

Alabama MIC3 2025-26 End of the Year Report

Submitted by Dr. Douglas L. Ragland, Alabama Commissioner

There have been excellent accomplishments during the 2025-26 year in the State of Alabama in relation to MIC3 and Military Families in general, Personal Achievements of State Council Members, as well as other governmental issues in our state, and they are as follows:

- Congratulations go out to Robert Richert, who retired as School Liaison Officer from Maxwell Air Force Base in Montgomery, Alabama, as well as Jonathan Brumlow, Education Policy Advisor, Officer of the Governor, and Heath Harmon Executive Director for the Alabama High School Athletic Association for being new members on our Alabama Council.
- Our State Superintendent of Education, Dr. Eric Mackey, is to be commended for his unwavering support and sponsorship of MIC3 and our Alabama Council by serving as a member of the State Council and paying our annual dues from his budget. Kudos go out to him and Chief Financial Officer Arthur Watts for getting our dues payment to MIC3, which was received on Thursday, 19, 2025, well before the June 30, 2025 Deadline. Our dues have always been on time, and we thank Dr. Mackey for his tremendous support.
- On a personal note I am extremely honored that Honorable Governor Kay Ivey appointed me to serve on the Alabama Commission on Higher Education (ACHE) as the Commissioner Representative for the 6th Congressional District Seat effective February 18, 2025, until August 31, 2031, and I was successfully confirmed by the Alabama Senate in March 2025 to serve in this position as well, thus successfully completing my first year as the ACHE Commissioner in supporting and enhancing Higher Education in the State of Alabama. I am also proud to announce I am serving in my ninth year as the Alabama Commissioner, having been appointed in March 2017, and I am the longest serving Commissioner since the inception of the compact in our state in 2009. Also, I was reappointed for 4 years to serve on the Alabama Public Education Foundation Authority Board, named Executive Pastor at Upper Room Fellowship Church, and Volunteer Chaplain for the Vestavia Hills Civitan Club during the 2025-26 Year. These are all venues where I can promote and bring awareness to the MIC3 Compact.
- With this report being submitted in May 2026, I am proud to say we have met our requirements of all projects due by June 30, 2025, which include our Code of Conduct/Conflict of Interest Policy, 2025 State Council Meeting, Code of Conduct and Conflict of Interest Policy, and FY 2025 Dues Payment. Also, as Alabama's Commissioner, I have served as a Mentor for New Commissioners, Member of the Finance Committee, and Leadership Nominating Committee, and I currently serve on the MIC3 Compliance Committee, where I have had perfect attendance since my appointment 3 years ago. I also have perfect attendance in attending the MIC 3 Annual Business Meetings, where I represent Alabama in keeping everyone apprised and updated regarding the compact, and enhancing my professional development as well. We certainly have made great strides in ensuring compliance of all of our states, and making clear and customer friendly recommendations to be implemented by the MIC3 Staff.
- The Honorable Governor Kay Ivey, and the Alabama Legislature approved the Choose Act (Education Savings Act in the amount of \$7,000.00 per family) with a 100 million Dollar Budget in 2024, and January 3, 2025 applications were taken. Over 75, 000 Families applied

including Military Families. For first 2 years this Act will only be available to Learning Disabilities and Active Duty Military Families in low performing School Districts. After 2 Years all students will be eligible. The Renewing Family Academic Portal Applications for 2026-2027 opened December 15, 2025, and New Family Academic Portal Applications for the 2026-27 School Year opened on January 2, 2026, with both portals closing on March 31, 2026, and selections were announced on April 15, 2026. There have been 200 million dollars allocated for School Choice for the 2026-27 School Year.

