



## AGENDA

### THE ARKANSAS COUNCIL FOR MILITARY CHILDREN

Thursday, July 18, 2024, 10:00 A.M.

Professional Education Center  
Camp Joe T. Robinson, Arkansas

OR

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82658879558?pwd=dVdzVU9OWWt2VzFzNGpRWmpYdy9ZQT09>

Meeting ID: 826 5887 9558

Passcode: 967781

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- I. Call to Order and Roll Call (J. Kaminar, A. Cress)
  - II. Pledge of Allegiance (J. Kaminar)
  - III. Recognition of Host Installation (J. Kaminar)
  - IV. Introduction of New Members and Guests (J. Kaminar)
  - V. Introduction of Student Advisors (A. Wright)
  - VI. Approval of Agenda\*\*\* (J. Kaminar)
  - VII. Approval of Minutes (May 2, 2024)\*\*\* (J. Kaminar)
  - VIII. Public Comments (J. Kaminar)
  - IX. Chair's Report (J. Kaminar)
    - A. ADE Summit
  - X. Vice Chair's Report (A. Wright)

- XI. Reports by Committees, Task Forces, or Liaisons**
  - A. Awards Committee (Dr. J. Walker)**
    - 1. Purple Star School Applications\*\*\***
    - 2. Outstanding Military Scholar Award**
  - B. Outreach Committee (J. Bergstrom)**
  - C. Strategic Planning Committee (J. Reynolds)**
  - D. Student Advisory Committee (A. Wright)**
  - E. Military Family Education Liaison (B. Olles)**
  - F. Department of Defense Liaison (Col. N. Estelle)**
  - G. Special Education Liaison (R. Porter)**
  - H. School Choice Advisor (D. Wood)**
  
- XII. Old Business (J. Kaminar)**
  - A. Annual Report to the Governor**
  - B. Biennial Report to Joint Performance Review Committee\*\*\***
  - C. Committee Rosters\*\*\***
  
- XIII. New Business (J. Kaminar)**
  - A. Change to Meeting Schedule for 2024-25\*\*\***
  - B. Schedule of Committee Meetings**
  
- XIV. Date/Time/Place for Next Meeting – September 5, 2024, 10:00 AM, Van Buren School District (J. Kaminar)**
  
- XV. Adjournment\*\*\* (J. Kaminar)**

\*\*\* Indicates a vote is required



## MEETING NOTES

### THE ARKANSAS COUNCIL FOR MILITARY CHILDREN

Thursday, July 18, 2024, 10:00 A.M.

#### I. Call to Order and Roll Call

The Arkansas Council for Military Children (Council) met Thursday, July 18, 2024. Chair John Kaminar called the meeting to order at 10:02 A.M.

#### PRESENT:

Mr. John Kaminar, Chair  
Ms. Andelyn Wright, Vice Chair  
Rep. Karilyn Brown (proxy for Rep. Brian Evans) (Joined at 10:07)  
Sen. Jane English  
Lt. Col. James Garvey  
Ms. Cristina Harper  
Dr. Janice Walker (proxy for Dr. Jeremy Owoh)  
Dr. Kerry Schneider  
Mr. Rick Porter (Special Education Liaison, non-voting)  
Ms. Teri Williams  
Mr. Weston Arnett (Student Advisor)  
Ms. Sonya Smith (Student Advisor)  
Ms. Madison Williams (Student Advisor)

#### ABSENT:

Ms. Jody Bergstrom (Excused)  
Mr. John Ciesla  
Mr. Brian Melton  
Ms. Lashawnda Noel  
Ms. Bobbie Olles (MFEL) (Excused)  
Ms. Christyal Parker (Excused)  
Ms. Allison Pitts  
Ms. Jennifer Reynolds  
Ms. Jessica Saum  
Ms. Emily Taylor  
Col. N'Keiba Estelle (DOD Liaison, non-voting)  
Mr. Dustin Wood (School Choice Advisor, non-voting) (Excused)

A quorum was not established.

## **II. Pledge of Allegiance (J. Kaminar)**

Chair Kaminar asked Ms. Harper to lead the Council members in the Pledge of Allegiance.

## **III. Recognition of Host Installation (J. Kaminar)**

Chair Kaminar thanked Cpt. Christopher Nelson of the Arkansas National Guard for today's meeting at the Professional Education Center. The professional Education Center is comprised of six training centers and nearly 600 staff members. It provides training and support to the National Guard in all 54 States and territories, and it has enhanced the National Guard readiness for nearly 36,000 soldiers each year who come through the Professional Education Center.

