

**STATE COUNCIL FOR EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY FOR MILITARY
CHILDREN**

Douglas School District Administration Office

February 12, 2021

1:00 pm (MT)

Present via Zoom:

Alan Kerr, State Commissioner/ Douglas Supt

Brady Vaira, 28 MSG Commander

Tiffany Sanderson, SD Secretary of Education

Jonathan Nesladek, SDNG / SD Dept of Emergency Management

Fran Apland, Ellsworth AFB SLO

Jackie McPherson, Recorder

Absent:

Nancy York, SD House Representative

1. **Introductions:** Members were introduced and welcomed to the MIC3 State Council meeting.
2. **State Council Organization.** Representation from Secretary of Education, Superintendent of Schools, Ellsworth Air Force Base, House of Representatives; and other stakeholder groups as appropriate.
3. **Purpose of the Interstate Compact-Key Messages.** Discussed the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children and its purpose to address key educational issues military families encounter when transitioning from school to school. It is to have uniformity for military dependents when moving from state to state. All fifty states and the District of Columbia have adopted the Interstate Compact to give consistency for transitioning military dependent students. The Interstate Compact covers children of uniformed services active duty members, including National Guard and Reserve members on active duty orders, uniformed members of NOAA and USPHS, and up to one year for members/veterans who are medically discharged, retired, or died during active duty.
4. **Key Issues Affecting Military Students.** Discussed the specific impacts facing military dependent children from the sending and/or receiving schools, due, in part, to lack of understanding the unique military family dynamics. Military students move and transfer schools at least every 2-4 years throughout their school career. One member stated his family has moved 7 times in the past 10 years. Real issues are how many days of absence before truancy is an issue; exclusion from sports and other extra-curricular activities when arriving during the school year; course sequencing and graduation requirements not consistent from state to state; immunization requirements; and being

able to hand carry school records from sending school. Schools need to allow flexibility in these issues.

Members shared their own military experiences or those they are aware of in regards to items on the Compact.

Member added she has been working with Douglas District to become a Purple Star School. There are 5 key elements involved. She asked regarding an Executive Order from the Governor for Purple Up Day on April 16.

Secretary of Education stated the immunization requirement will require a language change in the South Dakota Codified Law.

5. **State Council Responsibilities.** The State Council responsibilities are to serve as an advisory and advocacy body; develop policy concerning the Compact within the state; help the State Commissioner; and promote and advocate the Compact to school administrators throughout South Dakota.
6. **State Commissioner's Responsibilities.** The State Commissioner's responsibilities were covered on the national level—National Council and Executive Committee and state level.
7. **What Compact Covers and Doesn't Cover.** One thing not covered by the Compact is high school student transcripts.
8. **MIC3 Website.** The website is www.MIC3.net. It is a great resource including Directory of State Compact Offices, discussion forums, current information and resources available for schools and military families with children.