- Our Honorable Governor Kay Ivey continues to show her support for Military Families by providing a Proclamation for Veterans Appreciation Month on November 7, 2024. I have attached this proclamation to an email for this report.
- The Honorable Governor Kay Ivey on signed on October 23, 2025, a Proclamation designating November 2025 as Veterans Appreciation Month Alabama. I have attached this proclamation to an email for this report.
- Dr. Autumm Jeter, Alabama State Assistant Superintendent/Military Education Liaison, and Katheryn Ganster, School Liaison Officer for Maxwell Air Force Base in Montgomery, Alabama, with my support have partnered to create a MIC3 Letter of Awareness to be distributed to all school systems in Alabama at the beginning of the School Year. This along with Dr. Eric Mackey's State Superintendent of Education Quarterly Superintendent Meetings provide excellent opportunities to assist in heightening awareness of the MIC 3 Compact.
- The Honorable Governor Kay Ivey approved a Military Proclamation for Month of the Military Child on April 16, 2026. I have attached the Proclamation to this email.
- We have made excellent strides in enhancing awareness of MIC3 in Alabama with our School Liaison Officers participation in Military Child Education Coalition (MCEC) 360 Summits in enhancing the knowledge of educators regarding MIC 3 and the roles of our School Liaison Officers in the transitional process of our Military Families in various school systems throughout the State of Alabama.
- I am currently a member of the Legislative Appointed Alabama Purple Star Schools Committee. This committee, along with the support of the Alabama State Superintendent of Education have increased the number of Purple Star Schools to 400 as it stands for 2026. This committee met with Jennifer Holiday, Alabama Family Military Liaison/American Heroes Welcome Initiative, on February 17, 2026, to discuss and select the 2026 Alabama Purple Star School Designees based on the scoring of the Alabama Department of Education via the Alabama Purple Star Scoring Rubric. Part of this process included the Purple Star School Committee having access to the following documents: (1) 2026 New Purple Star School List, and 2026 Renewed Purple Star School List. A Resolution for the 2026 Purple Star Schools created by the Alabama State Board of Education are included in attachments to this report in an email.
- A total of 78 new schools were designated Purple Star School Status for 2026 and a resolution from the Alabama State Board of Education was created honoring the 16 School Districts and 78 Schools,
- A total of 124 new schools were designated Purple Star School Status for 2025 and a resolution from the Alabama State Board of Education was created honoring the 15 School

Districts and 124 Schools, including Recognition of the Month of the Military Child on April 10, 2025.

- A total of 76 schools were designated as Purple School Status in 2024.
- A total of 122 schools were designated Purple Star School Status in 2023.
- We have successfully resolved all cases pertaining to our Military Families in Alabama for 2025-26 by our School Liaison Officers, and Military Education Family Liaison. Only one case actually came to the level where I had to get involved, and it was resolved successfully.

Alabama Purple Star Meeting

We had a very successful Alabama Purple Star Meeting on Tuesday, February 19, 2026. The meeting convened to consider and vote on the 2026 ALPS (Purple Star) school designee list. After confirming a quorum, a motion to approve the list was made, seconded, and passed with unanimous ayes and no opposition. Jake Proctor thanked members for their participation and noted recent program expansion, and Jennifer Holliday thanked the group for support of military-connected students while highlighting the program's national recognition and growth. Dr. Douglas L. Ragland expressed pride in Alabama's Purple Star Schools described promoting the program at national conventions, and said he will include the committee's work in his end-of-year report.

The group then discussed committee roles and membership, identifying Lieutenant Governor Ainsworth as chair and Dr. Mackey as vice chair, and reviewed recent staffing changes and retirements at Maxwell. Participants recounted past conference attendance and the program's origins. Jennifer offered to send contact information for Lieutenant Governor Ainsworth's office and CG Fuller to Dr. Ragland, who indicated he may call CG Fuller once he receives the details. The meeting concluded with thanks and adjournment.

Opening, Attendance, and Quorum for 2026 Alabama Purple Star Committee Meeting

- The meeting opened with greetings and housekeeping, including confirmation of attendance and that the committee had a quorum required to proceed. Attendees waited briefly for late arrivals before beginning the agenda.

