



ARKANSAS STATE MIC3 COUNCIL

Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission

**ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
ARKANSAS STATE COUNCIL
OF THE
MILITARY INTERSTATE CHILDREN'S COMPACT COMMISSION
TO THE GOVERNOR
AND SENATE AND HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEES
COVERING ACADEMIC YEAR 2020-2021**

Executive Summary

Pursuant to the Arkansas Code Annotated (ACA) Section 6-4-305(f), the Arkansas State Council of the Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission (hereinafter Arkansas MIC3 Council, State Council, or Council and MIC3, respectively) hereby submits this report to the Governor of Arkansas and to the Education Committees of the Senate and House of Representatives of the Arkansas General Assembly.

This report covers the period from July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021. Because this Council is concerned with the support of children of military families enrolled in Arkansas public schools, that time period is referenced in this report as Academic Year 2020-2021, or AY 2020-2021.

ACA 6-4-305 requires this Council to report on the following areas (excerpted verbatim from ACA 6-4-305):

- (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.

The Council has chosen to include a section of miscellaneous information, as well.

The Council has also decided to submit this report to the Secretary of Education and the State Board of Education, and will submit this report to the MIC3 national office to satisfy the requirements of MIC3 Rule 2.102.

I. Achievements of the State Council and Public School Districts.

The achievements of the Council and public school districts during AY 2020-2021 have focused on implementing the changes brought about by Act 939 of 2019. A schedule of Council meetings and of subordinate groups committees and are at **Appendices A** and **B** respectively. Records of all meetings, including agendas, minutes, and materials discussed, are available online at <http://dese.ade.arkansas.gov/divisions/legal/military-families-and-veterans/meeting-agendaminutes>. Significant activities of the Council include holding the Military Family Forum (pursuant to ACA 6-4-305), organization of the Council, and recognition of schools.

- A. Military Family Forum: The Council held its first Military Family Forum on September 17, 2020. COVID-19 pandemic conditions caused the Council to hold the Forum via web-based conferencing. Approximately ten persons participated. Feedback from the public indicated a need to educate families and school staffs alike about their legal rights and obligations.
- B. Committee Reports: The following are brief summaries by each Committee of its activities during AY 2020-2021.

Awards Committee (Chair: Dr. Janice Walker)

Mission: To implement a program to recognize outstanding service to children of military families

The Awards Committee's goal is to recognize organizations and individuals for exceptional service to or support for children of military families. The committee established and prioritized five tasks to work toward to assist with accomplishing this goal. The first priority task was designing a Purple Star District and School logo and publicizing the program on social media. The second task was partnering with the Little Rock Air Force Base for funding of the production of the Purple Star District/School banners. Our third task was establishing a nomination process to recognize the work of the District Military Education Coordinators(DMECs). These three priorities have been achieved and processes established to sustain their continued implementation. The two remaining tasks of focus are to recognize individuals who have given outstanding service to military families and council members upon the completion of their service on the committee. The Awards Committee is committed to achieving and maintaining the progress made toward accomplishing the established tasks.

Military Family Forum Committee (Chair: Ms. Andelyn Wright)

Mission: To coordinate the Council's military family forum

The Military Family Forum Committee successfully executed the inaugural Military Family Forum event in September 2020. Since that time, the committee has met regularly to discuss feedback from participants and how we as a committee can improve the second annual event, scheduled for September 2021. In addition to after-action reporting and developing the FY21 forum, The Military Family Forum Committee has also supported other sub-committees of the MIC3 Arkansas State Council through partnerships and collaboration of joint projects.

Outreach Committee (Chair: Ms. April Cooper)

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.

The outreach committee met twice during the 2020-21 school year. The committee recommended that three social media platforms be created to advertise the Arkansas State MIC3 Council. Facebook, Instagram,

and Twitter seem to be the most popular platforms and were adopted by the Council. The outreach committee used these platforms to advertise upcoming Council meetings, committee meetings, local school Veteran Day activities, and Purple Up photos. The goal is to continue these efforts in the upcoming years.

Strategic Planning Committee (Chair: Ms. Jody Bergstrom)

Mission: To develop and monitor implementation of the Council's strategic plan

The Strategic Planning Committee put in motion a plan, process, and action items for each of the Council's working committees consistent with the mission and objectives of the Arkansas MIC3 Council. Each committee has a working set of action items and goals. The strategic planning committee will continue to meet to ensure the Council is interconnected and meeting metrics outlined.

