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Ms. Cherise Imai,
Executive Director
Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission
1776 Avenue of the States
Lexington, KY 40511

Dear Ms. Imai,

The following information is provided in accordance with MIC3 Policy 01-2017, state coordination, for the period of July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021. Points of contact for the Kansas State Council are myself and Sherry Root, Kansas State Department of Education. Ms. Root may be reached at 785-296-3871 or via e-mail at sroot@ksde.org.

The Kansas State Council held its annual meeting by conference call on November 13, 2020. The agenda and minutes for that meeting are being submitted with this letter and are posted on the Kansas Military Families website.

The State Council reviewed events of the MIC3 Annual Business Meeting, including officer elections, committee reports, and the annual budget. In addition, the Council reviewed the MIC3 Strategic Plan and discussed its implications for students in Kansas.

The State Council also discussed the proposal to bring children of National Guard and Reserve soldiers into the Compact. No consensus was reached on a recommendation but the Council will meet to discuss the proposal again prior to the end of August.

Discussion was also held about the implementation of Purple Star schools and the fact that this is not a function of the Compact. Finally, the Council discussed federal impact aid and the fact that the equalized school finance formula in Kansas means that a portion of those payments replaces state aid.

The most significant educational event in Kansas for the past year continues to be the response to the COVID-19 virus. School districts worked closely with the Kansas State Department of Education, Kansas Department of Health and Environment, and their local health departments to develop policies and practices that allowed schools to be safely opened. The specific impact for individual districts varied with local circumstances and policies. Larger districts, located in more populated areas, were more likely to require utilization of remote learning strategies. Smaller districts were able to open schools and provide in person education for a larger portion of the school year. As a result, the majority

Kansas leads the world in the success of each student.

of Kansas schools were open throughout the year, but a large percentage of students learned remotely. By March 31, 2021 every Kansas school offered in person learning for all students.

Children of military families moved much less frequently during the pandemic, however the uncertainty of individual and community health as well as changes in learning environments created a need for more social and emotional support and even greater communication between families and school personnel. Despite these new difficulties, very few issues were raised to the state level for resolution regarding military connected students. Parents, teachers, administrators, military staff and School Liaison Officers are to be commended for helping students work through an extremely challenging and unprecedented time.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "S. Craig Neuenswander". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "S".

S. Craig Neuenswander
Commissioner, Kansas State Council