Vote on 2026 ALPS School Designee List

- The committee moved to the second agenda item to vote on the 2026 ALPS school designee list, which included new and renewing schools. A motion to approve was made and seconded, members voted aye, and the motion passed.
 - The committee voted to approve the 2026 ALPS school designee list consisting of 78 schools and 16 School Systems.
 - The motion to approve the designee list passed with no recorded opposition.

Post-Vote Remarks and Thanks

Following the vote, Jake Proctor offered thanks and congratulated members on program expansion. Jennifer Holliday thanked participants for supporting military-connected students and noted the program's robustness and growth. The chair expressed appreciation and declared the meeting adjourned before additional conversation continued.

- Jake Proctor noted the program expanded last year and encouraged continuation.
- Jennifer Holliday emphasized the program's national recognition and ongoing growth.

Recognition and National Promotion

Dr. Ragland and others highlighted pride in the Purple Star initiative and its recognition at national meetings. Dr. Ragland described past presentations and his intention to showcase Alabama's work at national conventions and in his end-of-year report.

- Dr. Ragland will promote Alabama's Purple Star work at national forums and include it in his annual report.

Committee Composition and Contacts

Participants discussed committee leadership, confirming Alabama Lieutenant Governor Will Ainsworth as Chair and Alabama State Superintendent, Dr. Eric Mackey as Vice Chair. Conversation covered current members, proxies for votes, and recent retirements affecting representation at Maxwell.

- Lieutenant Governor Ainsworth serves as Committee Chair and Dr. Mackey, Alabama State Superintendent is Vice Chair.
- Robert Richert has retired from his role as School Liaison Officer at Maxwell Air Force Base and Katheryn Ganster is currently handling those responsibilities alone.

Program History, Growth, and Events

Jennifer recounted the program's origins and rapid early adoption, referencing initial submission and designation numbers that demonstrated strong uptake. She described the program's inclusive eligibility for schools and encouraged broader participation statewide.

The following report is from Katheryn Ganster, Maxwell Air Force Base:

SY 2025 - 2026 MIC3 State Commissioner's Report – Maxwell AFB

MIC3 Issues

- Worked with families regarding regarding multiple issues that are covered by MIC3. All cases were handled at the school or school liaison level

- Sec.5.103 Special Education Services – Multiple engagements with families sharing information about comparable services and making sure IEP is current
- Sec. 4.101 Waiver Requirements – students entering high school with course work from other high schools. Schools worked with families to accept as many classes as they could. Students still have to meet graduation requirements.
- Sec. 6.102 Eligibility for Extracurricular Participation – student moving from DoDEA school to out of district school requesting to tryout before they are enrolled in the school. As they are currently enrolled in another school system, the school could not allow this. They will allow the student to tryout once they enroll.
- Sec. 4.101 Graduation/Waiver Requirements – local school working with family incoming from Germany (DoDEA) to make sure they receive a reciprocal diploma

Non-MIC3 Issues

- **Alabama High School Athletic Association (AHSAA)** – Transfer rule as it applies to families attending private schools as their first school of entry following a bonafide move. (private school not in zoned district). Would like a change to the policy that allows a student who completed a bona fide move from out of state, to be immediately eligible for all sports at all levels at the first school/system they attend instead of being held to the transfer rule if school is outside of their zoned district. As the current rule is holding private schools to a public school zone.
- **Magnet School Application Process (Remote testing):** Military families who need to test remotely where having difficulty receiving testing information from school to proctors. Resulted in frustrated parents, loss of class time for student and staff (proctor).
- **Absenteeism for International Families:** Due to the differences in spring breaks of school districts surrounding Maxwell AFB/Gunter Annex, International families have requested extra school absences to coincide with military members leave.