- C. School Recognition. The Purple Star School Award is an honorary designation by the Council to recognize public schools that have met certain criteria to be considered military-supportive. The criteria and application process are available at <http://dese.ade.arkansas.gov/divisions/legal/military-families-and-veterans/purple-star-schools>

Currently 33 public schools have met the criteria. A table of Purple Star Schools is at **Appendix C**. Additionally, three school districts have been recognized as Purple Star School Districts for having all campuses achieve Purple Star School status. Purple Star School Districts are listed at **Appendix D**.

- D. District Military Education Coordinators. Per ACA 6-4-309, all public school districts and charter schools with either a total enrollment of 3,000 or more students or at least 20 children of military families enrolled are required to appoint a staff member to serve in the role of District Military Education Coordinator (DMECs). The Council has worked cooperatively with the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education to monitor the status of DMECs. A list of school districts that have complied with this requirement is at **Appendix E**. A list of districts which are not in compliance is at **Appendix F**. The Council has created an award to recognize outstanding DMECs. A list of DMECs so recognized during AY 2020-2021 is at **Appendix G**.

II. Reports to the Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission and Actions Taken by the Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission.

During AY 2020-2021 the MIC3 took four actions relevant to Arkansas, as follows:

- A. The organization has voted to pursue a path to extending coverage of the Compact to reserve component families. It has asked each state Council to respond with its position on the course of action it favors, with input due to the national organization by August 31.
- B. Col. (Ret.) John Kaminar (Compact Commissioner for Arkansas) was re-elected to a third term as national chair.
- C. The Executive Committee voted to hold its 2021 Annual Business Meeting in Little Rock, provided pandemic conditions permit travel and large in-person gatherings.

D. The Executive Director of MIC3 met with state officials to provide input to amend Senate Bill 638 of 2021, which was passed by the general Assembly as Act 1031.

III. Cases Brought to the State Council.

Typically cases are not addressed by the Council, but are addressed by the Compact Commissioner and/or Military Family Education Liaison. A matrix of cases addressed by the state Compact Commissioner or Military Family Education Liaison is at **Appendix H**.

IV. Training for Public School District Personnel.

It should be noted that ACA 6-4-309 assigns responsibility for training to the Arkansas Department of Education, not to the State Council. However, because the state Compact Commissioner/Council Chair and the Military Family Education Liaison are both staff members of the Arkansas Department of Education, training activities conducted by either of those staff members will be considered to have been conducted by the State Council. A schedule of training events conducted during AY 2020-2021 is at **Appendix I**.

V. Plans for Future Engagement.

During AY 2021-2022 the State Council will:

- Conduct at least one Military Family Forum, pursuant to ACA 6-4-305.
- Hold its regularly scheduled Council meetings in various communities in order to facilitate in-person attendance by members of the public. Each Council meeting will feature a web-based option for persons who wish to attend virtually.
- Increase its following on all social media platforms currently used by the Council.
- Coordinate with the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education to conduct training statewide.
- Assist schools to become more military friendly through advancement of the Purple Star School program.
- Promote the District Military Education Coordinator program through social media and in coordination with the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education.

VI. Other Information Requested by Parents and Legal Guardians of Military Families.

No requests to submit additional information have been received by the Arkansas MIC3 Council.

VII. Miscellaneous Information.

A table showing the number of children of military families who transferred into and out of Arkansas public schools during AY 2020-2021 is at **Appendix J**.

Point of contact for this information is John I. Kaminar, Military and Veterans Liaison, Arkansas Department of Education, Division of Elementary and Secondary Education, 501-683-5188, john.kaminar@ade.arkansas.gov.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/

John I. Kaminar
Compact Commissioner for Arkansas and
State Council Chair

/s/

Andelyn Wright
State Council Vice Chair

Appendices

Appendix A: Schedule of State Council Meetings During AY 2020-2021

DATE	GROUP	LOCATION
July 2, 2020	State Council	Web-Based
September 3, 2020	State Council	Web-Based
November 3, 2020	State Council	Web-Based
January 7, 2020	State Council	Web-Based
March 4, 2021	State Council	Web-Based
May 6, 2021	State Council	Web-Based

