

New Jersey Interstate Compact Council Meeting Minutes

Date: May 28, 2026

Time: 2:00 PM

Virtual

I. Attendance, via Zoom:

- Jeff Havers, Commissioner
- Ralph Hoag, Executive Branch Member, Asst Commissioner for Admin Services
- Peg Kinsall, Public Member, Director of Military Family Support Project @ JBMDL
- Niki Naida, JBMDL SLO
- Angelica DeJesus, JBMDL SLO
- Michael Maschi, North Hanover Superintendent
- Andrew Zuckerman, Northern Burlington Superintendent
- Ida Jones, Naval Weapons Station SLO

II. Call to Order at 2:02

- Introductions

III. Agenda Review

- Legislative Update
- NAFIS update
 - 26-27 Flat funding proposal, numbers look better than last year
 - Concern that Impact Aid could move to Department of Labor
 - Senate will push for more funding than House
 - Overall, the payments made on time
 - More people have signed on to support funding, momentum is gaining after meeting with NJ legislators
- State Updates
 - School Boards asked district to make resolutions for Health Benefits
 - School funding formulas will most likely have an overhaul and is anticipated to start sometime over the next couple of months at the Department of Education
 - Large part of problem is the Education Adequacy Report (EAR), not accurate in terms of costs (Ralph will talk to new CEO to try to get him into MIC3 meeting)
- Month of the Military Child
 - Proclamation signed on JBMDL included Purple Star schools
 - Multiple outreach events throughout base and community: breakfasts, chalk the walks, MoMC ball
 - All 3 Colts Neck schools were purple star schools, happy to be included on the signing at JBMDL
 - 2027 Proclamation signing will be April 7th or 9th next year, some buildings change lights to purple, Purple Up across campuses

- Current NJ Issues
 - Questions regarding PreK not covered under compact
 - Outreach
 - NJEA convention attendance to spread info regarding MIC3, scannable codes at booths for the air show: military child training, Anchored 4 Life info, etc
 - Schools Board convention pricing for booths is significantly higher than NJEA. Possibly better to contact SBA and set up a presentation at a meeting for the School Boards Association itself, can be virtual.
- MIC3 ABM Conference
 - October 14-16 in Indianapolis
 - Niki and Angelica will attend depending on budget
 - Data will be collected : MIC3, School Counselors, meetings, all shared to Mr. Havers to be included in annual report

IV. Open Comments

- Update policy for deployed absences: listed differently to show they are EXCUSED, children should not be penalized for spending time with family prior to or upon return.
 - Ralph will advance through chain of command
- SLOs present at PD day: in school behavioral issues can be present in military students (school avoidance, refusal, ect), recent deployments, etc should be asked just like job loss, food insecurity in the home
- Lakehurst Impact Aid conversation around enrollment, hold harmless, enrollment percentages. Encourage other school districts to become members of NAFIS.
- SFRA - special ed funding fixes on the horizon
- Revisited accuracy of EAR
 - Rising costs in energy, health insurance, changes to local fair share
- Bill for military student school choice was discussed

V. Meeting Adjourned at 2:42.