter had contacted him earlier in the day via e-mail to request that Ms. Bergstrom be nominated. Dr. Walker nominated Ms. Bergstrom; however, Ms. Bergstrom declined the nomination. Ms. Bergstrom nominated Ms. Wright.

Mr. Cook moved, seconded by Ms. Arnone, to close the nomination period. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Bergstrom moved, seconded by Dr. Walker, to not hold an online vote for Vice-Chair since there was only one nominee, and to accept Ms. Wright as the first Vice-Chair for a one-year term. The motion passed unanimously.

## **B. Creation of Standing Committees (Outreach, Forum, Awards, Strategic Planning)**

Council members reviewed Mr. Kaminar's proposal to create four standing committees for the following topics: Outreach, Military Family Forum, Awards, and Strategic Planning. Mr. Kaminar said that Act 939 of 2019 has given the Council broader responsibilities and more members who can help in fulfilling the responsibilities. He noted that having a Vice-Chair will help; however, having standing committees will help to expand the leadership abilities of the Council.

Dr. Walker moved, seconded by Ms. Bergstrom, to accept the proposal as written. There was some discussion about the logistics of how to create the standing committees. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Bergstrom suggested creating an online form on which Council members could express their interest in specific committees. Ms. Wright suggested using a Google application to see updates to the document in real time. It was suggested that if one committee was particularly full, then the Council could discuss what to do at that time.

Dr. Walker moved, seconded by Ms. Wright, to create a Google document to be used for Council members to sign up for the standing committee(s) of their choice. The motion passed unanimously and Mr. Kaminar said he would keep the document open for submissions until the next meeting.

**C. Month of the Military Child**

Mr. Kaminar noted that the national MIC3 office staff has included Arkansas' celebration ideas document from last year in their toolkit. He also asked Council members to brainstorm ideas for celebrating Month of the Military Child. He said the current pandemic situation will potentially make in-person celebrations difficult. Dr. Walker said the group needs to consider what online celebration options there are so the April celebrations are not missed. Mr. Cook suggested that the school districts could share out social media posts. Mr. Kaminar and Ms. Wright will work together to come up with a proposal and said the full Council can discuss more options at the teleconference to be held in a couple of weeks.

**IX. Public Comments**

Col. Don Berry was recognized. He said he was impressed with the direction the Council is now headed. He noted that the Veterans' Coalition has been interested in widening the reach of the Council and he is glad for the larger group. Col. Berry suggested opening any strategic planning sessions to the Military Education Coordinators for their input. He also mentioned a document of suggestions which he had just emailed to Mr. Kaminar. He noted that the Council could learn a lot from reviewing elevated student cases. Col. Berry noted that Ms. Wright was a great choice for Vice-Chair.

**X. Date/Time/Place for Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held at 10:00 A.M. on May 12, 2020. The location of the meeting is to be determined. Mr. Kaminar suggested that the Council look into meeting outside of Central Arkansas occasionally and asked Council members to email him if they are interested in hosting a meeting.

Mr. Kaminar also asked Council members to review their information for the Council webpage. He said he would email a link to a Google sheet for their review and approval.

**XI. Adjournment**

Mr. Cook moved, seconded by Ms. Bergstrom, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 11:06 A.M.

**2020 MILITARY FAMILY FORUM  
RESPONSIBILITIES**

<b>NAME</b>	<b>APRIL 4</b>	<b>APRIL 11</b>	<b>EQUIPMENT</b>	<b>SUPPLIES</b>	<b>NOTES</b>
Bergstrom	Yes		Laptop		
Cooper		Yes	Laptop		
Harris-Ritter	Yes	Yes		Paper Forms	
Kaminar	Yes	Yes	Laptop, Mobile Hot Spot, Banner		Public Meeting Notice
Walker	Yes	Yes			
Williams		Yes			
Wright	Yes	Yes	Laptop		

**A.C.A. § 6-4-301 – 6-4-309**

**6-4-301. Title.**

This subchapter is known and may be cited as the "Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children".

History - Acts 2013, No. 146, § 1.

**6-4-302. Adoption of compact.**

The Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children is enacted into law and entered into with all other jurisdictions legally joining in this compact in the form substantially as follows:

**Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children**

**ARTICLE I PURPOSE**

It is the purpose of this compact to remove barriers to educational success imposed on children of military families because of frequent moves and deployment of their parents by:

- A.** Facilitating the timely enrollment of children of military families and ensuring that they are not placed at a disadvantage due to difficulty in the transfer of education records from the previous school district(s) or variations in entrance/age requirements.
- B.** Facilitating the student placement process through which children of military families are not disadvantaged by variations in attendance requirements, scheduling, sequencing, grading, course content or assessment.
- C.** Facilitating the qualification and eligibility for enrollment, educational programs, and participation in extracurricular academic, athletic, and social activities.
- D.** Facilitating the on-time graduation of children of military families.
- E.** Providing for the adoption and enforcement of administrative rules implementing the provisions of this compact.
- F.** Providing for the uniform collection and sharing of information between and among member states, schools and military families under this compact.
- G.** Promoting coordination between this compact and other compacts affecting military children.
- H.** Promoting flexibility and cooperation between the educational system, parents and the student in order to achieve educational success for the student.

**ARTICLE II DEFINITIONS**

As used in this compact, unless the context clearly requires a different construction:

- A.** "Active duty" means: full-time duty status in the active uniformed service of the United States,

including members of the National Guard and Reserve on active duty orders pursuant to 10 U.S.C. Section 1209 and 1211.

- B.** "Children of military families" means: a school-aged child(ren), enrolled in Kindergarten through Twelfth (12th) grade, in the household of an active duty member.
- C.** "Compact commissioner" means: the voting representative of each compacting state appointed pursuant to Article VIII of this compact.
- D.** "Deployment" means: the period one (1) month prior to the service members' departure from their home station on military orders though six (6) months after return to their home station.
- E.** "Education(al) records" means: those official records, files, and data directly related to a student and maintained by the school or local education agency, including but not limited to records encompassing all the material kept in the student's cumulative folder such as general identifying data, records of attendance and of academic work completed, records of achievement and results of evaluative tests, health data, disciplinary status, test protocols, and individualized education programs.
- F.** "Extracurricular activities" means: a voluntary activity sponsored by the school or local education agency or an organization sanctioned by the local education agency. Extracurricular activities include, but are not limited to, preparation for and involvement in public performances, contests, athletic competitions, demonstrations, displays, and club activities.
- G.** "Interstate Commission on Educational Opportunity for Military Children" means: the commission that is created under Article IX of this compact, which is generally referred to as Interstate Commission.
- H.** "Local education agency" means: a public authority legally constituted by the state as an administrative agency to provide control of and direction for Kindergarten through Twelfth (12th) grade public educational institutions.
- I.** "Member state" means: a state that has enacted this compact.
- J.** "Military installation" means: a base, camp, post, station, yard, center, homeport facility for any ship, or other activity under the jurisdiction of the Department of Defense, including any leased facility, which is located within any of the several States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Northern Marianas Islands and any other U.S. Territory. Such term does not include any facility used primarily for civil works, rivers and harbors projects, or flood control projects.
- K.** "Non-member state" means: a state that has not enacted this compact.
- L.** "Receiving state" means: the state to which a child of a military family is sent, brought, or caused to be sent or brought.
- M.** "Rule" means: a written statement by the Interstate Commission promulgated pursuant to Article XII of this compact that is of general applicability, implements, interprets or prescribes a policy or provision of

the Compact, or an organizational, procedural, or practice requirement of the Interstate Commission, and has the force and effect of rules promulgated under the Arkansas Administrative Procedure Act, § 25-15-201 et seq., or any successor law, and includes the amendment, repeal, or suspension of an existing rule.

**N.** "Sending state" means: the state from which a child of a military family is sent, brought, or caused to be sent or brought.

**O.** "State" means: a state of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the

U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Northern Marianas Islands and any other U.S. Territory.

**P.** "Student" means: the child of a military family for whom the local education agency receives public funding and who is formally enrolled in Kindergarten through Twelfth (12th) grade.

**Q.** "Transition" means: 1) the formal and physical process of transferring from school to school or 2) the period of time in which a student moves from one school in the sending state to another school in the receiving state.

**R.** "Uniformed service(s)" means: the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard as well as the Commissioned Corps of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and Public Health Services.

**S.** "Veteran" means: a person who served in the uniformed services and who was discharged or released there from under conditions other than dishonorable.

### **ARTICLE III APPLICABILITY**

**A.** Except as otherwise provided in Section B, this compact shall apply to the children of:

- 1.** active duty members of the uniformed services as defined in this compact, including members of the National Guard and Reserve on active duty orders pursuant to 10 U.S.C. Section 1209 and 1211;
- 2.** members or veterans of the uniformed services who are severely injured and medically discharged or retired for a period of one (1) year after medical discharge or retirement; and
- 3.** members of the uniformed services who die on active duty or as a result of injuries sustained on active duty for a period of one (1) year after death.

**B.** The provisions of this interstate compact shall only apply to local education agencies as defined in this compact.

**C.** The provisions of this compact shall not apply to the children of:

- 1.** inactive members of the national guard and military reserves;
- 2.** members of the uniformed services now retired, except as provided in Section A;
- 3.** veterans of the uniformed services, except as provided in Section A; and
- 4.** other U.S. Dept. of Defense personnel and other federal agency civilian and contract employees not

defined as active duty members of the uniformed services.

#### **ARTICLE IV EDUCATIONAL RECORDS & ENROLLMENT**

**A.** Unofficial or "hand-carried" education records -- In the event that official education records cannot be released to the parents for the purpose of transfer, the custodian of the records in the sending state shall prepare and furnish to the parent a complete set of unofficial educational records containing uniform information as determined by the Interstate Commission. Upon receipt of the unofficial education records by a school in the receiving state, the school shall enroll and appropriately place the student based on the information provided in the unofficial records pending validation by the official records, as quickly as possible to the extent feasible.