Appendix B: Schedule of Meetings of Committees and Subordinate Groups During AY 2020-2021

DATE	GROUP	LOCATION
July 15, 2020	Awards Committee	Web-Based
September 1, 2020	Awards Committee	Web-Based
September 15, 2020	Awards Committee	Web-Based
November 10, 2020	Awards Committee	Web-Based
January 12, 2021	Awards Committee	Web-Based
March 3, 2021	Awards Committee	Web-Based
April 6, 2021	Awards Committee	Web-Based
July 29, 2020	Military Family Forum Committee	Web-Based
August 18, 2020	Military Family Forum Committee	Conference Call
September 3, 2020	Military Family Forum Committee	Conference Call
September 15, 2020	Military Family Forum Committee	Conference Call
March 9, 2021	Military Family Forum Committee	Web-Based
April 13, 2021	Military Family Forum Committee	Conference Call
May 6, 2021	Military Family Forum Committee	Web-Based
July 7, 2020	Outreach Committee	Web-Based
August 26, 2020	Outreach Committee	Web-Based
August 27, 2020	Strategic Planning Committee	Web-Based
July 23, 2020	Committee Chair Work Session	Hybrid
October 28, 2020	Committee Chair Work Session	Hybrid
January 7, 2021	Committee Chair Work Session	Hybrid

Appendix C: Purple Star Schools as of June 30, 2021

Name of School	District
Benton High School	Benton School District
Academic Center of Excellence	Cabot School District
Cabot Freshman Academy	Cabot School District
Cabot High School	Cabot School District
Cabot Junior High School North	Cabot School District
Cabot Junior High School South	Cabot School District
Cabot Middle School North	Cabot School District
Cabot Middle School South	Cabot School District
Central Elementary School	Cabot School District
Eastside Elementary	Cabot School District
Magness Creek Elementary	Cabot School District
Mountain Springs Elementary	Cabot School District
Northside Elementary	Cabot School District
Southside Elementary	Cabot School District
Stagecoach Elementary	Cabot School District
Ward Central Elementary	Cabot School District
Westside Elementary	Cabot School District
eSTEM Downtown Elementary School	eSTEM Public Charter School
eSTEM Downtown Junior High School	eSTEM Public Charter School
eSTEM East Village Elementary School	eSTEM Public Charter School
eSTEM East Village Junior High School	eSTEM Public Charter School
eSTEM High School	eSTEM Public Charter School
Bob Folsom Elementary School	Farmington School District
Farmington High School	Farmington School District
Bobby G. Lester Elementary	Jacksonville-North Pulaski School District
Jacksonville High School	Jacksonville-North Pulaski School District
Jacksonville Middle School	Jacksonville-North Pulaski School District
Murrell Taylor Elementary School	Jacksonville-North Pulaski School District
Pinewood Elementary	Jacksonville-North Pulaski School District
LISA Academy North Elementary School	The LISA Academy
LISA Academy North Middle/High School	The LISA Academy
LISA Academy Springdale	The LISA Academy
LISA Academy West Elementary School	The LISA Academy
LISA Academy West High School	The LISA Academy
LISA Academy West Middle School	The LISA Academy

Appendix D: Purple Star School Districts as of June 30, 2021

- Cabot School District
- eSTEM Public Charter School
- LISA Academy

Appendix E: District Military Education Coordinators Required and Appointed as of June 30, 2021

