

State Advisory Council on Educational Opportunity for Military Children
April 20, 2026
Meeting Minutes

Attendance

Present

CAPT Beau Hufstetler, Military Representative, Navy - Naval Air Station Fort Worth
Col. Peter Joo, Military Representative, Air Force & Space Force, Laughlin Air Force Base
Del Rio, Texas
Jeanette Gomez, School Liaison, Laughlin Air Force Base, Del Rio, Texas
Simone Wendlandt-Hendricks, Military Representative, Army, Fort Bliss, El Paso, TX
Jessica Dien on behalf of Brenda Howard, House of Representatives Designee
Jessica Garza, School Counselor Representative
Jessica Snyder, Senior Director, Curriculum Standards and Student Support, TEA
Dr. Ann Lê, TEA Manager of Highly Mobile and At-Risk Student Programs Unit

1. Call to order
 - Jessica Snyder called the meeting to order at 1:00pm.
2. Approval of Minutes
 - **MOTION AND VOTE:** It was moved by Dr. Ann Lê, seconded by Col. Peter Joo, and carried without objection to recommend that the State Advisory Council approve the minutes of the February 2026 meeting.
3. Public comments.
 - There were no public comment registrations.
4. Council Membership Updates

Ms. Snyder reviewed the remaining vacant positions on the council as follows:

- Chair of Senate Committee on Public Education, Designee – working with that office to fill the position
- Superintendent Representative, Military School District – 3 school districts, therefore it is a rotating position.
- District Administrator Representative – past member term ended
- Parent Representative – seeking recommendations

Ms. Snyder shared a draft Texas State Advisory Council on Education Opportunity for Military one-pager Col. Joo recommended for future recruitment. The draft will be uploaded to the committee's secure workspace to review and finalize in the July 2026 meeting.

5. 2026 Council Priorities
 - Ms. Snyder reviewed the 2026 council priorities 3 primary focal points, the priority points of each focal point, and current action steps:
 1. Stakeholder engagement and outreach
 - Continue efforts to increase awareness of the MIC
 - Ms. Snyder shared plans to convene a subcommittee to develop a

- communication plan for next year
 - Increase communication with districts with lower MCS enrollment
 - Utilize statewide ESC Military Champion networks (all 20 regions)
 - Collect and review military-connected student data
 - 2. Training opportunities and resource dissemination (capacity building)
 - Review case studies (SAC)
 - Added school liaison officer update to agenda
 - Promoting the criteria for Purple Star campuses (best practices)
 - Dr. Ann Lê shared recent updates from TEA's Highly Mobile and At Risk team's Purple Star Campus initiatives
 - Launch Purple Star Rise (TEALearn Course)
 - Delivered multi-session Purple Star Campus Support PLC series
 - Disseminated Purple Star Rise promotional materials, toolkits, graphics, and marketing
 - Dr. Lê has been invited to join national Purple Star Panel
 - 3. Strategic partnerships and leadership engagement
 - Reinforcing connections with state liaison officers
 - Add state liaison officer (SLO) update to meetings
 - Fill vacant council positions
 - Identity plan for current vacancies
 - Create schedule the terms to better anticipate vacancies
- 6. Month of the Military Child
 - Dr. Ann Lê shared in preparation for MOMC (Month of the Military Child), they released the Month of the Military Child Toolkit specific to Texas to support statewide awareness and engagement.
 - The toolkit includes ready-to-use social media graphics, email and newsletter copy, a statewide proclamation, Purple Up Day materials, and key Texas military-connected student facts that districts and campuses can easily share with their communities.
 - This effort aligns with the Council's goals by increasing awareness of military-connected students, promoting consistent messaging across Texas, and helping schools visibly recognize and support military children in ways that reinforce the intent of the Military Compact.
 - April MOMC Toolkit: <https://tea.texas.gov/academics/special-student-populations/tea-mcs-momc-toolkit.pdf>
- 7. School Liaison Update
 - Mrs. Simone Wendlandt-Hendricks, School Liaison Officer (SLO) gave a presentation on the role of the SLO and how they support the State Advisory Council mission.
 - Transition Challenges and Barriers Military Students Face
 - Mission of the School Liaison Office
 - Areas of Impact
 - Critical Partnerships and Their Impact:
 - Foster Connections
 - Role in Policy Execution
 - How can the SLOs support the State Advisory Council?
- 8. Council Member and Staff Reports
 - Dr. Ann Lê presented the Purple Star Campus Designation (PSCD). While PSCD is separate from the Compact, it operationalizes many of the same commitments by translating Compact

- principles into consistent, campus-level practices that support military-connected students and families. PSCD functions as a practical framework that helps campuses implement many of the same practices that support military-connected students and families and models the day-to-day practices that help ensure the intent of the Compact is realized at the campus level. Dr. Lê went over the important dates for the PSCD application process and provided a timeline.
- Dr. Lê informed the council that TEA launched a Military TEALearn Course. This course advances the Council's goals by increasing statewide awareness, understanding, and consistent implementation of best practices that support military-connected students and reinforce the intent of the Military Compact.
 - Next Dr. Lê discussed completed professional development updates.
 - o Purple Star PLCs support the Council's goal of promoting best practices by building campus-level capacity to identify, support, and sustain services for military-connected students.
 - o MCEC Professional Developments align directly with the Council's priority to strengthen understanding of military-connected student experiences, including transitions, Guard and Reserve families, post-service impacts, and postsecondary planning.
 - o Career & Technical Education for HMAR Students (Virtual)
 - o Embrace Excellence: Become a Purple Star Campus (Texas Public Charter Schools Conference)
 - o ESC Military Champions PD Day (MCEC GTS Summit)
 - o Texas Military-Connected Student Support Summit (San Antonio)
 - o Promoting Student Well-Being and Academic Success for HMAR Students (R20 Nurse Roundup)
 - o Spring 2026 PSCD Interest Meeting (Virtual)
 - Dr. Lê shared informed the council of upcoming resources, opportunities and events.
 - o A family-facing resource that helps military families navigate school transitions in Texas by explaining the Military Compact, Purple Star campuses, key education systems, and available statewide supports.
 - o 2026-28 TX Military-Connected Student Support & Capacity Grant. This upcoming grant focuses on expanding statewide capacity and coordinated systems to better support military-connected students and their families.
 - o MCEC Global Training Summit. University of Texas at San Antonio, June 23 and 24, 2026. For more information about GTS: <https://militarychild.org/event/gts/>

9. Upcoming Events

- A series of events in the month of April, May, and June were shared.

10. Adjourn

Jessica Snyder adjourned the meeting at 2:25pm.