**B.** Official education records/transcripts -- Simultaneous with the enrollment and conditional placement of the student, the school in the receiving state shall request the student's official education record from the school in the sending state. Upon receipt of this request, the school in the sending state will process and furnish the official education records to the school in the receiving state within ten (10) days or within such time as is reasonably determined under the rules promulgated by the Interstate Commission.

**C.** Immunizations -- Compacting states shall give thirty (30) days from the date of enrollment or within such time as is reasonably determined under the rules promulgated by the Interstate Commission, for students to obtain any immunization(s) required by the receiving state. For a series of immunizations, initial vaccinations must be obtained within thirty (30) days or within such time as is reasonably determined under the rules promulgated by the Interstate Commission.

**D.** Kindergarten and First grade entrance age -- Students shall be allowed to continue their enrollment at grade level in the receiving state commensurate with their grade level (including Kindergarten) from a local education agency in the sending state at the time of transition, regardless of age. A student that has satisfactorily completed the prerequisite grade level in the local education agency in the sending state shall be eligible for enrollment in the next highest grade level in the receiving state, regardless of age. A student transferring after the start of the school year in the receiving state shall enter the school in the receiving state on their validated level from an accredited school in the sending state.

#### **ARTICLE V PLACEMENT & ATTENDANCE**

**A.** Course placement -- When the student transfers before or during the school year, the receiving state school shall initially honor placement of the student in educational courses based on the student's enrollment in the sending state school and/or educational assessments conducted at the school in the sending state if the courses are offered and there is space available, as determined by the school district.

Course placement includes but is not limited to Honors, International Baccalaureate, Advanced Placement, vocational, technical and career pathways courses. Continuing the student's academic program from the previous school and promoting placement in academically and career challenging courses should be paramount when considering placement. This does not preclude the school in the receiving state from performing subsequent evaluations to ensure appropriate placement and continued enrollment of the student in the course(s).

**B.** Educational program placement -- The receiving state school shall initially honor placement of the student in educational programs based on current educational assessments conducted at the school in the sending state or participation/placement in like programs in the sending state provided that the program exists in the school and there is space available, as determined by the school district. Such programs include, but are not limited to: 1) gifted and talented programs; and 2) English as a second language (ESL). This does not preclude the school in the receiving state from performing subsequent evaluations to ensure appropriate placement of the student.

**C.** Special education services.

**1)** In compliance with the federal requirements of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), 20

U.S.C.A. Section 1400 et seq, the receiving state shall initially provide comparable services to a student with disabilities based on his/her current Individualized Education Program (IEP); and

**2)** In compliance with the requirements of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, 29 U.S.C.A. Section 794, and with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, 42 U.S.C.A. Sections 12131-12165, the receiving state shall make reasonable accommodations and modifications to address the needs of incoming students with disabilities, subject to an existing 504 or Title II Plan, to provide the student with equal access to education. This does not preclude the school in the receiving state from performing subsequent evaluations to ensure appropriate placement of the student.

**D.** Placement flexibility -- Local education agency administrative officials shall have flexibility in waiving course/program prerequisites, or other preconditions for placement in courses/programs offered under the jurisdiction of the local education agency.

**E.** Absence as related to deployment activities -- A student whose parent or legal guardian is an active duty member of the uniformed services, as defined by the compact, and has been called to duty for, is on leave from, or immediately returned from deployment to a combat zone or combat support posting, shall be granted additional excused absences at the discretion of the local education agency superintendent to visit with his or her parent or legal guardian relative to such leave or deployment of the parent or guardian.

## **ARTICLE VI ELIGIBILITY**

### **A. Eligibility for enrollment**

- 1.** Special power of attorney, relative to the guardianship of a child of a military family and executed under applicable law shall be sufficient for the purposes of enrollment and all other actions requiring parental participation and consent.
- 2.** A local education agency shall be prohibited from charging local tuition to a transitioning military child placed in the care of a non-custodial parent or other person standing in loco parentis who lives in a jurisdiction other than that of the custodial parent.
- 3.** A transitioning military child, placed in the care of a non-custodial parent or other person standing in loco parentis who lives in a jurisdiction other than that of the custodial parent, may continue to attend the school in which he/she was enrolled while residing with the custodial parent.

**B.** Eligibility for extracurricular participation -- State and local education agencies shall facilitate the opportunity for transitioning military children's inclusion in extracurricular activities, regardless of application deadlines, to the extent they are otherwise qualified.

## **ARTICLE VII GRADUATION**

In order to facilitate the on-time graduation of children of military families states and local education agencies shall incorporate the following procedures:

**A.** Waiver requirements -- Local education agency administrative officials shall waive specific courses required for graduation if similar course work has been satisfactorily completed in another local education agency or shall provide reasonable justification for denial. Should a waiver not be granted to a student who would qualify to graduate from the sending school, the local education agency shall provide an alternative means of acquiring required coursework so that graduation may occur on time.

**B.** Exit exams -- States shall accept: 1) Exit or end-of-course exams required for graduation from the sending state; or 2) National norm-referenced achievement tests; or 3) Alternative testing, in lieu of testing requirements for graduation in the receiving state. In the event the above alternatives cannot be accommodated by the receiving state for a student transferring in his or her senior year, then the provisions of Article VII, Section C shall apply.

**C.** Transfers during Senior year -- Should a military student transferring at the beginning or during his or her Senior year be ineligible to graduate from the receiving local education agency after all alternatives have been considered, the sending and receiving local education agencies shall ensure the receipt of a diploma from the sending local education agency, if the student meets the graduation requirements of the sending local education agency. In the event that one of the states in question is not a member of this

compact, the member state shall use best efforts to facilitate the on-time graduation of the student in accordance with Sections A and B of this Article.

#### **ARTICLE VIII STATE COORDINATION**

- A.** Each member state shall, through the creation of a State Council or use of an existing body or board, provide for the coordination among its agencies of government, local education agencies and military installations concerning the state's participation in, and compliance with, this compact and Interstate Commission activities. While each member state may determine the membership of its own State Council, its membership must include at least: the state superintendent of education or his or her designee, superintendent of a school district with a high concentration of military children, representative from a military installation, one representative each from the legislative and executive branches of government, and other offices and stakeholder groups the State Council deems appropriate. A member state that does not have a school district deemed to contain a high concentration of military children may appoint a superintendent from another school district to represent local education agencies on the State Council.
- B.** The State Council of each member state shall appoint or designate a military family education liaison to assist military families and the state in facilitating the implementation of this compact.
- C.** The compact commissioner responsible for the administration and management of the state's participation in the compact shall be appointed by the Governor or as otherwise determined by each member state.
- D.** The compact commissioner and the military family education liaison designated herein shall be ex-officio members of the State Council, unless either is already a full voting member of the State Council.

#### **ARTICLE IX INTERSTATE COMMISSION ON EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY FOR MILITARY CHILDREN**

The member states hereby create the "Interstate Commission on Educational Opportunity for Military Children." The activities of the Interstate Commission are the formation of public policy and are a discretionary state function. The Interstate Commission shall:

- A.** Be a body corporate and joint agency of the member states and shall have all the responsibilities, powers and duties set forth herein, and such additional powers as may be conferred upon it by a subsequent concurrent action of the respective legislatures of the member states in accordance with the terms of this compact.
- B.** Consist of one Interstate Commission voting representative from each member state who shall be that state's compact commissioner.
  - 1.** Each member state represented at a meeting of the Interstate Commission is entitled to one vote.

- 2.** A majority of the total member states shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, unless a larger quorum is required by the bylaws of the Interstate Commission.
- 3.** A representative shall not delegate a vote to another member state. In the event the compact commissioner is unable to attend a meeting of the Interstate Commission, the Governor or State Council may delegate voting authority to another person from their state for a specified meeting.
- 4.** The bylaws may provide for meetings of the Interstate Commission to be conducted by telecommunication or electronic communication.
- C.** Consist of ex-officio, non-voting representatives who are members of interested organizations. Such ex-officio members, as defined in the bylaws, may include but not be limited to, members of the representative organizations of military family advocates, local education agency officials, parent and teacher groups, the U.S. Department of Defense, the Education Commission of the States, the Interstate Agreement on the Qualification of Educational Personnel and other interstate compacts affecting the education of children of military members.
- D.** Meet at least once each calendar year. The chairperson may call additional meetings and, upon the request of a simple majority of the member states, shall call additional meetings.
- E.** Establish an executive committee, whose members shall include the officers of the Interstate Commission and such other members of the Interstate Commission as determined by the bylaws. Members of the executive committee shall serve a one year term. Members of the executive committee shall be entitled to one vote each. The executive committee shall have the power to act on behalf of the Interstate Commission, with the exception of rulemaking, during periods when the Interstate Commission is not in session. The executive committee shall oversee the day-to-day activities of the administration of the compact including enforcement and compliance with the provisions of the compact, its bylaws and rules, and other such duties as deemed necessary. The U.S. Dept. of Defense, shall serve as an ex-officio, nonvoting member of the executive committee.
- F.** Establish bylaws and rules that provide for conditions and procedures under which the Interstate Commission shall make its information and official records available to the public for inspection or copying. The Interstate Commission may exempt from disclosure information or official records to the extent they would adversely affect personal privacy rights or proprietary interests.
- G.** Public notice shall be given by the Interstate Commission of all meetings and all meetings shall be open to the public, except as set forth in the rules or as otherwise provided in the compact. The Interstate Commission and its committees may close a meeting, or portion thereof, where it determines by two-thirds vote that an open meeting would be likely to:
  - 1.** Relate solely to the Interstate Commission's internal personnel practices and procedures;
  - 2.** Disclose matters specifically exempted from disclosure by federal and state statute;

3. Disclose trade secrets or commercial or financial information that is privileged or confidential;
  4. Involve accusing a person of a crime, or formally censuring a person;
  5. Disclose information of a personal nature where disclosure would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy;
  6. Disclose investigative records compiled for law enforcement purposes; or
  7. Specifically relate to the Interstate Commission's participation in a civil action or other legal proceeding.
- H. For a meeting, or portion of a meeting, closed pursuant to this provision, the Interstate Commission's legal counsel or designee shall certify that the meeting may be closed and shall reference each relevant exemptible provision. The Interstate Commission shall keep minutes that shall fully and clearly describe all matters discussed in a meeting and shall provide a full and accurate summary of actions taken, and the reasons therefore, including a description of the views expressed and the record of a roll call vote. All documents considered in connection with an action shall be identified in such minutes. All minutes and documents of a closed meeting shall remain under seal, subject to release by a majority vote of the Interstate Commission.
- I. The Interstate Commission shall collect standardized data concerning the educational transition of the children of military families under this compact as directed through its rules that shall specify the data to be collected, the means of collection and data exchange and reporting requirements. Such methods of data collection, exchange and reporting shall, in so far as is reasonably possible, conform to current technology and coordinate its information functions with the appropriate custodian of records as identified in the bylaws and rules.
- J. The Interstate Commission shall create a process that permits military officials, education officials and parents to inform the Interstate Commission if and when there are alleged violations of the compact or its rules or when issues subject to the jurisdiction of the compact or its rules are not addressed by the state or local education agency. This section shall not be construed to create a private right of action against the Interstate Commission or any member state.

