
NEW YORK STATE INTERSTATE COMPACT – MILITARY CHILDREN

June 30, 2021

To: MIC-3 Leadership

From: Dr. Debra Jackson, NYS Commissioner

Re: Summary Report on the New York State Interstate Council for Military Children as required by MIC-3 Policy

Policy: By June 30 of each year, member States shall submit the following information regarding their State Council to the national office:

- a) contact information
- b) roster of active members*
- c) meeting schedule⁺
- d) key activities

Contact Information

- a. The primary contact for the New York State Council is Dr. Debra Jackson, Compact Commissioner djackson2@me.com
- b. The secondary contact is Mr. Stephen Todd, District Superintendent: Jefferson-Lewis-Hamilton-Herkimer-Oneida Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) stodd@boces.com 20104 State Route 3, Watertown New York 13601.
- c. The NYS Interstate Council has an active roster of members as named below*. Representation includes: the New York State Education Department, New York State Higher Education Institutions, School District Leaders, Office of Veterans Affairs, New York State Public High School Athletic Association, New York State School Music Association, Military Installations, School Liaison Officers, the State Legislature, and the Governor's Office.

Meeting Schedule:

- a. The New York State Council met for the school year 2020/2021 on **October 14, 2020**, and on **April 7, 2021**. The meetings were held via Zoom due to COVID restrictions not permitting gatherings in NYS. Meetings are open to the public in compliance with open meeting law. Agendas and Minutes are posted on the MIC-3 website.
- b. A calendar for future New York State Interstate Compact Meetings has been established through 2023⁺.

Notable Activities:

- a. April as the Month of the Military Child was highlighted on NYSED website. School district personnel received access to information and resources thanks to the work of the NYSED Office of Curriculum and Instruction. Wednesday, April 21, 2021, was designated as the official *Purple Up! For Military Kids Day!* The New York State Education Department highlighted local *Month of the Military Child* and *Purple Up! Day* celebrations by including stories and *Purple Up!* celebrations on the [Month of the Military Child webpage](#). The NYS Council members were pleased to be able to work on this initiative with the members of NYSED. Melissa Montague, who is an active member, led this work. NYSED Commissioner Dr. Betty Rosa included a memo to school leadership in support of the initiative.
- b. Military student “stories” are now included in the NYS edition of [Staying Connected](#). In working toward stronger communication about the NYS Interstate Compact the newsletter is a vehicle for outreach to NYS educators. The NYSED communications office distributes this newsletter.
- c. The NYS Council initiated the creation of a MIC-3 video on the Interstate Compact. The impetus is a military family who utilized the Interstate Compact when transferring into NYS and again when recently leaving NYS for South Carolina. The family desired to “give back” due to their positive experiences in NYS with their educational transitions, much in part to the Interstate Compact and individuals who guided their transfers.
- d. On April 26, 2021, a current junior at James I. O’Neill HS who has 7 military/school moves, both OCONUS and CONUS, participated in a roundtable with the newly appointed Secretary of Education, Dr. Miguel Cardona. She shared that she was honored and excited to be included in this robust and meaningful dialogue with the group of a dozen military youth from around the world. Secretary Cardona initiated the meeting because *Joining Forces* is a mission of the First Lady, and due to the education equity agenda for the U.S. Dept. of Ed. NYS was pleased to be included in this opportunity.

- e. Dr. Debra Jackson, in her role as NYS Compact Commissioner, was a speaker at the MCEC Education Summit 2020 virtual conference on November 17, 2020. The session included 3 commissioners (NY, WA, GA) on the impact of COVID on military students. Dr. Jackson also serves on the Leadership Committee and Finance Committee for MIC-3.
- f. The prior nominations made to the Governor's Office of Appointments to fill the current open voting positions have yet to be approved.
 - 1) A representative from a military installation appointed by the Governor,
 - 2) A representative of military families appointed by the Governor,
 - 3) A representative appointed by the governor,
- g. The Senate appointment (2020) is Melissa Pandolf of Patchogue. She is an active participant in the council and expressed her appreciation in being part of the deliberations and actions.
- h. Student placement/graduation requirements/enrollment matters continue to be resolved on a case-by-case examination. Resolutions are reviewed at the meetings as an after-action conversation. Between meetings frequent emails and phone conversations are facilitated to help with student transitions as they enter and exit New York State public schools. E-learning has new challenges for military impacted students. A difficult case this year was resolved with much input from several individuals. The outcome was that student was able to remain in the Albion Central School District.
- i. The NYS council members met with Christopher R. Arnold who is the newly appointed Northeast Regional Liaison from the Defense-State Liaison Office on DoD, Military Community and Family Policy.
- j. Dr. David Brown, President of NYSSMA, is pleased to participate as an active member of our council. This connection to the statewide music organizations will support transferring military students who wish to compete in vocal and instrumental organizations at a state and local level.
- k. A draft code of conduct (statement of ethics) is in process with a 10-12-point aspirational statement for our council.
- l. All voting members appointed to the council are updated in JCOPE as New York State policymakers and have completed the financial disclosure requirements. The required ethics training for each appointment is current to date.
- m. Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission received New York's payment of \$11,396.00 on Thursday, May 20, 2021.

Future scheduled meeting dates+

October 13, 2021 (anticipated to return to in-person meeting NYS Museum in Albany NY)

April 6, 2022

October 12, 2022

March 29, 2023

October 11, 2023

Roster of Members*

CHIEF STATE SCHOOL OFFICER

Dr. Betty Rosa, Commissioner of Education, New York State Education Department

MILITARY FAMILY EDUCATION LIAISON

Michi Carl, School Liaison Officer, West Point, United States Army

Wendy O'Sullivan, School Liaison Officer, Fort Drum, United States Army

MILITARY/DOD REPRESENTATIVE

COL Michael Yankovich, Vice Dean for Operations, USMA, West Point, United States Army

NEW YORK STATE COMMISSIONER

Dr. Debra Jackson*, Interstate Compact Commissioner

STATE COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Lisa Beatha*, University Director of Veteran Affairs, City University of New York

Dr. David Brown, President, New York State School Music Association,

Michi Carl, School Liaison Officer, West Point, United States Army

Marybeth Casey*, Assistant Commissioner for the Office of Curriculum and Instruction and Early Learning, New York State Education Department

Robert Conway*, Designated Representative of the Adjutant General

Sonia Draught, Director, Plans, Analysis, and Integration Fort Drum, United States Army

Troy Decker, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction, Indian River CSD, NY

Heather Evangelista, Parent, West Point, NY

Joel Evans, Director Division of Veterans Services, Albany, NY

Kristen Suatoni Jadin, Assistant Director, New York State Public High School Athletic Association

Melissa Montaque, New York State Education Department; Graduation and Program Requirements, Albany, NY

Wendy O'Sullivan, School Liaison Officer, Fort Drum, United States Army

Melissa Pandolf*, Veterans Service Officer, Patchogue, New York

Diana Pasterchick, Coordinator of Veterans and Military Affairs, State University of New York Albany

Matt Rogers, Fort Drum, United States Army

Dr. Frank Sheboy*, Superintendent, Highland Falls- Fort Montgomery Central School District

Major General Raymond F. Shields, Jr., Adjutant General of New York

Stephen J. Todd*, District Superintendent, Jefferson-Lewis-Hamilton-Herkimer-Oneida Board of Cooperative Educational Services

COL Michael Yankovich, Vice Dean for Operations, USMA, West Point, United States Army

Dr. Robert Zayas, Executive Director, New York State Public Schools Athletic Association