



Mohammed Choudhury
State Superintendent of Schools

September 8, 2022

Cherise Imai
Executive Director
Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission (MIC3)

Dear Ms. Imai:

Pursuant to §7-1303 of the Education Article, MSAR #7598 and MSAR #8880, the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) reports annually to the Legislature, Governor, Judiciary, and State Council of the member states concerning the activities of the Interstate Commission on Educational Opportunity for Military Children during the preceding year. This letter also serves as an annual update to the Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission (MIC3). Such reports also include any recommendations that may have been adopted by the Interstate Commission. Maryland adopted the Compact in 2009 when the Maryland General Assembly added the Compact provisions to the Maryland Code.

The Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission (MIC3) is the national organization leading the work on educational opportunities for military children. The MIC3 is proud that all 50 states and the District of Columbia are members of the Interstate Compact. The Interstate Compact ensures the uniform treatment of military children transferring between states. It was developed by the Council of State Governments' National Center for Interstate Compacts, the U.S. Department of Defense, national associations, federal and state officials, the Department of Education of each State, school administrators, and military families.

The military child faces many challenges as the military family transfers from one assignment to the next. The average military student faces transition more than twice during high school and most military children will attend six to nine different schools in their lives from kindergarten to 12th grade. The Compact seeks to make the transition easier for children of military families to ensure that they are afforded the same opportunities for educational success as other children and are not penalized or delayed in achieving their educational goals.

In accordance with the requirement of the Education Article to report on the work of the Interstate Compact, Maryland conducted the Annual State Council Meeting on June 21, 2022. The meeting included an update on the inclusion of the National Guard in the Compact. Maryland continues to work with all military families in assisting with school transitions. The Commission provided a review of the typical cases that come to the Maryland State Department of Education and the Maryland Commissioner. Through interactions with the families and the local education agencies (LEAs), transition questions or issues are resolved. A representative of the Maryland Installation Council expressed that commanders have expressed a desire to see more flexibility in children having access to a choice of specialty programs outside of the LEA in which they live. Maryland continues to require students to attend schools in the LEA in which the family lives.

Additional topics covered by the State Council included home schooling in Maryland, a review of the work of the Rules Committee, update on processes regarding athletics and other extracurricular activities for military children, and the Purple Star Legislation which was passed by the Maryland General Assembly in the 2022 Maryland Legislative Session. The Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) related to Purple Star Schools are going before the State Board of Education on September 27, 2022, to seek Permission to Publish.

Maryland was represented at the virtual Annual Business Meeting and the Executive Committee Meetings by Mary L. Gable, Assistant State Superintendent of the Division of Student Support, Academic Enrichment, and Educational Policy. Ms. Gable is the Maryland State Commissioner and the Chairperson of the Rules Committee. As Commissioner, Ms. Gable annually shares information on the Interstate Compact with the Directors of Student Services and Coordinators of School Counselors across the 24 LEAs. Ms. Gable assists families and the LEAs when there are challenges in a student's transition.

Dr. Michael Markoe, during his tenure as Interim Superintendent of Frederick County Public Schools, represented the Public School Superintendents Association of Maryland (PSSAM) at the State Council in June 2022 and planned to share the information on the Compact with all local Superintendents.

Information on the accomplishments of the Military Interstate Compact Commission can be found in the 2021 Annual Report.

The Interstate Compact operates under rules that were adopted by the Compact and each state. In order to make these rules available, a Compact Rules Desk Reference is available for each Commissioner. A copy of the rules can be found at: https://mic3.net/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/Rules-Book-20190905_Second-Version_20211230.pdf.

The Chairperson of the Commission continues to communicate through a monthly newsletter with each State Commissioner and Ex-Officio member of MIC3. A question considered by every State Council this year is the addition to the Compact of National Guard and reserve dependents beyond those under Title 10 active-duty status.

As a member of the Compact, Maryland's dues for FY 2022 were \$22,609 based on 19,660 students.

Should you have any questions regarding this report, please feel free to contact me by phone at 410-767-0472 or by email at mary.gable@maryland.gov.

Sincerely,



Mary L. Gable

Assistant State Superintendent

Division of Student Support, Academic Enrichment, and Educational Policy

Maryland State Department of Education

Maryland Commissioner for the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children