## **ARTICLE X POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE INTERSTATE COMMISSION**

The Interstate Commission shall have the following powers:

- A. To provide for dispute resolution among member states.
- B. To promulgate rules and take all necessary actions to effect the goals, purposes and obligations as enumerated in this compact. The rules shall have the force and effect of rules promulgated under the Arkansas Administrative Procedure Act, § 25-15-201 et seq., or any successor law, and shall be binding in the compact states to the extent and in the manner provided in this compact.

- C.** To issue, upon request of a member state, advisory opinions concerning the meaning or interpretation of the interstate compact, its bylaws, rules and actions.
- D.** To enforce compliance with the compact provisions, the rules promulgated by the Interstate Commission, and the bylaws, using all necessary and proper means, including but not limited to the use of judicial process.
- E.** To establish and maintain offices that shall be located within one or more of the member states.
- F.** To purchase and maintain insurance and bonds.
- G.** To borrow, accept, hire or contract for services of personnel.
- H.** To establish and appoint committees including, but not limited to, an executive committee as required by Article IX, Section E, which shall have the power to act on behalf of the Interstate Commission in carrying out its powers and duties hereunder.
- I.** To elect or appoint such officers, attorneys, employees, agents, or consultants, and to fix their compensation, define their duties and determine their qualifications; and to establish the Interstate Commission's personnel policies and programs relating to conflicts of interest, rates of compensation, and qualifications of personnel.
- J.** To accept any and all donations and grants of money, equipment, supplies, materials, and services, and to receive, utilize, and dispose of it.
- K.** To lease, purchase, accept contributions or donations of, or otherwise to own, hold, improve or use any property, real, personal, or mixed.
- L.** To sell, convey, mortgage, pledge, lease, exchange, abandon, or otherwise dispose of any property, real, personal or mixed.
- M.** To establish a budget and make expenditures.
- N.** To adopt a seal and bylaws governing the management and operation of the Interstate Commission.
- O.** To report annually to the legislatures, governors, judiciary, and state councils of the member states concerning the activities of the Interstate Commission during the preceding year. Such reports shall also include any recommendations that may have been adopted by the Interstate Commission.
- P.** To coordinate education, training and public awareness regarding the compact, its implementation and operation for officials and parents involved in such activity.
- Q.** To establish uniform standards for the reporting, collecting and exchanging of data.
- R.** To maintain corporate books and records in accordance with the bylaws.
- S.** To perform such functions as may be necessary or appropriate to achieve the purposes of this compact.
- T.** To provide for the uniform collection and sharing of information between and among member states, schools and military families under this compact.

## **ARTICLE XI ORGANIZATION AND OPERATION OF THE INTERSTATE COMMISSION**

**A.** The Interstate Commission shall, by a majority of the members present and voting, within 12 months after the first Interstate Commission meeting, adopt bylaws to govern its conduct as may be necessary or appropriate to carry out the purposes of the compact, including, but not limited to:

- 1.** Establishing the fiscal year of the Interstate Commission;
- 2.** Establishing an executive committee, and such other committees as may be necessary;
- 3.** Providing for the establishment of committees and for governing any general or specific delegation of authority or function of the Interstate Commission;
- 4.** Providing reasonable procedures for calling and conducting meetings of the Interstate Commission, and ensuring reasonable notice of each such meeting;
- 5.** Establishing the titles and responsibilities of the officers and staff of the Interstate Commission;
- 6.** Providing a mechanism for concluding the operations of the Interstate Commission and the return of surplus funds that may exist upon the termination of the compact after the payment and reserving of all of its debts and obligations.
- 7.** Providing "start up" rules for initial administration of the compact.

**B.** The Interstate Commission shall, by a majority of the members, elect annually from among its members a chairperson, a vice-chairperson, and a treasurer, each of whom shall have such authority and duties as may be specified in the bylaws. The chairperson or, in the chairperson's absence or disability, the vice-chairperson, shall preside at all meetings of the Interstate Commission. The officers so elected shall serve without compensation or remuneration from the Interstate Commission; provided that, subject to the availability of budgeted funds, the officers shall be reimbursed for ordinary and necessary costs and expenses incurred by them in the performance of their responsibilities as officers of the Interstate Commission.

### **C. Executive Committee, Officers and Personnel**

**1.** The executive committee shall have such authority and duties as may be set forth in the bylaws, including but not limited to:

- a.** Managing the affairs of the Interstate Commission in a manner consistent with the bylaws and purposes of the Interstate Commission;
- b.** Overseeing an organizational structure within, and appropriate procedures for the Interstate Commission to provide for the creation of rules, operating procedures, and administrative and technical support functions; and
- c.** Planning, implementing, and coordinating communications and activities with other state, federal and local government organizations in order to advance the goals of the Interstate Commission.

**2.** The executive committee may, subject to the approval of the Interstate Commission, appoint or retain

an executive director for such period, upon such terms and conditions and for such compensation, as the Interstate Commission may deem appropriate. The executive director shall serve as secretary to the Interstate Commission, but shall not be a Member of the Interstate Commission. The executive director shall hire and supervise such other persons as may be authorized by the Interstate Commission.

**D.** The Interstate Commission's executive director and its employees shall be immune from suit and liability, either personally or in their official capacity, for a claim for damage to or loss of property or personal injury or other civil liability caused or arising out of or relating to an actual or alleged act, error, or omission that occurred, or that such person had a reasonable basis for believing occurred, within the scope of Interstate Commission employment, duties, or responsibilities; provided, that such person shall not be protected from suit or liability for damage, loss, injury, or liability caused by the intentional or willful and wanton misconduct of such person.

**1.** The liability of the Interstate Commission's executive director and employees or Interstate Commission representatives, acting within the scope of such person's employment or duties for acts, errors, or omissions occurring within such person's state may not exceed the limits of liability set forth under the Constitution and laws of that state for state officials, employees, and agents. The Interstate Commission is considered to be an instrumentality of the states for the purposes of any such action. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to protect such person from suit or liability for damage, loss, injury, or liability caused by the intentional or willful and wanton misconduct of such person.

**2.** The Interstate Commission shall defend the executive director and its employees and, subject to the approval of the Attorney General or other appropriate legal counsel of the member state represented by an Interstate Commission representative, shall defend such Interstate Commission representative in any civil action seeking to impose liability arising out of an actual or alleged act, error or omission that occurred within the scope of Interstate Commission employment, duties or responsibilities, or that the defendant had a reasonable basis for believing occurred within the scope of Interstate Commission employment, duties, or responsibilities, provided that the actual or alleged act, error, or omission did not result from intentional or willful and wanton misconduct on the part of such person.

**3.** To the extent not covered by the state involved, member state, or the Interstate Commission, the representatives or employees of the Interstate Commission shall be held harmless in the amount of a settlement or judgment, including attorney's fees and costs, obtained against such persons arising out of an actual or alleged act, error, or omission that occurred within the scope of Interstate Commission employment, duties, or responsibilities, or that such persons had a reasonable basis for believing occurred within the scope of Interstate Commission employment, duties, or responsibilities, provided that the actual or alleged act, error, or omission did not result from intentional or willful and wanton misconduct on the part of such persons.

## **ARTICLE XII RULEMAKING FUNCTIONS OF THE INTERSTATE COMMISSION**

- A.** Rulemaking Authority -- The Interstate Commission shall promulgate reasonable rules in order to effectively and efficiently achieve the purposes of this Compact. Notwithstanding the foregoing, in the event the Interstate Commission exercises its rulemaking authority in a manner that is beyond the scope of the purposes of this Act, or the powers granted hereunder, then such an action by the Interstate Commission shall be invalid and have no force or effect.
- B.** Rulemaking Procedure -- Rules shall be made pursuant to a rulemaking process that substantially conforms to the "Model State Administrative Procedure Act," of 1981 Act, Uniform Laws Annotated, Vol. 15, p.1 (2000) as amended, as may be appropriate to the operations of the Interstate Commission.
- C.** Not later than thirty (30) days after a rule is promulgated, any person may file a petition for judicial review of the rule; provided, that the filing of such a petition shall not stay or otherwise prevent the rule from becoming effective unless the court finds that the petitioner has a substantial likelihood of success. The court shall give deference to the actions of the Interstate Commission consistent with applicable law and shall not find the rule to be unlawful if the rule represents a reasonable exercise of the Interstate Commission's authority.
- D.** If a majority of the legislatures of the compacting states rejects a Rule by enactment of a statute or resolution in the same manner used to adopt the compact, then such rule shall have no further force and effect in any compacting state.