## **IV. Introduction of New Members and Guests (J. Kaminar)**

Chair Kaminar introduced Ms. Alisha Price, the new legal advisor assigned by DESE to support the Council. Ms. Price has a bachelor's degree in marketing and a Master of Business Administration, both from Grand Canyon University. She has her Juris Doctorate from the Bowen School of Law at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, where she interned in the Veterans Legal Services Clinic and was Vice President of the Student Veterans Organization. Ms. Price served for nearly nine years in the US Army, where she gained experience in several fields, including human resources, aircraft maintenance and training, and operations management. She has served at installations in California, Hawaii, Texas and South Korea.

Vice Chair Wright introduced the three new Student Advisors: Mr. Weston Arnett of the Greenwood School District, Ms. Sonya Smith of the Cabot School District, and Ms. Madison Williams, of the Bryant School District.

## **VI. Approval of Agenda (J. Kaminar)**

The agenda could not be approved due to the lack of a quorum.

## **VII. Approval of Minutes (May 2, 2024) (J. Kaminar)**

The minutes could not be approved due to the lack of a quorum.

## **VIII. Public Comments (J. Kaminar)**

There were no public comments.

## **IX. Chair's Report (J. Kaminar)**

### **A. ADE Summit**

Chair Kaminar reported he and Ms. Saum had the opportunity to present together at the ADE Summit in Hot Springs on July 8th. Their session focused on engaging with military families. Ms. Saum and Chair Kaminar gave them many good takeaways for how they can organize efforts in their school districts to work better with military families.

Chair Kaminar invited the members' attention to an article that was written by Ms. Saum entitled "How Schools Can Better Support Military Children and Families" which was published online by EdSurge.

## **X. Vice Chair's Report (A. Wright)**

Vice Chair Wright introduced Lieutenant Colonel Garvey to share updated information about the expansion coming to the Ebbing Air National Guard Station and changes that they expect in community partnerships as a result of the foreign military sales. Lt. Col. Garvey reported that as of the 2nd of July, the 85th Fighter Group was activated. This means is that the installation will have an active-duty ATC training mission that will train international pilots coming to Fort Smith over the course of the next couple of years. This also means that there will be some active-duty children of school age will be coming to Fort Smith. Lt. Col. Garvey reported that the city and the community are preparing to support this. The local school districts in Fort Smith as well as the Chamber of Commerce are palling to receive those families, both American and international, over the course of the next two to three years to make sure that they have all the support mechanisms that they need.

## **XI. Reports by the Committees, Task Forces, or Liaisons**

### **A. Awards Committee (Dr. J. Walker)**

Dr. Walker reported the last Awards Committee meeting was held on March 11 to finalize details of the Outstanding Military Scholar Award.

#### **1. Purple Star School Applications**

Chair Kaminar reported that Central Park Elementary School in Bentonville and Lavaca Elementary School in Lavaca have met all the requirements for their Purple Star School applications. Due to a lack of a quorum the committee couldn't vote on the applications, but Chair Kaminar stated he would send those out for a vote via e-mail so that those schools can receive their recognition before the school year starts.

#### **2. Outstanding Military Scholar Award**

The Outstanding Military Scholar award is already out and is published on the DESE website. Chair Kaminar reported that they will be publishing a Commissioner's Memo from the Department of Education about the award, probably in early September, and that they will be pushing information out through the council's e-newsletter in August. As a reminder, the Council will not be accepting nominations for that board until January. But they do want to make sure at least that people can access the information so that. Chair Kaminar said anyone wishing to nominate a student for that award will have the opportunity to see what it entails.

### **B. Outreach Committee (J. Bergstrom)**

No report.

### **C. Strategic Planning Committee (J. Reynolds)**

No report.

### **D. Student Advisory Committee (A. Wright)**

Vice Chair Wright reported that the Student Advisory Committee met July 17. They discussed the expectations for the student advisors, provided them with an orientation, and discussed an outline of what they should expect. Vice Chair Wright said she will send out a poll to schedule meetings to accommodate

the student advisors, school, and extracurricular activities as best they can, and they will pair council members with the student advisors to serve as mentors.

#### **E. Military Family Education Liaison (B. Olles)**

No report.

#### **F. Department of Defense Liaison (Col. N. Estelle)**

Ms. Williams reported on behalf of Col. Estelle. Ms. Williams said the Little Rock Air Force Base is preparing for a major deployment in the fall. Several events are planned to assist families with transitions.

#### **G. Special Education Report (R. Porter)**

Mr. Porter reported on the ability to track data on how often people utilize the processes available of state complaints and Mediation for Special Education cases. He stated that the Special Education Unit at DESE is adding a feature to its web page that will enable families using the page to indicate whether they are a military family.

#### **H. School Choice Advisor (D. Wood)**

Chair Kaminar reported the following on Mr. Wood's behalf. Mr. Wood and Ms. Williams held an information session on July 12th at the Little Rock Air Force Base. Mr. Wood will be hosting webinars for education freedom account for parents on July 23rd and 25th. Those will be online sessions. The Education Freedom Account portal will be open on July 29th for parents to submit applications using the new platform; they will no longer be using the old class wallet platform.