Legislation that is being monitored

- **HB183:** Public K-12 schools; home school students authorized to attend career and technical education programs in certain circumstances (Intro 25%)
- **HB216:** Ten Commandments; required to be displayed in certain public schools, subject to the availability of donations (Intro 25%)
- **SB149:** Teacher certification; Military Veteran Temporary Teaching Certificate established (Enacted, 2026-03-03)
- **HB196:** Public High Schools, designate time and space for military recruiters to administer ASVAB test (Intro 25%)
- **HB396:** Public School grading system, weight specific indicators for schools (Intro 25%)

Purple Star Schools

- In April 2026, 16 new schools and 60 renewals were designated as Purple Star Schools by the Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE), combined with the already 122 Purple Star Schools brings the state total to 198. This is 37 less schools from the 235 reported in 2025.
- ALSDE is creating Purple Star Schools – Stay Connected Webinar for schools to understand the Purple Star School requirements. School Liaisons will be a part of this webinar.

Community Events/Partnerships

- Booth representing DAF School Liaison program at the ALSDE MEGA Conference (Jul 2025)
- Partnered with Operation Homefront for back-to-school event (Jul 2025)
- Provided MIC3 training information to local schools, conducted multiple MIC3 briefings at MCEC 360 Summits (19 Feb 25, 22 Apr 26), working with ALSDE Assistant Superintendent to send annual MIC3 reminder letters to superintendents statewide, working with Key Support Liaisons to develop MIC3 Parent Survey. Working to inform more schools and parents of the MIC3.
- Coordinated Teen Dating Violence Awareness presentation (Feb 26) College Prep Night (Sep 25/Mar 26)
- Coordinated VEX High School
- Robotics Competition (Nov 2025)
- Hosted multiple base tours for local high schools
- Coordinated Purple UP! activities for Month of the Military Child (Apr 2026)
- Celebrated graduating military-connected seniors (Apr 2026)

Adjutant Major General Executive Report for Governor Kay Ivey for February 2026



ALABAMA NATIONAL GUARD
 JOINT FORCE HEADQUARTERS
 1720 CONGRESSMAN WILLIAM L. DICKINSON DRIVE
 MONTGOMERY, AL 36109-0711

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

01- 28 February 2026

In February, the Alabama National Guard (ALNG) demonstrated strategic agility by successfully concluding a major domestic operation while accelerating preparations for future global engagements. The month marked the return of forces from Washington, D.C., and a deliberate pivot toward strengthening combat readiness across the formation. Through intensive joint-force training and coordinated planning for international missions, the ALNG sharpened our warfighting capability while sustaining a significant overseas presence and preparing the next generation of Soldiers and Airmen.

As of February 28th, the current organization strength totals 12,719 Soldiers and Airmen assigned (103.6% Total Strength), with 891 personnel mobilized and deployed:

- 391 deployed to two combatant commands (CENTCOM / EUCOM) outside the United States
- 36 deployed domestically in support of the Southern Border Mission
- 200 deployed domestically in support of the Federal Mission in D.C. / Alabama
- 264 mobilized to Ft. Bliss and Ft. Hood in preparation for deployment in support of AFRICOM
- 147 (72 Army / 77 Air) individually mobilized on Tour of Duty assignments supporting global operations

This month, the ALNG continued to play a vital role in national and international objectives. Our Soldiers and Airmen remain actively engaged both overseas in Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Poland, and Romania, as well as locations throughout the United States. The 1-117th Field Artillery Battalion successfully concluded their law enforcement support mission in Washington D.C. after demonstrating exceptionally dedicated service, our Soldiers are eagerly looking forward to a well-deserved return home. Looking ahead, the force is preparing for future missions, with 100 Soldiers from the 1-117th Field Artillery and 125 Soldiers from the 1670th Transportation Company scheduled to deploy in September.

Throughout February, multiple ALNG units participated in a series of intensive joint-force training events that strengthened our overall capability and validated critical warfighting functions across the force. The 187th Fighter Wing (FW), located in Montgomery, conducted critical live and inert munitions training at Shelby Range, Mississippi. Simultaneously, the 187th FW Civil Engineer Squadron validated readiness for their ability to operate in any contested environment during a 50-person Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear (CBRN) exercise. The 20th Special Forces Group, located in Birmingham, also partnered with the 187th FW, to conduct a three-day Suppression of Enemy Air Defense (SEAD) exercise at Gulfport Combat Readiness

Training Center, enhancing joint lethality. The 232nd Combat Communications Squadron, located in Montgomery, hosted a Navy Satellite Aggression Team exercise, strengthening cross-service mission interoperability and partnerships.