## **ARTICLE XIII OVERSIGHT, ENFORCEMENT, AND DISPUTE RESOLUTION**

- A.** Oversight
- 1.** The executive, legislative and judicial branches of state government in each member state shall enforce this compact and shall take all actions necessary and appropriate to effectuate the compact's purposes and intent.
  - 2.** All courts shall take judicial notice of the compact and the rules in any judicial or administrative proceeding in a member state pertaining to the subject matter of this compact that may affect the powers, responsibilities or actions of the Interstate Commission.
  - 3.** The Interstate Commission shall be entitled to receive all service of process in any such proceeding, and shall have standing to intervene in the proceeding for all purposes. Failure to provide service of process to the Interstate Commission shall render a judgment or order void as to the Interstate Commission, this compact or promulgated rules.
- B.** Default, Technical Assistance, Suspension and Termination -- If the Interstate Commission determines that a member state has defaulted in the performance of its obligations or responsibilities under this compact, or the bylaws or promulgated rules, the Interstate Commission shall:

1. Provide written notice to the defaulting state and other member states, of the nature of the default, the means of curing the default and any action taken by the Interstate Commission. The Interstate Commission shall specify the conditions by which the defaulting state must cure its default.
2. Provide remedial training and specific technical assistance regarding the default.
3. If the defaulting state fails to cure the default, the defaulting state shall be terminated from the compact upon an affirmative vote of a majority of the member states and all rights, privileges and benefits conferred by this compact shall be terminated from the effective date of termination. A cure of the default does not relieve the offending state of obligations or liabilities incurred during the period of the default.
4. Suspension or termination of membership in the compact shall be imposed only after all other means of securing compliance have been exhausted. Notice of intent to suspend or terminate shall be given by the Interstate Commission to the Governor, the majority and minority leaders of the defaulting state's legislature, and each of the member states.
5. The state that has been suspended or terminated is responsible for all assessments, obligations and liabilities incurred through the effective date of suspension or termination including obligations, the performance of which extends beyond the effective date of suspension or termination.
6. The Interstate Commission shall not bear any costs relating to any state that has been found to be in default or that has been suspended or terminated from the compact, unless otherwise mutually agreed upon in writing between the Interstate Commission and the defaulting state.
7. The defaulting state may appeal the action of the Interstate Commission by petitioning the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia or the federal district where the Interstate Commission has its principal offices. The prevailing party shall be awarded all costs of such litigation including reasonable attorney's fees.

**c. Dispute Resolution**

1. The Interstate Commission shall attempt, upon the request of a member state, to resolve disputes that are subject to the compact and that may arise among member states and between member and non-member states.
2. The Interstate Commission shall promulgate a rule providing for both mediation and binding dispute resolution for disputes as appropriate.

**ARTICLE XIV FINANCING OF THE INTERSTATE COMMISSION**

- A.** The Interstate Commission shall pay, or provide for the payment of the reasonable expenses of its establishment, organization and ongoing activities.
- B.** The Interstate Commission may levy on and collect an annual assessment from each member state to cover the cost of the operations and activities of the Interstate Commission and its staff that must be in a

total amount sufficient to cover the Interstate Commission's annual budget as approved each year. The aggregate annual assessment amount shall be allocated based upon a formula to be determined by the Interstate Commission, which shall promulgate a rule binding upon all member states.

**c.** The Interstate Commission shall not incur obligations of any kind prior to securing the funds adequate to meet the same; nor shall the Interstate Commission pledge the credit of any of the member states, except by and with the authority of the member state.

**d.** The Interstate Commission shall keep accurate accounts of all receipts and disbursements. The receipts and disbursements of the Interstate Commission shall be subject to the audit and accounting procedures established under its bylaws. However, all receipts and disbursements of funds handled by the Interstate Commission shall be audited yearly by a certified or licensed public accountant and the report of the audit shall be included in and become part of the annual report of the Interstate Commission.

#### **ARTICLE XV MEMBER STATES, EFFECTIVE DATE AND AMENDMENT**

**A.** Any state is eligible to become a member state.

**B.** The compact shall become effective and binding upon legislative enactment of the compact into law by no less than ten (10) of the states. The effective date shall be no earlier than December 1, 2007.

Thereafter it shall become effective and binding as to any other member state upon enactment of the compact into law by that state. The governors of non-member states or their designees shall be invited to participate in the activities of the Interstate Commission on a non-voting basis prior to adoption of the compact by all states.

**C.** The Interstate Commission may propose amendments to the compact for enactment by the member states. No amendment shall become effective and binding upon the Interstate Commission and the member states unless and until it is enacted into law by unanimous consent of the member states.

#### **ARTICLE XVI WITHDRAWAL AND DISSOLUTION**

**A.** Withdrawal

**1.** Once effective, the compact shall continue in force and remain binding upon each and every member state; provided that a member state may withdraw from the compact specifically repealing the statute, which enacted the compact into law.

**2.** Withdrawal from this compact shall be by the enactment of a statute repealing the same, and shall take effect upon the effective date of the repealing statute.

**3.** The withdrawing state shall immediately notify the chairperson of the Interstate Commission in writing upon the introduction of legislation repealing this compact in the withdrawing state. The Interstate Commission shall notify the other member states of the withdrawing state's intent to withdraw within sixty (60) days of its receipt thereof.

4. The withdrawing state is responsible for all assessments, obligations and liabilities incurred through the effective date of the repealing statute.

5. Reinstatement following withdrawal of a member state shall occur upon the withdrawing state reenacting the compact or upon such later date as determined by the Interstate Commission.

**B. Dissolution of Compact**

1. This compact shall dissolve effective upon the date of the withdrawal or default of the member state that reduces the membership in the compact to one (1) member state.

2. Upon the dissolution of this compact, the compact becomes null and void and shall be of no further force or effect, and the business and affairs of the Interstate Commission shall be concluded and surplus funds shall be distributed in accordance with the bylaws.

**ARTICLE XVII SEVERABILITY AND CONSTRUCTION**

A. The provisions of this compact shall be severable, and if any phrase, clause, sentence or provision is deemed unenforceable, the remaining provisions of the compact shall be enforceable.

B. The provisions of this compact shall be liberally construed to effectuate its purposes.

C. Nothing in this compact shall be construed to prohibit the applicability of other interstate compacts to which the states are members.

**ARTICLE XVIII BINDING EFFECT OF COMPACT AND OTHER LAWS**

**A. Other Laws**

Nothing herein prevents the enforcement of any other law of a member state that is not inconsistent with this compact.

**B. Binding Effect of the Compact**

1. All lawful actions of the Interstate Commission, including all rules and bylaws promulgated by the Interstate Commission, are binding upon the member states.

2. All agreements between the Interstate Commission and the member states are binding in accordance with their terms.

3. In the event any provision of this compact exceeds the constitutional limits imposed on the legislature of any member state, such provision shall be ineffective to the extent of the conflict with the constitutional provision in question in that member state.

History - Acts 2013, No. 146, § 1.

**6-4-303. Compact Commissioner for Arkansas.**

(a) Under the compact established under this subchapter, the Compact Commissioner for Arkansas shall be

the Commissioner of Education or his or her designee.

**(b)**The Compact Commissioner for Arkansas is responsible for the administration and management of the state's participation in the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children adopted under this subchapter.

**(c)**The Compact Commissioner for Arkansas shall cooperate with all departments, agencies, and officers of and in government of this state as well as all school districts and political subdivisions of this state for the administration of this compact, supplementary agreements entered into by the state, or as further directed by law or by the Department of Education or the State Board of Education.

History - Acts 2013, No. 146, § 1; 2019, No. 939, § 1.

#### **6-4-304. Creation of the State Council.**

**(a)** There is created the State Council for the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children to be composed of the following members:

**(1)** The Commissioner of Education or his or her designee, serving as Compact Commissioner for Arkansas as provided under § 6-4-303;

**(2)** The superintendent of the public school district with the greatest number of children of military families from each Arkansas congressional district as determined every four (4) years;

**(3)** One (1) member to be appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate from a list of three (3) nominees submitted by the Executive Director of the Arkansas Education Association;

**(4)** One (1) member to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives from a list of three (3) nominees submitted by the Executive Director of the Arkansas Association of Educational Administrators;

**(5)**

**(A)** One (1) member selected from the state at large and appointed by the Governor subject to confirmation of the Senate.

**(B)**The Governor shall consult the Arkansas School Boards Association before making an appointment under subdivision (a)(5)(A) of this section;

**(6)**The charter school leader of the open-enrollment public charter school with the greatest number of children of military families;

**(7)**

**(A)**A representative from each federal and state military installation in Arkansas that employs uniformed service members as designated by each military installation commander.

**(B)**A representative from a federal military installation shall serve as a nonvoting, ex officio member;

**(8)**The Executive Director of the Arkansas Activities Association, serving as a nonvoting, ex officio

member;

**(9)**The Chair of the Senate Committee on Education and the Chair of the House Committee on Education or designees from each of the committees, serving as nonvoting, ex officio members; and

**(10)** The United States Department of Defense representative for Arkansas shall have duties and responsibilities as established by United States Department of Defense Instruction Number 1342.29, and shall not be a member of the State Council.

**(b)**

**(1)**Each appointed member shall have a background or interest in the education of military children.

**(2)(A)** The terms for the initial appointees to the council shall be staggered as determined by lot with:

**(i)** One (1) member serving a term of three (3) years;

**(ii)**One (1) member serving a term of four (4) years; and

**(iii)** One (1) member serving a term of five (5) years.

**(B)** Each succeeding appointment to the council shall be for a term of five (5) years, but the member appointed shall serve until the member's successor is appointed.

**(3)**

**(A)**If a vacancy occurs in an appointed position for any reason, the vacancy shall be filled by appointment by the official that made the appointment.

**(B)**The new appointee shall serve for the remainder of the unexpired term.

**(c)**

**(1)**The council shall meet at least quarterly or as decided upon by a majority of its members.

**(2)**Unless otherwise approved by the Commissioner of Education, the State Council shall conduct its meetings in Central Arkansas and via teleconference or web conference to allow for scheduling flexibility for council members. **(d)**

**(1)**A majority of the members of the council shall constitute a quorum for transacting business of the council.

**(2)**All actions of the council shall be by a quorum.

**(e)**The Commissioner of Education or his or her designee serving as Compact Commissioner for Arkansas shall be the chair of the council and be a full-voting member.