### **XII. Old Business (J. Kaminar)**

#### **A. Annual Report to the Governor**

Chair Kaminar stated that the annual report to the Governor, the House and Senate Education Committees and the State Board of Education has been submitted. He also submitted the report to the national office of the Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission to meet their reporting requirement.

#### **B. Biennial Report to Joint Performance Review Committee**

Chair Kaminar reported that the biennial report to the Joint Performance Review Committee requires a vote before it can be submitted. The biennial report is basically an attendance report of all of the council meetings and committee meetings. He said he would circulate the report for a vote via e-mail for all the voting members.

#### **C. Committee Rosters**

Chair Kaminar reported that council has updated the roster of committee memberships. The council is still in need of one more member each for the awards committee and the student advisory committee. Chair Kaminar announced the committees on which the student advisors will be serving. Ms. Sonya Smith will be serving on the awards committee, Ms. Madison Williams will be serving on the outreach committee and Mr. Weston Arnett will serve on the strategic planning committee.

**XIII. New Business (J. Kaminar)**

**A. Change to Meeting Schedule for 2024-25**

Chair Kaminar said he had received a suggestion that the council hold one of its meetings in a committee meeting rooms at the state Capitol Building. Representative Brown said she would investigate hosting the November meeting at the state capitol.

**B. Schedule of Committee Meetings**

Chair Kaminar stated that he would like to prepare a consolidated schedule of committee meetings. This will enable members of the public to attend any committee meetings. Chair Kaminar would like to have that schedule in place by the September meeting.

**XIV. Date/Time/Place for Next Meeting - September 5, 2024, 10:00 AM, Van Buren School District.**

**XV. Adjournment (J. Kaminar)**

Chair Kaminar declared the meeting adjourned at 10:31 AM.

*Notes recorded by A. Cress*

# Arkansas Purple Star School Application - 2023 Version

This form is for use by schools in Arkansas to apply to be recognized by the Arkansas Council for Military Children as a Purple Star School. It supersedes previous applications for Purple Star School status. **Applications for Purple Star School status are due by August 1 each year.**

## Part 1: Administrative Information.

Please provide names and contact information for school officials.

Name of School \*

Central Park Elementary

Name of School District (If the school is a private school, use Independent) \*

Bentonville Schools

Name of Principal \*

Karrie Bradshaw

Principal's Phone Number \*

479-696-3200



Principal's E-Mail Address \*

Kbradshaw@bentonvillek12.org

Name of Person Submitting This Application \*

Amanda D. Williams, Counselor

Phone Number of Person Submitting This Application \*

479-696-3237

E-Mail Address of Person Submitting This Application \*

amwilliams@bentonvillek12.org

Position of Person Submitting This Application \*

School Counselor and SML

Part 2: Required Activities

The school must complete all of the following six activities before submitting the application.

Has the school designated a School Military Liaison (SML) to serve as a point of contact for military-connected students and families? \*

Yes

No

Name of School Military Liaison \*

Amanda D. Williams

E-Mail Address of School Military Liaison \*

amwilliams@bentonvillek12.org

Has the School Military Liaison completed training with the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education on special considerations for military-connected students and families similar to training provided for District Military Education Coordinators under ACA 6-4-309? \*

Yes

No

When did the School Military Liaison attend this training?

MM DD YYYY

09 / 14 / 2023

Has the School Military Liaison identified children of military families and informed teachers of the children of military families students in their classrooms and the special considerations military-connected students and families should receive? \*

Yes

No

Does the school have a dedicated page on its website featuring resources for military families? \*

Yes

No

Provide the link to the web page of resources for military families. \*

<https://www.bentonvillek12.org/page/military-families>

Does the school have a military service member, spouse of a service member, or other representative of the military community on its family engagement committee? \*

Yes

No

Name of the Engagement Committee's Military Representative \*

Shannon Stanton

E-Mail Address of the Engagement Committee's Military Representative \*

weekssm@yahoo.com

Has the school addressed military family issues in its school family engagement plan? \*

Yes

No

Provide a link to the school's family engagement plan. \*

https://core-docs.s3.us-east-1.amazonaws.com/documents/asset/uploaded\_file/3173/Bentonville/3572893/CPE\_Parent\_Engagement\_Plan\_2023-2024.pdf

Part 3: The school must complete ONE of the following three activities.

1. The SML coordinates professional development on federally identified special considerations for military-connected students and families in the areas of a) records and enrollment, b) placement and attendance, c) eligibility, and d) graduation; or
2. The SML coordinates awareness training for military-connected family members; or
3. The school hosts a military recognition event to demonstrate a military-friendly culture at the school.

