



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT**  
*STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION*



MEMORANDUM

TO: Cherise Imai, Executive Director  
Interstate Compact Commission Central Office

FROM: Laura Anastasio, Commissioner's Designee  
State of Connecticut

DATE: May 10, 2024

SUBJECT: Connecticut State Council for Military Children

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In compliance with the policy of the Interstate Compact Commission, I am writing to report the activities of the Connecticut State Council for Military Children for the 2023-24 fiscal year.

Membership of the Connecticut State Council

The current members of the Council are:

- Charlene M. Russell-Tucker, Commissioner of Education
- Laura Anastasio, Commissioner's Designee
- The Honorable Holly Cheeseman, Representative 37<sup>th</sup> Assembly District
- Valerie Nelson, Groton Public Schools
- Jason S. Hartling, Ledyard Public Schools
- Kristea Francolino, New London Public Schools
- Bob Ross, Executive Director, Office of Military Affairs
- Dr. Andrea Ackerman, Groton Board of Education
- Terrell Hill, Superintendent, Windsor Public Schools
- Captain Kenneth M. Curtin, Jr., Commander Naval Submarine Base New London, Department of Defense Liaison (nonvoting)
- Miranda Chapman, Military Family Liaison, Naval Submarine Base New London (nonvoting)
- Louis Tallarita, Connecticut State Liaison (nonvoting)

The Connecticut State Council (Council) met in a joint meeting with the Military School Liaison Committee (MSLC) on November 30, 2023. The Council discussed the Military Spouse Licensing Relief Act, which amended the Servicemembers' Civil Relief Act. The group discussed the impact for the school districts. The group discussed the Penn State Study of the Compact, which was commissioned by the Department of Defense in response to the reauthorization of the NDAA. The members expressed their concerns with possible amendments to the Compact that could jeopardize its existence. The DSLO initiatives were also presented and discussed by the group.

The Council's second joint meeting with the MSLC of this fiscal year was held in person on May 2, 2024. The group was advised of the Commission's communication with DSLO regarding

proposed amendments to the Compact. The group also discussed the joint resolution by Representative Courtney and Senator Hirono in support of the Compact. Two successful transition cases were presented and discussed—both involved students receiving reciprocal diplomas from other states. The cases demonstrate that the Compact does make a big difference for students, and the group discussed how to celebrate and get the word out about these successful transitions that would never have been possible without the Compact. The group also discussed raising Compact awareness in the state, the Quality of Life survey, certification for military spouses, Our Community Salutes initiative, and progress on getting data from DOD to allow districts credit for students electing to join the military after high school.

The Commissioner's Designee attended the NCOSEA/NASBE Conference and conducted a training session for state education attorneys on the Compact, and the NAFIS September 2023 Conference as the MIC3 representative, presenting NAFIS with an award recognizing its support of MIC3. She also attended the MIC3 Annual Business Meeting in Richmond and the EXCOM Retreat in April of 2024.

Points of Contact for Connecticut:

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