
NEW YORK STATE INTERSTATE COMPACT – MILITARY CHILDREN

June 30, 2022

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 and voting 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 2021/2022 on **October 13, 2021**, and on **April 6, 2022**. The meetings were held via Zoom due to continuing COVID recommendations. Meetings are open to the public in compliance with open meeting law. Agendas and Minutes are posted on the MIC-3 website <https://mic3.net>.
- b. A calendar for future New York State Interstate Compact Meetings has been established through 2023⁺. All future meetings will be held in-person at the NYS Museum in Albany.

Notable Activities:

- a. April as the Month of the Military Child was highlighted on the NYSED website. School district personnel received access to information and resources thanks to the work of the NYSED Office of Curriculum and Instruction. 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](#). Melissa Montague, who is an active member, led this work.
- b. Military student “stories” continue to be 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. Dr. Debra Jackson, in her role as NYS Compact Commissioner, served on the MIC-3 Finance committee, the MIC-3 Leadership committee as vice chair, and as facilitator of the re-structured MIC-3 Tier 2 meetings.
- d. The Governor’s Office of Appointments vetted and approved Heather Evangelista of West Point to the position of “A representative of military families appointed by the Governor”. She is now participating as a voting member. The Evangelista appointment was signed by Governor Hochul.
- e. 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 appointed by the governor
- f. Requests for appointments effective July 1, 2022, due to retirements are as follows:

- 1) A superintendent of a school district with a high concentration of military children appointed by the commissioner, currently held by Dr. Frank Sheboy.
 - 2) A designated representative of the NYS Commissioner of Education, Dr. Betty Rosa, currently held by Marybeth Casey, Assistant Commissioner of Standards and Instructional Programs.
- g. The Council acknowledged the work by Robert G. Conway, Jr. who retired in 2021. Bob's input and expertise are missed by all. His early foundational work with the Council has enabled our NYS Council to develop as a true working team.
- 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, emails and phone conversations assist with student transitions as families enter and exit New York State public schools. Most concerns during the 2021-2022 year were immediately resolved with a single communication to the school or district leadership. The council commented that the willingness of council members to facilitate these conversations made a difference statewide for military impacted students.

A special thanks to the Director and Assistant Director of the New York State Public High School Athletic Association for their assistance with the athletic matters on mid-year transfers.

Of note, with districts citing local control, the Council is exploring if there is a need to create new regulations regarding end-of-course completion when a student exits prior to the Regents exam yet the student completes the course work. Practices currently vary statewide. This topic is under study as it affects military students who transfer in late May or June.

- i. The Council reviewed the Purple Star Legislation, A7083, which was introduced by Assembly Member Chris Burdick on April 21, 2021. Currently the bill does not have a Senate companion bill and does not include funding for implementation. Discussion indicated programs that support military families require financial support beyond the volunteer support for full execution.
- j. The newly implemented Education Law §3304 was signed by Governor Hochul on November 11th, Chapter 605 Laws of 2021. The law was reviewed by the Council for enacting best implementation practices to support Districts. Clarification on expectations is now included in the Q/A document on the SED website. §3304 supports incoming military families by requiring districts to approve registration and electronically accept documents prior to relocation. Parents are no longer required to register in person. This legislation will help our military families with early enrollment and hence their child's ability to develop their academic schedule in a timely manner.

The significance of this topic was shared by Debra Jackson and Stephen Todd at the Fort Drum Educational Liaison Committee (FDELIC) meeting held virtually on March 23, 2022.

- k. The NYSED information page will now include the Military Child Education Coalition's School Quest Tool specifically designed for New York State transfers.
- l. Implementation of Section 80-5.28 to the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education: Transitional J Certificate for Spouses of Individuals on Full-Time Active Duty with the Armed Forces Whose Permanent Duty Station is in NYS was reviewed and deemed successful. Appreciation to the Council members who worked to create and implement this regulation.
- m. The Council members continue to review the NYS response to the proposal by MIC-3 expanding Compact coverage to the National Guard and Reserve beyond service members in Title 10 status. Data collection and outreach is ongoing. Outside comment is welcomed and encouraged.
- n. All voting members appointed to the council are updated in JCOPE as New York State policymakers.

Future scheduled meeting dates+

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, Academy Professor, 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 of Standards and Instructional Programs, New York State Education Department

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

Troy Decker, Superintendent of Schools, Indian River CSD, NY

Heather Evangelista*, Parent, West Point, NY

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

Kevin Getnick*, Designated Representative of the Adjutant General

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, Academy Professor, USMA, West Point, United States Army

Dr. Robert Zayas, Director, New York State Public High School Athletic Association