Which activity has the school conducted? \*

- The SML coordinates professional development on federally identified special considerations for military-connected students and families in the areas of a) records and enrollment, b) placement and attendance, c) eligibility, and d) graduation.
- The SML coordinates awareness training for military-connected family members.
- The school hosts a military recognition event to demonstrate a military-friendly culture at the school.

Does the principal of the school know about this application and approve of this application? \*

- Yes
- No

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# Arkansas Purple Star School Application - 2023 Version

This form is for use by schools in Arkansas to apply to be recognized by the Arkansas Council for Military Children as a Purple Star School. It supersedes previous applications for Purple Star School status.

**Applications for Purple Star School status are due by August 1 each year.**

## Part 1: Administrative Information.

Please provide names and contact information for school officials.

Name of School \*

Lavaca Elementary School

Name of School District (If the school is a private school, use Independent) \*

Lavaca School District

Name of Principal \*

Samuel Slott

Principal's Phone Number \*

479-377-1232

Principal's E-Mail Address \*

sam.slott@lavacaschools.com

Name of Person Submitting This Application \*

Lacey Robertson

Phone Number of Person Submitting This Application \*

4795184218

E-Mail Address of Person Submitting This Application \*

lacey.robertson@lavacaschools.com

Position of Person Submitting This Application \*

School Military Liaison

### Part 2: Required Activities

The school must complete all of the following six activities before submitting the application.

Has the school designated a School Military Liaison (SML) to serve as a point of contact for military-connected students and families? \*

Yes

No

Name of School Military Liaison \*

Lacey Robertson

E-Mail Address of School Military Liaison \*

lacey.robertson@lavacaschools.com

Has the School Military Liaison completed training with the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education on special considerations for military-connected students and families similar to training provided for District Military Education Coordinators under ACA 6-4-309? \*

Yes

No

When did the School Military Liaison attend this training?

MM DD YYYY

04 / 03 / 2024



Has the School Military Liaison identified children of military families and informed teachers of the children of military families students in their classrooms and the special considerations military-connected students and families should receive? \*

- Yes
- No

Does the school have a dedicated page on its website featuring resources for military families? \*

- Yes
- No

Provide the link to the web page of resources for military families. \*

<https://www.lavacaschools.com/page/military-families>

Does the school have a military service member, spouse of a service member, or other representative of the military community on its family engagement committee? \*

- Yes
- No

Name of the Engagement Committee's Military Representative \*

Jessie Heydenreich

E-Mail Address of the Engagement Committee's Military Representative \*

jn.heydenreich@gmail.com

Has the school addressed military family issues in its school family engagement plan? \*

Yes

No

Provide a link to the school's family engagement plan. \*

https://core-docs.s3.us-east-1.amazonaws.com/documents/asset/uploaded\_file/3997/LPSD/4301387/LES\_Military\_Families\_Engagement\_Plan.pdf

Part 3: The school must complete ONE of the following three activities.

1. The SML coordinates professional development on federally identified special considerations for military-connected students and families in the areas of a) records and enrollment, b) placement and attendance, c) eligibility, and d) graduation; or
2. The SML coordinates awareness training for military-connected family members; or
3. The school hosts a military recognition event to demonstrate a military-friendly culture at the school.

Which activity has the school conducted? \*

- The SML coordinates professional development on federally identified special considerations for military-connected students and families in the areas of a) records and enrollment, b) placement and attendance, c) eligibility, and d) graduation.
- The SML coordinates awareness training for military-connected family members.
- The school hosts a military recognition event to demonstrate a military-friendly culture at the school.

Does the principal of the school know about this application and approve of this application? \*

- Yes
- No

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OPINION | MENTAL HEALTH

# How Schools Can Better Support Military Children and Families

By Jessica Saum

Jun 26, 2024



Jacob Lund / Shutterstock

While summer is the busiest time of year for military families to transition to their next duty station, throughout the school year, they move from state to state, and sometimes even across the world.

Even after 16 years of being married to the military, my family learned that my husband would be moving in an **unaccompanied permanent change of station** for a year overseas. I was naïve about the challenges my family would face; I remember thinking that we had completed multiple four to seven-month deployments before and that this could not be much worse. I have a career in education, and our children are active in extracurricular activities. We have a supportive friend and church community, and we chose to see this as an opportunity to minimize our family's moving and for

our professional growth opportunities. My husband and I agreed that this was a good thing for our family and now, two years after he returned after being away for 14 months, I still believe it was.

We said our family would be fine, and in all honesty, we are, but to ignore the toll the time apart took on our family, and specifically my children, would be a disservice to the struggles and burdens military families across our nation face daily.