As we transition into spring, the ALNG remains fully committed to building combat-ready forces. We are busy planning and preparing for key upcoming exercises that include Tradewinds 26 (Antigua and Barbuda), PANAMAX 26 (Panama), CENTAM Guardian (El Salvador), Northern Strike (Michigan), Bamboo Eagle, Agile Flag, and critical Warfighter exercises at Fort Stewart, Georgia. These engagements reinforce our operational credibility as a premier, battle-ready force prepared to respond to any crisis at home and abroad.

The month of February underscored our continued balance of operational execution and future-focused readiness. From concluding domestic missions to conducting intensive joint training and preparing for large-scale global exercises, our Soldiers and Airmen have demonstrated they are adaptable, disciplined, and lethal. As global demands increase, the Alabama National Guard remains postured, committed, and ready to deliver decisive capability wherever and whenever we are called.

"Always Ready, Always There!"

DAVID K. PRITCHETT
Major General, ALNG
The Adjutant General

27 February 2026

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Jonathan Brumlow, Governor's Policy Advisor MIC3 Report for Governor Kay Ivey

MEMORANDUM

To: Dr. Douglas Ragland

From: Jonathan Brumlow

Date: 3/13/2026

Subject: Governor Ivey's Actions Supporting Military Connected Students

Implementation of the CHOOSE Act

- Governor Ivey oversaw the implementation of the CHOOSE Act (Creating Hope and Opportunity for Our Students' Education Act), Alabama's education savings account program designed to expand educational opportunities for families across the state. Applications for the program officially opened in January 2025.

- Programs that provide flexible educational options can be particularly valuable for military families, who often experience frequent relocations due to duty assignments. Expanded educational options can help ensure that military-connected students maintain continuity in their education when transitioning between communities.

More information can be found here: <https://governor.alabama.gov/newsroom/2025/01/governor-ivey-announces-choose-act-applications-officially-open-for-alabama-families/>

Recognition of Military Families in Alabama Education Programs

- The Governor highlighted military families benefiting from Alabama's education policies. In November 2025, the Governor's Office featured an active-duty Air Force family stationed in Alabama that is utilizing the CHOOSE Act program to access additional educational opportunities for their children.
- This recognition demonstrates Alabama's commitment to supporting military families and highlights how state education policies can benefit families stationed in Alabama's military communities.

More information can be found here: <https://governor.alabama.gov/newsroom/2025/11/governor-ivey-introduces-a-choose-act-family-meet-the-walkers/>

Month of the Military Child Recognition

- In April 2025, Governor Ivey issued a proclamation recognizing April as the Month of the Military Child in Alabama. The proclamation acknowledged the unique challenges and sacrifices faced by children of active-duty service members and encouraged schools and communities across the state to recognize and support military-connected students.

Kim Kozel Department of Defense Military Representative/School Liaison Annual Report From Fort Rucker

- Developed a partnership Memorandum of Agreement with Enterprise City Schools for afternoon bus transportation services from six Enterprise Elementary Schools to our CYS School Age after school program each day. This agreement saved the Garrison over \$80k in service costs and has been an amazing program offering for our Ft. Rucker Army Families.
- Partnered with Ft. Rucker's Logistics Readiness Center to provide transportation services to students at Parker Elementary School to our Child and Youth Services Program. DoDEA discontinued transportation services to our CYS programs at the end of 2024/2025 school year.
- Participated in the Month of the Military Child Proclamation signings by city mayors of Dothan, Ozark and Enterprise in April 2025.
- Provided Special Considerations for Military Families professional development for Ozark City Schools employees as they reapplied for their Purple Star School distinction.
- Provided Special Considerations for Military Families professional development for Daleville City Schools as they applied for the Purple Star School Distinction.
- Provided sponsorship training to Child and Youth Services team members to ensure we are providing transition support both through CYS and the embedded Student 2 Student programs in schools in our surrounding areas.