**(f)** Appointments to the council shall be for a term of four (4) years.

**(g)**All state agencies, school districts, and political subdivisions of the state shall furnish to the council any information and assistance the council may reasonably request.

History - Acts 2013, No. 146, § 1; 2015, No. 1100, § 2; 2019, No. 939, §§ 2-4.

#### **6-4-305. Duties of the State Council.**

**(a)** Within thirty (30) days from the date the appointments are initially made, the members of the State Council for the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children shall appoint a military family education liaison to assist military families and the state in facilitating the implementation of the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children adopted under this subchapter.

**(b)** The council may promulgate rules for the administration of this subchapter and provide recommendations to the Department of Education regarding the promulgation of rules applicable to the department and public school districts.

**(c)** Children of military families under this subchapter shall have equitable access to academic courses and programs and to extracurricular academic, athletic, and social programs.

**(d)**

**(1)** The State Council shall meet at least annually to hold a public forum in a military community to hear direct feedback from military families regarding the effectiveness of the compact in this state.

**(2)** Under this subchapter, parents and legal guardians of military families may request the opportunity to:

**(A)** Speak at the public forum under subdivision (d)(1) of this section; or

**(B)** Make an online presentation to the State Council during the public forum under subdivision (d)(1) of this section.

**(e)** The State Council may seek input from the Department of Education regarding the outcome of a case that is brought to the State Council for resolution.

**(f)** The State Council shall provide annually a report to the Governor, the Senate Committee on Education, and the House Committee on Education that includes without limitation the following:

**(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.

**6-4-306. Military family education liaison.**

- (a) The military family education liaison shall be an ex officio member of the State Council for the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children.
- (b) The military family education liaison shall have specialized knowledge related to the educational needs of military children and the obstacles that military children face in obtaining an education.
- (c) The military family education liaison shall serve a term of four (4) years.

History - Acts 2013, No. 146, § 1.

**6-4-307. Fees.**

Under the compact established under this subchapter and using the definitions in the compact:

- (1) The minimum fee for a member state is two thousand dollars (\$2,000);
- (2) The maximum fee for each member state is two dollars (\$2.00) per student who is a child of an active duty military family; and
- (3) The fees paid or owed shall not exceed the amount appropriated for the payment of fees under this compact for each fiscal year by the General Assembly.

History - Acts 2013, No. 146, § 1.

**6-4-308. Immunity not affected.**

- (a) This subchapter shall not affect the immunity from suit granted to state officials and employees under § 19-10- 305 or to the state and its official agencies under Arkansas Constitution, Article 5, § 20.
- (b) The exercise of the powers and performance of duties provided for in this subchapter by the Compact Commissioner for Arkansas, the State Council for the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children, and the military family education liaison for Arkansas and its officers, agents, and employees are declared to be public and governmental functions, exercised for a public purpose and matters of public necessity, conferring upon each authority governmental immunity from suit in tort.

History - Acts 2013, No. 146, § 1.

**6-4-309. Children of military families -- Student enrollment procedures and coordinator.**

- (a) A public school with twenty (20) or more children of military families enrolled as students or a public school with a total of three thousand (3,000) or more students enrolled shall:
  - (1) Incorporate into the policies of the public school specific procedures that outline actions to take in

support of students who are the children of military families who transition to and from the public school.

**(2)**

**(A)** Designate each public school district a military education coordinator to serve as the primary point of contact for each child of a military family and his or her parent or legal guardian.

**(B)** The public school military education coordinator shall have specialized knowledge regarding the educational needs of children of military families and the obstacles that children of military families face in obtaining an education.

**(b)** The department shall supply relevant resources for the orientation and training of public school military education coordinators under this section.

History - Acts 2019, No. 939, § 7.



# **ARKANSAS STATE MIC3 COUNCIL**

**Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission**

## **AGENDA**

**AD HOC Committee on Family Forum  
ARKANSAS STATE COUNCIL OF THE  
MILITARY INTERSTATE CHILDREN'S COMPACT COMMISSION**

**Tuesday, March 17, 2020**

**11:00 A.M.**

**~~Ebbing Air National Guard Station~~**

**~~Family Support Squadron Headquarters, Building 188, Room 103~~**

**~~Fort Smith, Arkansas~~**

**THIS MEETING HAS BEEN POSTPONED.**

**A NEW PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE WILL BE POSTED AS SOON AS THE NEW DATE AND TIME  
HAVE BEEN SET.**

**Call In To: (312) 757-3121, Access Code: 121-084-669**

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call  
Old Business
3. Discussion of Family Fest Participation April 4, 2020 Ebbing Air National Guard Station,  
Ft. Smith, AR
4. Discussion of Family Fest Participation April 11, 2020 Little Rock Air Force Base,  
Jacksonville, AR
5. New Business
6. Adjourn

**From:** [Harris-Ritter, Bilenda N NFG NG ARARNG \(USA\)](#)  
**To:** [John Kaminar \(ADE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Re: [Non-DoD Source] Call-in/Log-In Info for Meeting at 10:00 AM Today (UNCLASSIFIED)  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 17, 2020 9:40:30 AM

---

Bilenda Harris-Ritter  
State Attorney  
OSJA  
Arkansas Military Department  
Box 29, Bldg. 7300  
Camp Joseph T. Robinson  
North Little Rock, AR 7219  
(501) 212-5083 (direct)  
(501) 212-5040 (office)  
(501) 503-8962 (mobile)

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>

>

>

> ----

>

> Understood. Then I'll express your wishes and ask if someone will nominate her. If nobody does, then I'll nominate her.

>

> Respectfully,

>

> John I. "Don" Kaminar

> Colonel, Infantry, Army Reserve (Ret.)

> Military and Veterans Liaison

> Arkansas Department of Education

> Division of Elementary and Secondary Education

> Four Capitol Mall, Room 104-A

> Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

> Office: (501) 683-5188

> Fax: (501) 682-4487

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> -----Original Message-----

> From: Harris-Ritter, Bilenda N NFG NG ARARNG (USA) <bilenda.n.harris-ritter.nfg@mail.mil>

> Sent: Tuesday, March 17, 2020 9:35 AM  
> To: John Kaminar (ADE) <John.Kaminar@arkansas.gov>  
> Subject: Re: [Non-DoD Source] Call-in/Log-In Info for Meeting at 10:00 AM Today (UNCLASSIFIED)  
>  
> Yes, thank you so much. My reason is she has contact through her work with Ebbing, Ft. Chaffee and Camp Robinson so she has a broader perspective of issues than many others of us. Also, military mom.  
>  
> Bilenda Harris-Ritter  
> State Attorney  
> OSJA  
> Arkansas Military Department  
> Box 29, Bldg. 7300  
> Camp Joseph T. Robinson  
> North Little Rock, AR 7219  
> (501) 212-5083 (direct)  
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>  
>> On Mar 17, 2020, at 9:25 AM, John Kaminar (ADE) <John.Kaminar@arkansas.gov> wrote:  
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>>  
>>  
>>  
>>  
>> ----  
>>  
>> I will be happy to do so on your behalf. If anyone questions it, I'll offer up this e-mail as proof that I am doing so for you. I doubt that anyone will object to my doing so.  
>>  
>> Respectfully,  
>>  
>> John I. "Don" Kaminar  
>> Colonel, Infantry, Army Reserve (Ret.) Military and Veterans Liaison  
>> Arkansas Department of Education Division of Elementary and Secondary  
>> Education Four Capitol Mall, Room 104-A Little Rock, Arkansas 72201  
>> Office: (501) 683-5188  
>> Fax: (501) 682-4487  
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>>  
>> -----Original Message-----  
>> From: Harris-Ritter, Bilenda N NFG NG ARARNG (USA)  
>> <bilenda.n.harris-ritter.nfg@mail.mil>  
>> Sent: Tuesday, March 17, 2020 9:19 AM  
>> To: John Kaminar (ADE) <John.Kaminar@arkansas.gov>  
>> Subject: RE: [Non-DoD Source] Call-in/Log-In Info for Meeting at 10:00  
>> AM Today (UNCLASSIFIED)

>>

>> CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED

>>

>> Yes, good idea postpone indefinitely Also, I still want to nominate Jody for Vice Chair if possible even though not on call.

>>

>>

>> Bilenda Harris-Ritter

>> State Attorney

>> Arkansas Department of the Military

>> Arkansas Army National Guard

>> Office of the Staff Judge Advocate

>> 501-212-5040 (Office)

>> 501-212-5083 (Direct)

>> 501-503-8962 (Cell)

>>

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>>

>> -----Original Message-----

>> From: John Kaminar (ADE) [Caution-Caution-<mailto:John.Kaminar@arkansas.gov>]

>> Sent: Tuesday, March 17, 2020 8:47 AM

>> To: Harris-Ritter, Bilenda N NFG NG ARARNG (USA)

>> <[bilenda.n.harris-ritter.nfg@mail.mil](mailto:bilenda.n.harris-ritter.nfg@mail.mil)>

>> Subject: RE: [Non-DoD Source] Call-in/Log-In Info for Meeting at 10:00

>> AM Today (UNCLASSIFIED)

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>> Want me to reschedule the ad hoc? We can postpone it until further notice.

>>

>> Respectfully,

>>

>> John I. "Don" Kaminar

>> Colonel, Infantry, Army Reserve (Ret.) Military and Veterans Liaison

>> Arkansas Department of Education Division of Elementary and Secondary

>> Education Four Capitol Mall, Room 104-A Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

>> Office: (501) 683-5188

>> Fax: (501) 682-4487

>> Caution-Caution-Caution-<http://www.arkansased.gov>

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>> -----Original Message-----

>> From: Harris-Ritter, Bilenda N NFG NG ARARNG (USA)  
>> <bilenda.n.harris-ritter.nfg@mail.mil>  
>> Sent: Tuesday, March 17, 2020 8:45 AM  
>> To: John Kaminar (ADE) <John.Kaminar@arkansas.gov>  
>> Subject: RE: [Non-DoD Source] Call-in/Log-In Info for Meeting at 10:00 AM Today (UNCLASSIFIED)

>>  
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>> I cannot participate in ad hoc either. Nothing this morning.