In recent years, our schools have become increasingly aware of the **unique needs** of military children, whose parents deploy and sometimes spend months and years away from home, **moving six to nine times on average in their K-12 education**. Our educational systems have begun taking steps to improve how they serve this community, including committing to **celebrating the Month of Military Child** each April and recognizing military children for their resilience and independence.

While steps have been taken to improve access to resources and outcomes for this group of students, there are still gaps in services to ensure their academic and social success. As educators, it is imperative that we acknowledge the challenges this life can bring and our role in supporting military children and families.

## The Barriers Military Children Face

The challenges families experience in military life can be a source of psychological stress, especially for children. It is often overlooked how children in military families **experience high rates of mental health issues**, trauma and other related problems. Children of our military members face multiple deployments as well as frequent moves, and the fear of trauma, such as a parent being injured or dying, is a reality for these families.

**Studies have shown** that one-third of children with a deployed parent are considered at “high risk” for psychosocial issues, and with the negative impact of deployment on

children, the mental health of the remaining parent and the uncertainty of reintegration. Furthermore, a 2010 study of 640,000 children between ages three and eight found that there is an [11 percent increase in mental and behavioral health issues](#) for military children when their parents are deployed. Additionally, it found that there was a 19 percent increase in behavioral disorders and an 18 percent increase in stress disorders during deployments. Those rates were higher in older children and children whose deployed parent was male.

Based on these statistics, it is fair to say that the mental health of military children is not being addressed enough. While students do have access to free mental health resources from [Military One Source](#) and [Military and Family Life Counselors \(MFLC\)](#) who support service members, their families and survivors, the gaps in access to quality and consistent mental and behavioral health support for children remains a serious issue.

[A study by the Naval Postgraduate School](#) showed that despite the fact that military families have government insurance that covers mental health treatment, up to 35 percent lacked adequate access to psychiatric care. Awareness of this issue was amplified when the [2020 Military Family Lifestyle Survey](#) reported that 51 percent of active-duty family respondents with children felt as though they were able to access high-quality mental health care for their children. However, this is simply not enough.

While policymakers must advocate that resources are readily available for military children in health care systems, through military installations and through community services to provide them with the support that they need, there must be an increase in support for training our schools and teachers to recognize these issues and connect students to support.

## What Schools and Educators Can Do

Schools and educators find themselves in a unique position to be a source of support, a safe and stable space where children can find consistency and a place where adults can be equipped to identify needs and connect to needed resources.

In seeking to improve outcomes for military children, their families must have guaranteed opportunities for continuity in routines and rituals, ways to connect with the community and participation in extracurricular activities. A strong partnership with informed educators who make certain students have what they need to be successful is a critical step to improving educational success and emotional well-being for military children.

Educators are perfectly situated to help military students in transition adapt to new school settings by clearly communicating classroom and school expectations and **understanding norms** that are not always easily understood. These inconsistencies in what is expected across schools and states lead to military children struggling with learning gaps or repetition, which can cause a disruption in consistent academic progress. Children are also facing changes with new or different teaching methods, expectations in classroom and school culture, and even unfamiliar technology and online learning processes.

Educators have the power to cultivate a supportive and welcoming classroom environment where students feel safe sharing their feelings with one another, which is critical to supporting students during transitions. Educators can provide experiences that foster empathy by asking the class to write letters to deployed service members or veterans, including military members in the learning, providing opportunities to speak to the students about a military career or answering questions about what deployment is like.

Educators can also make sure that students are placed in the appropriate courses and are being academically challenged while facilitating continuity of related services such as therapy or special education services, if they are eligible. In the instances where military students move mid-year, schools can ensure that students are placed in the



right classrooms for the support they need from special education services to advanced placement courses. Educators should familiarize themselves with the [Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission](#) and the resources available to the students they teach.

Beyond the classroom, schools and districts can pursue [Purple Star School](#) status by receiving training from their [state military council](#) and state chairman or chairwoman. These programs are in partnership with [state departments of education](#), and training is free and readily available. Other resources and organizations that provide support to schools include the [Military Child Education Coalition](#).

While there are remedies to address the challenges students face, there is certainly not an easy answer or solution that will work for all military children and their families. As military families across the world gear up for another move and prepare for a new school year in a new state, our schools and educators must prepare to acknowledge how military children play a significant role in their schools and communities and take the time to recognize the unique needs these students have.

Military children's futures are bright, and they are often inspired by the examples of their parents' selfless service. Educators committed to providing a supportive environment must ensure these students meet their potential and excel academically and socially in our schools and communities.