Redstone Arsenal 2025-2026 MIC3 Report

By Erica S. Lewis, CYS School Liaison Officer

This past year has not only been filled with opportunities to serve and assist military families, but also opportunities to strengthen relationships with our community partners and schools. By providing workshops, resources, education, and advocacy, the SLO program works to address the transition needs of students and families.

For 2025, the SLO program made 787 contacts from Home School linkages to partners in education to school transition support. School transition support was the number one contact area for school support services with 411 contacts. MIC3 challenges for Redstone Arsenal have included challenges with transfer of credits, enrollment challenges, and educational placement—all challenges were able to be resolved at the local level.

The SLO program was able to implement another successful year of programming for our students, families and schools. The SLO conducted the annual Home School Orientation to provide information and resources to our Home School families and over a tour of our facilities as well an overview of our weekly Home School Program. Our Home School Program provided opportunities for guest speakers, engaging STEM activities from installation partners, as well as a field trip to see a live musical.

The SLO also accompanied the Garrison Commander to the annual State of the Schools event, where our local education leaders provide updates to the community on what's happening within our local schools. Discussions were held on educational growth across the state of Alabama and the Huntsville/Madison county areas as well as 2025 highlights from community partners.

The SLO also coordinated with Williams Elementary, our local partner school, to provide guest readers for Read Across America Week. Guest readers read stories and talked about the importance of reading. The SLO also held the annual Kindergarten Boot Camp for children in the Strong Beginnings program. Students experienced a simulation of a day in the life of a kindergarten student with stations set up for different people they will interact with throughout the school day.

Redstone Arsenal is also excited to welcome U.S. Space Command! The SLO along with the Garrison Commander met with leaders from Space Command

- in December to discuss family transitions and resources available to families who will be moving to the area. The SLO also participated in a video shoot with Space Command Public A" airs to share information with families about the Redstone Arsenal SLO program and school options in the area.

Anniston Army Depot 2025-26 MIC3 Report

Nyoka Johnson, Child Youth Services Coordinator/School Liaison Officer

Anniston Child and Youth Services Child Development Center and School Age Center recently underwent a series of critical upgrades to the fire suppression system which is safer and modern to current systems. During the repairs we also had the roof replaced to protect the program from elements.

In the summer we saw an increase in summer camp. The children enjoyed themed related weeks with a fun field trip related to the theme.

The program completed their 1st year annual report for accreditation to show the quality of care provided at Anniston Army Depot.

We are continuing to provide resources and support to the Anniston Army Depot and McClellan Active-Duty Soldiers and civilians that utilize our services.

We executed 75% of our SAC numbers in 2025 during summer camp which is an increase since COVID.

The themes varied by week such as Artistic Inspiration with a field trip to Anniston Museum of Natural History, Mad Science with a trip to Anniston Library to do a science activity, Movie Madness with a

trip to Oxford Movie Theater, and Food Frenzy where we took a trip to the grocery store to learn how to shop for items and then used them in a cooking activity. These are a few of the themed weeks and field trips related to that week.

NAEYC is the highest accreditation you can obtain in early childhood education. The focus is ensuring you are meeting the 10 standards for early childhood programs.

In closing, as the Alabama Commissioner for MIC3, I am very proud of my Military Education Family Liaison, Department of Defense Military Representative, Child Youth Service Coordinator, and School Liaison Officers for their excellent work and leadership in resolving all cases related to the Compact, assisting those individuals with concerns out of the jurisdiction of the Compact, serving their respective communities with a Spirit of Excellence in creating partnerships benefiting military families via schools, government, and community organizations, and helping to bring awareness to the Compact and other Military Interests.