>>  
>>  
>> Bilenda Harris-Ritter  
>> State Attorney  
>> Arkansas Department of the Military  
>> Arkansas Army National Guard  
>> Office of the Staff Judge Advocate  
>> 501-212-5040 (Office)  
>> 501-212-5083 (Direct)  
>> 501-503-8962 (Cell)

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>> -----Original Message-----

>> From: John Kaminar (ADE)  
>> [Caution-Caution-Caution-<mailto:John.Kaminar@arkansas.gov>]  
>> Sent: Tuesday, March 17, 2020 8:43 AM  
>> To: Harris-Ritter, Bilenda N NFG NG ARARNG (USA)  
>> <bilenda.n.harris-ritter.nfg@mail.mil>  
>> Subject: RE: [Non-DoD Source] Call-in/Log-In Info for Meeting at 10:00 AM Today (UNCLASSIFIED)

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>>  
>> Understood. Do you want to proceed with the ad hoc committee call? We can reschedule it.

>>

>> Respectfully,

>>

>> John I. "Don" Kaminar

>> Colonel, Infantry, Army Reserve (Ret.) Military and Veterans Liaison

>> Arkansas Department of Education Division of Elementary and Secondary

>> Education Four Capitol Mall, Room 104-A Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

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>> -----Original Message-----

>> From: Harris-Ritter, Bilenda N NFG NG ARARNG (USA)

>> <[bilenda.n.harris-ritter.nfg@mail.mil](mailto:bilenda.n.harris-ritter.nfg@mail.mil)>

>> Sent: Tuesday, March 17, 2020 8:42 AM

>> To: John Kaminar (ADE) <[John.Kaminar@arkansas.gov](mailto:John.Kaminar@arkansas.gov)>

>> Subject: RE: [Non-DoD Source] Call-in/Log-In Info for Meeting at 10:00

>> AM Today (UNCLASSIFIED)

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>> Don,

>> Regret I will be unable to be on the call this morning due to developing situation.

>>

>> Very respectfully

>>

>>

>> Bilenda Harris-Ritter

>> State Attorney

>> Arkansas Department of the Military

>> Arkansas Army National Guard

>> Office of the Staff Judge Advocate

>> 501-212-5040 (Office)

>> 501-212-5083 (Direct)

>> 501-503-8962 (Cell)

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>> -----Original Message-----

>> From: John Kaminar (ADE)

>> [[Caution-Caution-Caution-Caution-mailto:John.Kaminar@arkansas.gov](mailto:John.Kaminar@arkansas.gov)]

>> Sent: Tuesday, March 17, 2020 8:39 AM  
>> To: Aaron Randolph - Cabot Public Schools  
>> (Aaron.Randolph@cps.k12.ar.us) <Aaron.Randolph@cps.k12.ar.us>; Amy  
>> Arnone <aarnone@jnpsd.org>; Andelyn Wright (andelyn.wright@gmail.com)  
>> <andelyn.wright@gmail.com>; April Cooper (ADE)  
>> <April.Cooper@arkansas.gov>; Melton, Brian J CIV USARMY 4 ESC (USA)  
>> <brian.j.melton3.civ@mail.mil>; Bruce Cozart  
>> (bruce.cozart@arkansashouse.org) <bruce.cozart@arkansashouse.org>;  
>> Bryan Duffie <bduffie@jnpsd.org>; Floyd, Derrick J Col USAF OSD OASD  
>> LA (USA) <derrick.j.floyd.mil@mail.mil>; djones@bentonvillek12.org;  
>> Reyes, Erasmo J CIV USARMY USAMC (USA) <erasmo.j.reyes.civ@mail.mil>;  
>> Harris-Ritter, Bilenda N NFG NG ARARNG (USA)  
>> <bilenda.n.harris-ritter.nfg@mail.mil>; Janice Walker  
>> (jwalker@jnpsd.org) <jwalker@jnpsd.org>; Jody Bergstrom  
>> (JB@campallianceinc.org) <JB@campallianceinc.org>; John Kaminar (ADE)  
>> <John.Kaminar@arkansas.gov>; Kerry Schneider  
>> <kschneider@cedarvilleschools.org>; Lance Taylor <Lance@ahsaa.org>;  
>> Lashawnda Noel <lashawnda.noel@lha.net>; 'lenisha.roberts@lha.net'  
>> <lenisha.roberts@lha.net>; Rep. Bruce Cozart (bccc@cablelynx.com)  
>> <bccc@cablelynx.com>; Sen. Jane English (jane.english@senate.ar.gov)  
>> <jane.english@senate.ar.gov>; Shawn Cook <shawn\_cook@lakesidesd.org>;  
>> Tanya Sharp (tsharp@bentonvillek12.org) <tsharp@bentonvillek12.org>;  
>> Tiffany Donovan (ADE) <Tiffany.Donovan@arkansas.gov>; ADE William  
>> Thurman <tony.thurman@cps.k12.ar.us>; Williams, Terri L CIV USAF (USA)  
>> <terri.williams.4@us.af.mil>  
>> Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Call-in/Log-In Info for Meeting at 10:00 AM  
>> Today

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>> Folks,

>> Just a reminder about today's council meeting at 10:00 AM via teleconference/web based conference ONLY.

>> Here's the call-in/log-in information: Log On  
>> To:Caution-Caution-Caution-Caution-Caution-<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/121084669> <  
>> Caution-Caution-Caution-Caution-Caution-<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/121084669> >

>> Call In To: (312) 757-3121, Access Code: 121-084-669

>> Talk to you then!

>>

>>

>>

>> Respectfully,

>>

>>

>>

>> John I. "Don" Kaminar

>>

>> Colonel, Infantry, Army Reserve (Ret.)

>>

>> Military and Veterans Liaison

>>

>> Arkansas Department of Education

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>> Division of Elementary and Secondary Education

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## Proposal to Create Standing Committees

Act 939 of 2019 has given the council broader responsibilities and more members to assist in fulfilling those. Organizing the council into a group of standing committees, each with its own mission and area of responsibility, will provide the mechanism needed to enable the council to accomplish its responsibilities more effectively. All council members (voting and nonvoting) would serve on at least one committee, with a membership of four to five council members on each.

The committees could choose to allow non-voting council members to have a vote in the committees as long as all members of a given committee have the right to vote (per DESE staff attorney). It would be best if all committees we create are consistent in this.

Each committee should have a chair and vice chair. Agendas can be forwarded to me at least one week in advance of meetings to allow for publishing the meeting notice and posting the agenda on the council's web site. Approved minutes will also be posted on the web site. (Please note that it is the committee, not the council, which approves committee meeting minutes.) Committees would be asked to take their own minutes, since Ms. Donovan's sole duty with regard to the state council is to take minutes for meetings of the full council.

Committee reports will be listed on the council's agenda for regular meetings. Oral reports are acceptable; written reports may be submitted, and approved committee meeting minutes may be submitted as part of a report. If no committee meeting has been held since the last council meeting, then no report would be expected.

Membership of the committees would need to be addressed. This could be accomplished through asking for volunteers for each committee, which I think is preferable in our case to simply assigning people. I do have some suggestions for a few individuals to serve on some of the committees, but these are suggestions only. Ultimately I believe it might serve to have the council approve the slate of committee members. (Proxies for superintendents on the council could also serve as their superintendent's proxy on the committee.)

The committees may hold their meetings in person and via conference call, but should not expect to use the same web-based conferencing platform that we use for full council meetings. The MIC3 national staff have assisted the state council by running web-based conferencing for us; however, asking them to provide that service for our committees may interfere with their normal duties to the extent that they may refuse to provide these services to us in the future.

### 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

# Interim Guidance: Get Your Mass Gatherings or Large Community Events Ready for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

## Summary of Recent Changes

Revisions were made on 3/12/2020 to reflect the following:

- Highlights vulnerable populations
- Adds a section on “Considerations for Postponing or Cancelling a Mass Gathering”
- Adds a section on discouraging handshakes and high fives (for sporting events)
- Adds standard language regarding disinfection procedures

This interim guidance is based on what is currently known [about the Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\)](#). The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) will update this interim guidance as needed and as additional information becomes available.

This interim guidance is intended for organizers and staff responsible for planning mass gatherings or large community events in the United States. **A mass gathering is a planned or spontaneous event with a large number of people in attendance that could strain the planning and response resources of the community hosting the event, such as a concert, festival, conference, or sporting event.** Guidance specific to schools and childcare settings, institutions of higher education, and community- and faith-based organizations can be found on [CDC’s website focused on prevention COVID-19 spread in communities](#).

COVID-19 is an emerging respiratory disease and there is more to learn about its transmission, clinical course, and populations at increased risk of disease and complications (see [How COVID-19 Spreads](#)). Everyone can do their part to help plan, prepare, and respond to this emerging public health threat.

[Older adults and persons with severe underlying health conditions](#) are considered to be at increased risk of more serious illness after contracting COVID-19. Priority should be given to ensuring the safety of these groups of people, particularly for any mass gatherings that are expected to have a large number of older adults or persons with underlying conditions.

## In This Document

- [Considerations for Cancelling or Postponing a Mass Gathering](#)
- [Steps to Plan, Prepare, and Proceed with a Mass Gathering](#)
- [Follow-up After a COVID-19 Outbreak has Ended](#)
- [Readiness Resources](#)

As the COVID-19 outbreak evolves, CDC strongly encourages event organizers and staff to prepare for the possibility of outbreaks in their communities. Creating an emergency plan for mass gatherings and large community events can help protect you and the health of your event participants and the local community.

CDC has developed recommended actions for preventing the spread of COVID-19 at mass gatherings and large community events. This guidance suggests strategies to



3/13/2020

For more information: [www.cdc.gov/COVID19](http://www.cdc.gov/COVID19)

help you plan for and implement ways in which to better protect all involved in a mass gathering.