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*Jessica Saum (she/her) is a collaboration and inclusion coordinator for a school district in central Arkansas.*

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Teaching and Learning

Mental Health

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**REPORT TO THE  
ARKANSAS JOINT PERFORMANCE REVIEW COMMITTEE  
CONCERNING MEETINGS OF THE  
ARKANSAS COUNCIL FOR MILITARY CHILDREN (ACMC)**

As required under the Arkansas Code 25-1-106(c), this report is submitted concerning meeting dates and membership attendance of the ACMC for the biennium ending June 30, 2024.

1. During the period July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2024, ACMC held thirteen meetings. Tables 1 and 2 indicate meeting dates and member attendance at each for the fiscal years ending on June 30, 2023 and June 30, 2024 respectively.
2. Meeting dates and member attendance are indicated for each of the Council's four standing committees as follows:
  - A. Awards Committee: Table 3.
  - B. Military Family Forum Committee: Table 4.
  - C. Outreach Committee: Table 5.
  - D. Strategic Planning Committee: Table 6.

Please note that several committee meetings were planned but later canceled due to the inability of members to attend.

3. ACMC does not typically record information on all visitors at its meetings.
4. Point of contact for this information is John I. Kaminar, Chair, ACMC, 501-683-5188, [john.kaminar@ade.arkansas.gov](mailto:john.kaminar@ade.arkansas.gov).

Respectfully submitted,

/s/

John I. Kaminar  
Chair, Arkansas Council for Military Children  
July 11, 2024

**Table 1: ACMC Meetings and Membership Attendance, July 1, 2022-June 30, 2023**

NAME	7/14/22	9/8/22	11//10/22	1/12/23	3/9/23	4/7/23	5/11/23
Arnone, Amy	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Resigned/ Vacant	Resigned/ Vacant	Resigned/ Vacant
Bergstrom, Jody	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present
Brown, Karilyn	Present	Present	Present	Excused	Absent	Absent	Present
Cook, Shawn	Absent	Present	Absent	Absent	Present	Absent	Present
English, Jane	Present	Present	Excused	Excused	Present	Absent	Present
Harris-Ritter, Bilenda/Edwards, Brittany after 5/1/23	Present	Present	Present	Present	Absent	Absent	Present
Hegenbart, Loreena	Present	Present	Present	Excused	Present	Present	Present
Kaminar, John	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present
Melton, Brian	Present	Present	Absent	Present	Present	Absent	Present
Noel, LaShawnDa	Absent	Present	Absent	Absent	Present	Absent	Absent
Olles, Bobbie	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present
Porter, Rick	Absent	Excused	Absent	Excused	Excused	Absent	Excused
Saum, Jessica	Excused	Excused	Excused	Excused	Excused	Present	Excused
Schneider, Kerry	Excused	Excused	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present
Sharp, Tanya / Hoover, Don after 3/1/23	Present	Present	Absent	Present	Present	Absent	Present
Col. Smith, Bern	Present	Excused	Present	Absent	Excused	Present	Present
Taylor, Lance/ Parker, Christyal after 5/1/23	Excused	Excused	Absent	Excused	Excused	Present	Present
Taylor, Emily	Present	Excused	Present	Excused	Present	Absent	Present
Walker, Janice	Present	Present	Excused	Present	Excused	Absent	Present
Williams, Terri	Absent	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present
Wright, Andelyn	Present	Present	Excused	Excused	Present	Present	Present

**Table 2: ACMC Meetings and Membership Attendance, July 1, 2023-June 30, 2024**

NAME	7/6/23	9/7/23	11/2/23	1/4/24	3/7/24	5/2/24
Arnone, Amy	Resigned/ Vacant	Resigned/ Vacant	Resigned/ Vacant	Resigned/ Vacant	Resigned/ Vacant	NA
Bergstrom, Jody	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present
Brown, Karilyn	Present	Present	Present	Present	Absent	Present
Ciesla, John	Present	Present	Present	Absent	Present	Present
Edwards, Brittany	Present	Present	Excused	Present	Resigned/ Vacant	Resigned/ Vacant
English, Jane	Present	Absent	Present	Present	Excused	Excused
Col. Estelle, N' Keiba	Present	Absent	Present	Present	Excused	Excused
Hegenbart, Loreena/ Garvey, James from 3/31/24	Excused	Present	Present	Absent	Present	Present
Kaminar, John	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present
Melton, Brian	Present	Present	Present	Absent	Absent	Absent
Neathery, Karla	Present	Excused	Present	Absent	Present	Present
Noel, LaShawnDa	Present	Absent	Present	Present	Present	Absent
Olles, Bobbie	Excused	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present
Parker, Christyal	Present	Absent	Present	Present	Absent	Present
Porter, Rick	Absent	Absent	Present	Present	Absent	Present
Reynolds, Jennifer	Excused	Present	Absent	Present	Present	Present
Saum, Jessica	Present	Present	Absent	Present	Excused	Status Changed
Schneider, Kerry	Excused	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present
Taylor, Emily	Excused	Present	Present	Present	Absent	Present
Walker, Janice	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present
Williams, Terri	Present	Present	Excused	Present	Present	Present
Wood, Dustin	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	Present
Wright, Andelyn	Present	Absent	Present	Absent	Present	Excused