District Name	Total Enrollment	Total Military Dependents Enrolled	Has the District Appointed a DMEC?
Alma School District	3297	83	Yes
Arkansas Connections Academy	1597	35	Yes
Arkansas Virtual Academy	2474	24	Yes
Batesville School District	3158	6	Yes
Beebe School District	3246	116	Yes
Benton School District	5558	114	Yes
Bentonville School District	17848	246	Yes
Bryant School District	9299	127	Yes
Cabot School District	10519	928	Yes
Conway School District	10117	88	Yes
El Dorado School District	4192	15	Yes
ESTEM Public Charter School	3202	79	Yes
Fayetteville School District	10487	83	Yes
Fort Smith School District	14136	222	Yes
Greenbrier School District	3553	37	Yes
Greene County Tech School District	3627	9	Yes
Greenwood School District	3754	226	Yes
Harmony Grove School District (Saline)	1204	21	Yes
Hot Springs School District	3579	11	Yes
Jacksonville Lighthouse Charter	857	80	Yes
Jacksonville North Pulaski School District	4014	285	Yes
Jonesboro School District	6410	16	Yes
Lake Hamilton School District	4367	37	Yes
Lakeside School District (Garland)	3481	56	Yes
Lavaca School District	811	38	Yes
Little Rock School District	21472	336	Yes
Lonoke School District	1666	30	Yes
Magnolia School District	2648	37	Yes
Marion School District	3926	34	Yes
Mayflower School District	1046	20	Yes
Mountain Home School District	3943	57	Yes
Ozark School District	1727	25	Yes
Paragould School District	3115	42	Yes
Pulaski County Special School District	11801	196	Yes
Rogers School District	15721	58	Yes
Russellville School District	5217	54	Yes
Searcy School District	4017	62	Yes
Siloam Springs School District	4371	29	Yes
Springdale School District	22164	14	Yes
Texarkana School District	3887	0	Yes
Valley View School District	2865	36	Yes
Van Buren School District	5637	26	Yes
Vilonia School District	3063	35	Yes
West Memphis School District	5164	4	Yes

Appendix F: District Military Education Coordinators Required But Not Appointed as of June 30, 2021

District Name	Total Enrollment	Total Military Dependents Enrolled	Has the District Appointed a DMEC?
Academics Plus Public Charter Schools	1552	41	No
Arkadelphia School District	1761	21	No
Harrison School District	2727	38	No
Nettleton School District	3585	12	No
North Little Rock School District	8076	13	No
Pea Ridge School District	2231	20	No
Sheridan School District	4151	52	No

Appendix G: Outstanding DMEC Awards Presented During AY 2020-2021

- Lt. Col. (Ret.) Timothy Farmer (*Benton School District*)
- Ms. Amy Arnone (*Jacksonville-North Pulaski School District*)

Appendix H: Summaries of Cases Brought to State Level During AY 2020-2021

CASE #	DATE INITIATED	DATE CONCLUDED	DESCRIPTION OF THE ISSUE	APPLICABLE STATE LAW OR COMPACT ARTICLE	OUTCOME
20-01	Oct 9, 2020	Oct 14, 2020	Student had been accepted into a GT program in Virginia but had not actually started the program before the family's transfer to Arkansas. The student wanted to participate in GT in Arkansas. However, the student had not completed an assessment required by the local school district.	Article V	School district worked with the family to place the student appropriately.

Appendix I: AY 2020-2021 Training Activities

DATE	SUBJECT/CONTENT	LOCATION	PRESENTERS
September 1, 2020	Military Family Forum Information Session	Web-Based	A. Wright, B. Harris-Ritter
September 3, 2020	Military Family Forum Information Session	Web-Based	A. Wright, B. Harris-Ritter
November 19, 2020	Purple Star School Training	Web-Based	J. Kaminar
December 1, 2020	District Military Education Coordinator Training	Web-Based	J. Kaminar
December 15, 2020	District Military Education Coordinator Training	Web-Based	J. Kaminar
April 12, 2021	Purple Star School Training	Web-Based	J. Kaminar

Appendix J: Children of Military Families Transferring Into and Out of Arkansas Public Schools During AY 2020-2021, By Branch and Component of Service

BRANCH AND COMPONENT OF SERVICE	# OF CHILDREN OF MILITARY FAMILIES WHO TRANSFERRED OUT OF ARKANSAS PUBLIC SCHOOLS	# OF CHILDREN OF MILITARY FAMILIES WHO TRANSFERRED INTO ARKANSAS PUBLIC SCHOOLS
AIR FORCE	251	18
AIR FORCE RESERVE	9	0
AIR NATIONAL GUARD	13	2
ARMY	98	22
ARMY NATIONAL GUARD	55	5
ARMY RESERVE	16	4
COAST GUARD	1	1
MARINE CORPS	16	3
MARINE CORPS RESERVE	3	0
NAVY	17	5
NAVY RESERVE	4	1
PARENTS IN MULTIPLE BRANCHES OF SERVICE	5	1

Data provided by the Arkansas Department of Education Data Center as of May 5, 2021.