Organizers should continually assess, based on current conditions, whether to postpone, cancel, or significantly reduce the number of attendees (if possible) for mass gatherings. Listed below are some considerations organizers should keep in mind as they make decisions about whether to postpone or cancel an event. If organizers decide to proceed with an event they should consult the “Steps to Plan, Prepare, and Proceed with a Mass Gathering” section of this document.

## Considerations for Postponing or Cancelling a Mass Gathering

There are a number of factors to consider when determining the need to postpone or cancel a large gathering. These include:

- ✓ **The overall number of attendees.** Larger gatherings (for example, more than 250 people) offer more opportunities for person-to-person contact and therefore pose greater risk of COVID-19 transmission.
- ✓ **The number of people attending who are at greater risk of more serious illness after contracting COVID-19.** Older adults and persons with severe pre-existing health conditions are thought to be at increased risk.
- ✓ **The density of attendees within a confined area.** Based on what is currently known about the virus, spread from person-to-person happens most frequently among close contacts (within 6 feet).
- ✓ **The potential economic impact to participants, attendees, staff, and the larger community.**
- ✓ **The level of transmission in your local community and the level of transmission in the areas from which your attendees will travel.** To better understand the level of community transmission in your community (and in the communities from which your attendees will be traveling), consult with your local and/or state public health department.
- ✓ **If there are ways in which to significantly reduce the number of attendees.** For example, for sporting events or school concerts, organizers could consider holding the event but significantly reduce the number of audience members.

**At a minimal-to-moderate level of community transmission, it is recommended to:**

- ✓ Cancel community-wide mass gatherings (for example, >250 people; **the cutoff threshold is at the discretion of community leadership based on [the current circumstances the community is facing and the nature of the event](#)**) or move to smaller groupings.
- ✓ Cancel gatherings of more than 10 people for organizations that serve higher-risk populations.

**At a substantial level of community transmission, it is recommended to cancel mass gatherings of any size.**

## Steps to Plan, Prepare, and Proceed with a Mass Gathering

The details of your emergency operations plan should be based on the size and duration of your events, demographics of the participants, complexity of your event operations, and type of on-site services and activities your event may offer.

***Review the existing emergency operations plans for your venues***

- ✓ **Meet with the emergency operations coordinator or planning team at your venues.** Discuss the emergency operations plans and determine how they may impact aspects of your events, such as personnel, security, services and activities, functions, and resources. Work with the emergency operations coordinator or planning team to prepare for the key prevention strategies outlined in this guidance. Develop a contingency plan that addresses various scenarios described below which you may encounter during a COVID-19 outbreak.

√ **Establish relationships with key community partners and stakeholders.** When forming key relationships for your events, include relevant partners such as the local public health department, community leaders, faith-based organizations, vendors, suppliers, hospitals, hotels, airlines, transportation companies, and law enforcement. Collaborate and coordinate with them on broader planning efforts. Clearly identify each partner's role, responsibilities, and decision-making authority. Contact your local public health department for a copy of their outbreak response and mitigation plan for your community. Participate in community-wide emergency preparedness activities.

### **Address key prevention strategies in your emergency operations plan**

√ **Promote the daily practice of everyday preventive actions.** Use [health messages and materials developed by credible public health sources such as CDC](#) or your local public health department to encourage your event staff and participants to practice good personal health habits. Consider displaying signs (physical and/or electronic) throughout the event to provide frequent reminders to participants to engage in [everyday preventive actions](#) to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. These include:

- Stay home when you are sick, except to get medical care.
- Cover your coughs and sneezes with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing. If soap and water are not available, use hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- [Clean frequently touched surfaces and objects daily.](#)

Handshakes and “high-fives” are often exchanged at meetings and sporting events, and these can be ways in which COVID-19 can be transmitted from person to person. As a way of decreasing the social pressure to engage in these common behaviors, consider displaying signs (physical and/or electronic) that discourage these actions during the gathering.

*Note: Use culturally appropriate messages, materials, and resources.*

√ **Provide COVID-19 prevention supplies to event staff and participants.** Ensure that your events have supplies for event staff and participants, such as hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol, tissues, trash baskets, disposable facemasks, and cleaners and disinfectants. Clean frequently touched surfaces and objects with detergent and water prior to disinfection, especially surfaces that are visibly dirty.

- Routinely clean and disinfect surfaces and objects that are frequently touched. Clean with the cleaners typically used. Use all cleaning products according to the directions on the label.
- For disinfection most common EPA-registered household disinfectants should be effective.
  - A list of products that are EPA-approved for use against the virus that causes COVID-19 is available [here](#). Follow the manufacturer's instructions for all cleaning and disinfection products (e.g., concentration, application method and contact time, etc.).
  - Additionally, diluted household bleach solutions can be used if appropriate for the surface. Follow manufacturer's instructions for application and proper ventilation. Check to ensure the product is not past its expiration date. Never mix household bleach with ammonia or any other cleanser. Unexpired household bleach will be effective against coronaviruses when properly diluted. Prepare a bleach solution by mixing:
    - 5 tablespoons (1/3rd cup) bleach per gallon of water or

- 4 teaspoons bleach per quart of water

- Additional information on cleaning and disinfection of community facilities can be found on [CDC's website](#).

*Note: [Disposable facemasks](#) should be kept on-site and used only if someone (worker or attendee) becomes sick at your event. Those who become sick should be immediately isolated from staff and participants who are not sick and given a clean disposable facemask to wear.*

- √ **Plan for staff absences.** Develop and implement flexible attendance and sick-leave policies. Event staff need to stay home when they are sick, or they may need to stay home to care for a sick household member or care for their children in the event of school dismissals. Allow staff to work from home when possible. Identify critical job functions and positions and plan for alternative coverage by cross-training staff (similar to planning for holiday staffing). Provide instructions about how and when to safely return to work.
- √ **Implement flexible staff attendance and sick-leave policies (if possible).** Require staff to stay home if they are sick or caring for a sick household member. Notify staff when you plan to implement COVID-19 leave policies.

*Note: Direct staff who get sick with COVID-19 symptoms to avoid contact with others and to seek medical advice.*

- √ **Consider alternatives for event staff and participants who are at increased risk for complications from COVID-19.** Currently, [older adults and persons with severe underlying health conditions](#) are considered to be at increased risk for severe illness and complications from COVID-19. Event organizers can consider reassigning duties for higher-risk staff to have minimal contact with other persons. People in higher-risk groups should consult with their healthcare provider about attending large events. Consider providing refunds to event participants who are unable to attend because they are at high risk and/or provide information on alternative viewing options.

- √ **Promote messages that discourage people who are sick from attending events.** This could include electronic messages sent to attendees prior to travel to the event as well as messages requesting that people leave events if they begin to have symptoms of COVID-19, which include fever, cough, and shortness of breath. Attendees should be encouraged to seek medical advice promptly by calling ahead to a doctor's office or emergency room to get guidance. See CDC guidance on [what to do when sick with COVID-19](#). *Note: Use culturally appropriate messages, materials, and resources.*

- √ **If possible, identify a space that can be used to isolate staff or participants who become ill at the event.** Designate a space for staff and participants who may become sick and cannot leave the event immediately. Work with partners, such as local hospitals, to create a plan for treating staff and participants who do not live nearby. Include a [plan for separating and caring for vulnerable populations](#). If any staff member or participant becomes sick at your event, separate them from others as soon as possible. Establish procedures to help sick staff or participants leave the event as soon as possible. Provide them with clean, [disposable facemasks](#) to wear, if available. Work with the local public health department and nearby hospitals to care for those who become sick. If needed, contact emergency services for those who need emergency care. Public transportation, shared rides, and taxis should be avoided for sick persons, and disposable facemasks should be worn by persons who are sick at all times when in a vehicle. Read more about [preventing the spread of COVID-19 if someone is sick](#).

*Note: Providing a sick staff member or event participant with a disposable facemask to wear does not replace the need for that person to leave as soon as possible, stay home, and seek medical advice. Wearing a disposable facemask in the workplace or while participating in a large event is not a sufficient infection control measure.*

- √ **Plan ways to limit in-person contact for staff supporting your events.** Several ways to do this include offering staff the option to telework if they can perform their job duties off-site, using email, and conducting meetings by phone or video conferencing. Reduce the number of staff needed such as staggering shifts for staff who support essential functions and services during events.
- √ **Develop flexible refund policies for participants.** Create refund policies that permit participants the flexibility to stay home when they are sick, need to care for sick household members, or are at high risk for complications from COVID-19.

- ✓ **Identify actions to take if you need to postpone or cancel events.** Work closely with local public health officials to assess local capacities in the area. During a COVID-19 outbreak, resource limitations among local healthcare systems and/or law enforcement can influence the decision to postpone or cancel your events. If possible, plan alternative ways for participants to enjoy the events by television, radio, or online.

### **Communicate about COVID-19**

- ✓ **Stay informed about the local COVID-19 situation.** Get [up-to-date information](#) about local COVID-19 activity from public health officials. Be aware of temporary school dismissals in your area because these may affect event staff.

*Note: Early in the outbreak, local public health officials may recommend schools [dismiss temporarily](#).*

- ✓ **Update and distribute timely and accurate emergency communication information.** Identify everyone in your chain of communication (for example, event staff, participants, suppliers, vendors, and key community partners and stakeholders) and establish systems for sharing information with them. Maintain up-to-date contact information for everyone in the chain of communication. Identify platforms, such as a hotline, automated text messaging, and a website to help disseminate information. Update key community partners and stakeholders regularly. Share information about how you and the emergency operations coordinator or planning team for the venues are responding to the outbreak.
- ✓ **Identify and address potential language, cultural, and disability barriers associated with communicating COVID-19 information to event staff and participants.** Information you share should be easily understood by everyone attending the events. Learn more about reaching people of diverse languages and cultures by visiting: [Know Your Audience](#). You also can learn more about communicating to staff in a crisis at: [Crisis Communications Plan](#) .