**Table 3: Awards Committee Meetings and Membership Attendance, July 1, 2022-June 30, 2024**

NAME	10/3/22	10/28/22	1/10/23	1/13/23	2/10/23	4/25/23
Cook, Shawn	Present	Absent	NA	NA	NA	NA
Kaminar, John	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present
Taylor, Lance/ Parker, Christyal	Absent	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present
Walker, Janice	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present
Williams, Terri	Absent	Present	Present	Present	Present	Absent

NAME	6/26/2023	10/10/2023	12/5/2023	2/13/2024	3/11/2024
Cook, Shawn	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Kaminar, John	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present
Taylor, Lance/ Parker, Christyal	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present
Walker, Janice	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present
Williams, Terri	Present	Present	Absent	Absent	Absent

**Table 4: Military Family Forum Committee Meetings and Membership Attendance, July 1, 2022-June 30, 2024**

NAME	7/20/22	9/9/22	4/5/23	5/24/2023	1/31/2024
Bergstrom, Jody	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present
Saum, Jessica	NA	NA	NA	NA	Present
Col. Smith, Bern / Col. Estelle, N'Keiba	Present	Present	Excused	Present	Present
Williams, Terri	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present
Wright, Andelyn	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present

**Table 5: Outreach Committee Meetings and Membership Attendance, July 1, 2022-June 30, 2024**

NAME	8/31/22	1/17/23	3/2/23*
Hegenbart, Loreena	Present	Present	Present
Olles, Bobbie	Present	Present	Present
Walker, Janice	Present	Excused	Present
Williams, Terri	Present	Present	Present

\*This meeting was held as an informal discussion group to review survey results.

**Table 6: Strategic Planning Committee Meetings and Membership Attendance, July 1, 2022-June 30, 2024**

<b>NAME</b>	<b>10/24/22</b>	<b>1/31/23</b>	<b>4/5/23</b>	<b>1/31/24</b>	<b>2/12/24</b>
Bergstrom, Jody	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present
Kaminar, John	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present
Melton, Brian	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent
Noel, LaShawnDa	Absent	Present	Present	Present	Present
Schneider, Kerry	Absent	Present	Absent	Absent	Present
Wright, Andelyn	Absent	Present	Present	Present	Present

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COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS

As of July 17, 2024

COMMITTEE	AWARDS	OUTREACH	STRATEGIC PLANNING	STUDENT ADVISORY*
<b>CHAIR</b>	Walker	Bergstrom	Reynolds	Wright
	Ciesla	Harper	Garvey	Walker
	Parker	Saum	Olles	Reynolds
	Williams	Williams	Noel	Wood
	VACANT	Wood	Wright	VACANT
<b>STUDENT ADVISOR* (Non-Voting)</b>	Smith	Williams	Arnett	
<b>SECRETARY (Non-Voting)</b>	Kaminar	Kaminar	Kaminar	Kaminar

\*All Student Advisors are members of the Student Advisory Committee. Each Student Advisor will also serve as a non-voting advisor to one of the other three standing committees.

**From:** [dkberry2@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dkberry2@sbcglobal.net)  
**To:** [John Kaminar \(ADE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [lashawnda.noel@arlcs.org](mailto:lashawnda.noel@arlcs.org); "[Wright, Andelyn M CIV NG ARARNG \(USA\)](#)"; [jwalker](#); "[WILLIAMS, TERRI L CIV USAF AMC 19 MSG/SLP](#)"; "[Brown, Karilyn](#)"; "[English2, Jane](#)"; "[Jody Bergstrom](#)"  
**Subject:** RE: ACMC Student Advisory Committee Seat Allocation Error  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 30, 2024 1:24:11 PM

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School year is weeks from being over for the year, so SAC members aren't going to be seated until the fall. I recommend inclusion on the July ACMC agenda to include 'Amending SAT membership'. This will allow ACMC to amend SAT guidance in order to appropriately provide an opportunity **for the 223 military connected students who attend ten Arkansas open enrollment charter schools** to contribute to the ACMC picture from military connected students.

r/dkb

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**From:** John Kaminar (ADE) <[John.Kaminar@ade.arkansas.gov](mailto:John.Kaminar@ade.arkansas.gov)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 30 April, 2024 13:02  
**To:** [dkberry2@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dkberry2@sbcglobal.net)  
**Cc:** [lashawnda.noel@arlcs.org](mailto:lashawnda.noel@arlcs.org); 'Wright, Andelyn M CIV NG ARARNG (USA)' <[andelyn.m.wright.civ@army.mil](mailto:andelyn.m.wright.civ@army.mil)>; [jwalker](mailto:jwalker@jnpsd.org) <[jwalker@jnpsd.org](mailto:jwalker@jnpsd.org)>; 'WILLIAMS, TERRI L CIV USAF AMC 19 MSG/SLP' <[terri.williams.4@us.af.mil](mailto:terri.williams.4@us.af.mil)>; 'Brown, Karilyn' <[karilyn.brown@arkansashouse.org](mailto:karilyn.brown@arkansashouse.org)>; 'English2, Jane' <[jane.english@senate.ar.gov](mailto:jane.english@senate.ar.gov)>; 'Jody Bergstrom' <[jb@campallianceinc.org](mailto:jb@campallianceinc.org)>  
**Subject:** RE: ACMC Student Advisory Committee Seat Allocation Error

Mr. Berry,

Thank you for your comments. The Council members debated the composition of the student advisory committee at some length and made a deliberate decision. I do not believe it is appropriate to ask the Council members to reconsider at this point, although they may choose to do so in the future.

Respectfully,

John I. Kaminar  
Colonel, Infantry, Army Reserve (Ret.)  
Military Family Support Specialist  
Office of School Choice and Parent Empowerment  
Division of Elementary and Secondary Education  
Arkansas Department of Education  
4 Capitol Mall  
Mail Slot 26  
Little Rock, AR 72201  
Office: (501) 683-5188  
[The Arkansas Council for Military Children](#)

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**From:** [dkberry2@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dkberry2@sbcglobal.net) <[dkberry2@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dkberry2@sbcglobal.net)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 30, 2024 12:46 PM  
**To:** John Kaminar (ADE) <[John.Kaminar@ade.arkansas.gov](mailto:John.Kaminar@ade.arkansas.gov)>  
**Cc:** [lashawnda.noel@arllcs.org](mailto:lashawnda.noel@arllcs.org); 'Wright, Andelyn M CIV NG ARARNG (USA)' <[andelyn.m.wright.civ@army.mil](mailto:andelyn.m.wright.civ@army.mil)>; jwalker <[jwalker@jnpsd.org](mailto:jwalker@jnpsd.org)>; 'WILLIAMS, TERRI L CIV USAF AMC 19 MSG/SLP' <[terri.williams.4@us.af.mil](mailto:terri.williams.4@us.af.mil)>; 'Brown, Karilyn' <[karilyn.brown@arkansashouse.org](mailto:karilyn.brown@arkansashouse.org)>; 'English2, Jane' <[jane.english@senate.ar.gov](mailto:jane.english@senate.ar.gov)>; 'Jody Bergstrom' <[jb@campallianceinc.org](mailto:jb@campallianceinc.org)>  
**Subject:** APMC Student Advisory Committee Seat Allocation Error

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**Mr. Kaminar** – An observation: The Student Advisory Committee “provides a means **for children of military families** to have direct, regular input to and interaction with the APMC”. Assigning a seat on the advisory committee to the Arkansas Military and First Responder Academy does not meet that objective.

If SAC is limited to five students, it makes sense for the selection of **one military connected student** from a public school in each congressional district **plus an open enrollment charter school**.

Like the public-school seats ... the open enrollment military connected student seat should have been left open to all open enrollment charter schools. Designating a seat for the Arkansas Military and First Responders Academy is not fair to military connected students in the other 22 Arkansas open enrollment charter schools. Plus as shown below... **AMFRA has no military connected students enrolled**.

Here are the number of military connected students by open enrollment charter from My School Info:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Mil Connected (30 Apr 24)</b>
Arkansas Lighthouse Charter Schools	65
Estem Public Charter School	46
Arkansas Connections Academy	43
Lisa Academy	28
Academics Plus Public Charter Schools	16
Haas Hall Academy	11
Arkansas Virtual Academy	9
Graduate Arkansas Charter	3
Arkansas Arts Academy	1
Hope Academy of Northwest Arkansas	1
Founders Classical Academies of Arkansas	0



Friendship Aspire Academies Arkansas	0
Imboden Charter School District	0
Kipp Delta Public Schools	0
Premier High Schools of Arkansas	0
Exalt Academy of Southwest Little Rock	0
The Excel Center	0
Scholarmade Achievement Place of Arkansas	0
Responsive Ed Solutions Premier High School of North Little Rock	0
Westwind School for Performing Arts	0
Arkansas Military And First Responders Academy (Amfra)	0
Future School of Fort Smith	0
Responsive Ed Solutions Premier High School of Springdale	0

Suggest ACMC revise its SAC seat assignment guidance and request an update to the Commissioner memo.

r/Don Berry  
MOAA Arkansas  
501 773 5189