## **Follow-up After a COVID-19 Outbreak has Ended**

Remember, a COVID-19 outbreak could last for a long time. When public health officials determine that the outbreak has ended in your local community, work with them to identify criteria for scaling back COVID-19 prevention actions at your events. Base the criteria on slowing of the outbreak in your local area. If your events were cancelled, work with your venues to reschedule your events.

### **Evaluate the effectiveness of your emergency operations and communication plans**

- ✓ **Meet with the emergency operations coordinator or planning team for your venues to discuss and note lessons learned.** Gather feedback from event staff, participants (if possible), community partners, and stakeholders to improve plans. Identify any gaps in the plans and any needs you may have for additional resources.
- ✓ **Maintain and expand your planning team.** Look for ways to expand community partnerships. Identify agencies or partners needed to help you prepare for infectious disease outbreaks in the future and try to add them to your planning team.
- ✓ **Participate in community-wide emergency preparedness activities.**

## **COVID-19 Readiness Resources**

- Visit [www.cdc.gov/COVID19](http://www.cdc.gov/COVID19) for the latest information and resources about COVID-19
- COVID 2019 Situation Summary <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/summary.html>
- Prevention and Treatment <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/prevention-treatment.html>
- What to Do If You Are Sick <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/steps-when-sick.html>

- Pregnant Women and COVID-19 FAQs <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/specific-groups/pregnancy-faq.html>
- FAQs: Coronavirus Disease-2019 (COVID-19) and Children <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/specific-groups/children-faq.html>
- Handwashing: A Family Activity <https://www.cdc.gov/handwashing/handwashing-family.html>
- Handwashing: Clean Hands Save Lives <http://www.cdc.gov/handwashing>

#### CDC Interim Guidance for Specific Audiences

- Get Your Household Ready for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/get-your-household-ready-for-COVID-19.html>
- Interim Guidance for Administrators of US Childcare Programs and K-12 Schools to Plan, Prepare, and Respond to Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-2019) <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/specific-groups/guidance-for-schools.html>
- Interim Guidance for Administrators of US Institutions of Higher Education (IHE) to Plan, Prepare, and Respond to Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/guidance-ihe-response.html>
- Interim Guidance for Businesses and Employers to Plan and Respond to Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/specific-groups/guidance-business-response.html>
- Interim Guidance for Travelers <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html>

#### CDC Communication Resources

- Interim Guidance: Public Health Communicators Get Your Community Ready for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/public-health-communicators-get-your-community-ready.html>
- Print Resources <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/communication/factsheets.html>
- Buttons and Badges <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/communication/buttons-badges.html>



SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
1000 DEFENSE PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1000

2/11/2020

MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS

SUBJECT: Incorporating Family Member Considerations in Basing Decisions

Local support for military members and families who reside on and around our installations can be an important factor in total force readiness. Although mission is the top priority, a community's ability to address the unique needs of a population that frequently relocates should also be considered when making basing decisions.

The factors most frequently cited by military families as drawbacks to military service include quality of schools, difficulty assimilating into schools after a move, and the ability of spouses to obtain jobs and sustain careers. As such, I hereby direct each Military Department to revise its existing basing analytical processes to include consideration of these issues.

At a minimum, your revised basing decision processes should be supported by quantifiable criteria from reputable sources and should focus on professional licensure portability, school system performance and capacity, as well as the school system's support for unique needs of military dependents. To assist you with these efforts, the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness is developing family support and quality of life criteria for the Military Departments to consider when making future basing decisions.

Including a broad range of criteria in your basing decision processes helps the Department better balance mission, cost considerations, and a community's support of our military families for the benefit of the total force. Ensuring these analyses are deliberate, unbiased, repeatable, and auditable is necessary to support informed decision-making and provide process transparency.

*Mark T. Esper*

cc:  
CJCSS  
USD(A&S)  
USD(P&R)  
DoDGC  
ASD(LA)  
ATSD(PA)



OSD012142-19/CMD001272-20

# Month of the Military Child

## Let's Celebrate!

**Purple in Power.** Get a local policy making body (city council, district school board, county quorum court) to wear purple at its April meeting. Take pictures and post them on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, or in the local newspaper.

**Paint the Town Purple.** Get local businesses (and the city hall or county courthouse) to put purple wreaths, ribbons, bows, etc. on their buildings during Purple Up Week.

**Kick-Off Breakfast.** Kick off the Month of the Military Child with a breakfast or lunch for military children in the school. Include their parents or other family members associated with the military.

**Special Announcements.** Have a military child do the announcements and share an interesting fact about their life as a military child.

**Daily Factoids.** Have a daily or weekly announcement with military-connected student facts. Start with the national facts and move into school facts.

**Light it Up!** Get a local landmark (e.g., the Union Plaza Building and Junction Bridge in Little Rock) lit up purple.

**Purple Up Day.** Observe Purple Up Day Challenge students, faculty, and staff to wear purple. Class with the most purple wins a prize.

**Dress Up Theme Day.** Have a dress-up theme for each week in April. Ideas include favorite service logo day, patriotic day, etc.

**Military Memorabilia.** Decorate display cases and bulletin boards throughout April with military focused memorabilia, or items brought by military children reflecting their experiences (where they have live or traveled, family members' service memorabilia, parts of a uniform, patches, coins, etc.)

**Where in the World?** Create a world map and pinpoint where students and staff have lived because of their military lifestyle.

**Poster Contest.** Decorate the school. Have a group of kids design posters thanking military children and their parents for their service. Have military children make posters reflecting their experiences. Have a contest for students to choose their favorite poster.

**Adopt a Soldier (or Sailor or Airman or Marine or Coast Guardsman).** Adopt a deployed service member or unit. Send cards, letters, and care packages to deployed troops.

**Adopt a Family.** Adopt a family whose military member is deployed. Find out what the family needs help with - yard work, in home technology, childcare, tutoring, homework help, etc. – and have a class or club step in to help out.

**Guest Speaker.** Ask a military member (a parent or sibling of someone in the class) to be a guest speaker and share their perspective on life in the military as well as their profession.

**Wall of Heroes.** Create a Hero Wall to honor members. They could be family members of students or historical figures.

**Time Zone Wall.** In a main hallway set up a series of clocks showing the time in different countries where military children's family members are deployed.

**Show-n-Tell.** Have students bring in something military related, such as memorabilia from an installation or service branch, favorite airplane, or a book.

**Skype.** Hold a LIVE SKYPE session with a deployed service family member in the classroom or at an assembly.

**Web Site Feature.** Promote the Month of the Military Child on the school web site. List activities that will take place on different days during the month.

**Salute to Military Children at Sporting Events.** Have the announcer make a special announcement before, during or after sporting events recognizing all military children. Have them raise the flag, sing the National Anthem or recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Military Family Liaison.** Name a faculty member as the school's "go-to" person to help military families. Post the liaison's information on the school web site. Ask for training for the liaison from the Arkansas Council for Military Children. <http://www.arkansased.gov/divisions/legal/military-families>

**Field Trip.** Take a class trip to a military installation. This could be an active duty installation, a National Guard Armory, or an armed forces reserve center or complex. Meet with some of the service members and learn about what they do.

**Sports Tournament.** Organize a field day or sports tournament. Divide the students into teams representing different branches of the military. Encourage the participants to wear the color of the military branch they represent. Invite the local media to cover the event.

**Military Ball.** Host a school dance with a military theme. Decorate the venue in patriotic colors (or purple!) Invite a military parent as guest of honor.

**District School Board Meeting.** Invite military families to attend the April meeting of the district school board. Read a brief biography of each family and present the families to the board. Have the board chairperson formally thank the military families for their service and sacrifice.

**Show Me Your Socks (or Hat or Scarf)!** Schedule a date for everyone in the school to wear purple socks, hat, scarf, shirt, etc.

**Color Guard.** Have a Color Guard composed entirely of military-connected students present the flags at a school assembly or sports event.

**Patriotic Concert.** Have the school band/orchestra/choir perform a concert with a patriotic theme. Reserve the front row seats for military families.



## Arkansas Veterans Coalition Recommendations for Consideration by Arkansas MIC3 Council

Arkansas Veterans Coalition was the principal driver to amend the Arkansas school district support to military connected children. Working with legislators and ADE/DESE leadership we have established a program envied by military families across the nation untethered by the 50-state interstate compact. Our Arkansas MIC3 Council is structured different than any other state's council. Our Council is positioned to bring even greater initiatives to life as our districts innovate and launch initiatives benefiting not only military families but all Arkansas students.

As the new Arkansas MIC3 Council begins operations under Act 939 the Arkansas Veterans Coalition recommends that Council...

- **Define Council mission and roles.**
  - In the absence of statutory or regulatory guidance Council needs to define its mission.
  - Members and components need to establish roles and responsibilities to the group.
  - Recommend Council establish itself as an effective communications exchange hub conveying issues affecting education success of military-connected students and innovative programs launched by DESE and school districts.
- **Learn from elevated cases and track successful performance through effective metrics.**
  - Council needs to establish a case review program to learn and share potential solutions identified by state cases elevated to Commissioner/Council.
  - Council needs to obtain and similarly review cases elevated to the national MIC3 office.
  - Nearly 2/3 of the over a hundred cases elevated to the MIC3 national headquarters from 2017 to 2019 were deemed to not be compact related. This is strong indication that the issues affecting military-connected students when the compact was formed in 2008 have changed.
  - Arkansas program can benefit from reviewing cases allowing legislators on council to amend Arkansas program.
  - Work with DESE and districts to track military-connected student transitions and their successes to meet MIC3 Rule SEC 2.102 – Data Collection and Reporting.
- **Establish effective training, promotion and report innovations and success.**
  - Council to work w DESE to review and approve training provided district military family education coordinators.
  - Council needs to develop presentations and infographics educating military commands and families on provisions of Arkansas program as established by A.C.A. § 6-4-301 et. seq. and A.C.A. § 6-18-107.
  - Recognize school districts whose commitment and innovation raise the bar in support to military-connected students.
  - Recognize military family kudos of top school district military education coordinators.
  - Give the Commissioner of Education, Arkansas School Board and Governor an annual report that showcases Arkansas education success by military-connected children and their schools.