



**ALABAMA STATE COUNCIL  
Monday, August 16, 2022**

PRESENT	Dr. Douglas L. Ragland	Compact Commissioner	Chair
	Terry Roller	Assistant State Superintendent, AL State Department of Education	
	Kim Kozel	DoD Representative & School Liaison, Fort Rucker	
	Maj Gen Sheryl Gordon	Alabama National Guard	
	Robert Richert	School Liaison, Maxwell AFB	
	Katheryn Ganster	School Liaison, Maxwell AFB	
	Kim Vickers	Associate Athletic Director, AL High School Athletics Association	
	Nick Moore	Education Policy Advisor, Executive Office of the Governor	
	Mary-Kate Hillis	Representative, Office of the Governor	
STAFF	Cherise Imai	MIC3 Executive Director	
	Lindsey Dablow	MIC3 Training & Operations Association	
	Stephanie Ramsey	MIC3 Communications Associate	
EXCUSED	Dr. Eric Mackey	State Superintendent of Education	
	Dave Pope	AL State Department of Education	
	Patrick Mantell	Communication Specialist & Military Advisor, AL Department of Education	
	Dr. Lisa Stamps	Superintendent of Daleville City Schools	
	Dr. Diane C. Flournoy	School & Community Stakeholder	
	Erica Lewis	School Resource Officer, Child and Youth Services	

**ITEM 1 – CALL TO ORDER**

1. The meeting was called to order at 10:05 AM CT by Alabama Compact Commissioner and Chair Douglas L. Ragland.

**ITEM 2 – WELCOME**

2. Chair Ragland welcomed the members and provided opening remarks.

**ITEM 3 – ROLL CALL**

3. The Chair directed MIC3 Training and Operations Associate Lindsey Dablow to call the roll. A quorum was established.

**ITEM 4 – APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

4. Mr. Nick Moore motioned to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Maj Gen Sheryl Gordon. Motion carried.

#### ITEM 5 – APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

5. Mr. Moore motioned to approve the minutes of August 16, 2021, as presented. The motion was seconded by Maj Gen Gordon. Motion carried.

#### ITEM 6 – NEW BUSINESS

6. **Pandemic and Education Update** – Chair Ragland recognized Mr. Terry Roller who stated most schools in Alabama had opened to in-person instruction with a relaxed protocol. He noted it was up to the local education agency and District Superintendent to implement the measures they felt were most appropriate. He expressed excitement to have students back for in-person learning.

7. He shared the Maxwell-River Region Partnership of Educational Excellence received the Pete Taylor Partnership of Excellence Award at the Military Child Education Coalition's Global Summit, recognizing Alabama as a military-friendly state. Mr. Roller shared more than 50 schools were Purple Star certified in 2022. He expressed gratitude to the school liaisons who worked tirelessly with their schools to achieve this designation. He informed the Council the applications for the 2022 year opened in October and would close December 31, 2022.

8. **Alabama High School Athletic Association** – Chair Ragland called on Ms. Kim Vickers to provide an update on Alabama High school Athletics. Ms. Vickers shared there were 190,000 student-athletes in the state of Alabama. She reminded Members that in 2020, the Financial Aid Assistance Rule was passed and noted how successful it had been in assisting military families with scholarships and financial aid while allowing them to maintain their athletic eligibility. She stated the Athletic Association did not issue guidelines concerning sports and the COVID-19 pandemic for the 2022-23 athletics season, but instead informed schools to follow their local policies. She stated regarding athletics, Alabama would have a normal season for school year 2022-2023. In closing, she reminded Members the Alabama Athletics Association recognizes a power of attorney for military students so they can participate in extracurricular activities.

9. **Governor's Office** – Chair Ragland recognized Mr. Moore who informed the Committee that Governor Kay Ivy signed into law the largest education trust fund budget in Alabama's history for Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 of \$8.3 billion. He added 2022 also marked the state's largest increase in teacher salaries, with an increase of more than 20% to combat the teacher shortage. Mr. Moore stated Governor Ivey signed six legislative bills in support of Military-connected students. Senate Bill (SB) 116 established a program of advanced enrollment for children of military families moving to Alabama. SB119 expanded scholarships provided under the Alabama G.I. and Dependents' Educational Benefit Act to include private institutions of higher education. Mr. Moore noted additional legislation impacted spouse licensure for military families and various education programs available in Alabama.

10. Chair Ragland thanked Mr. Moore for his work and collaboration to obtain a proclamation from the Governor's Office for Month of the Military Child and asked Mr. Moore to relay the Council's appreciation to Governor Ivey.

11. **Alabama National Guard Update** – The Chair yielded the floor to Maj Gen Gordon who expressed appreciation to the Governor's Office and their hard work at making Alabama a military-friendly state. Maj Gen Gordon stated Alabama National Guard had no issues to report.
12. **Dues for Fiscal Year 2022 and 2023** – Chair Ragland informed the Council FY23 Commission dues would be due before June 30, 2022, and would cost \$11,603. He shared Alabama is on track to pay the dues on time. He stated the FY22 dues were paid on November 6, 2021. Mr. Roller added the Department of Education had a new financial officer, but they would ensure the dues are paid on time.
13. **Supporting Documents** – Chair Ragland reviewed the End of Year Report submitted to the Commission outlining Alabama's State Council activities in FY22. He stated the National Office was provided an updated roster of State Council Members that was used to update Alabama's page on mic3.net. Chair Ragland asked MIC3 Executive Director (ED) Cherise Imai to defer her presentation on the legal memorandums detailing the Compact Citation Correction and National Guard and Reserve until later in the agenda.

## ITEM 7 – REPORTS

14. **National Commission** – Chair Ragland called on ED Imai to report on the National Commission.
15. **Case and Inquiries at the National Level** – ED Imai reviewed the Case and Inquiry for FY22. She reminded the Council the report only provides information on cases where the National Office was contacted and does not include cases or inquiries resolved by School Liaisons or the Compact Commission unless assistance from the National Office is requested. Executive Director Imai noted the majority of compact-related cases dealt with Article V of the Compact and were received from Tier One states or states highly impacted by the military.
16. **Compact Citation Correction** – Chair Ragland stated the Council needed to decide on how they would like to address the Compact Citation Correction for him to vote on this item at the MIC3 2022 Annual Business Meeting. ED Imai summarized the Compact Citation Correction memo explaining there is an incorrect citation in the model language of the Compact in Article II(A) and in Article III(A)(1), both of which refer to "members of the National Guard and Reserve (NGR) on active-duty orders pursuant to 10 U.S.C. Section 1209 and 1211." (emphasis added). These provisions should both cite 10 U.S.C. Chapter 1209 and 1211 instead. This is a scrivener's (i.e. technical) error in a section of the Compact which controls its coverage area, and as such it is best practice for the citation error to be corrected in each impacted state.
17. ED Imai added Alabama is priority two (2) for the Citation Correction. Mr. Moore shared this would need to come through as a bill because Alabama does not have a technical amendment process. Maj Gen Gordon pointed out Alabama Guard and Reserve soldiers are Title 22, not Title 10 and the language in the Compact would not cover them. ED Imai answered that is correct and Title 22 is currently not covered but the Commission has recently received a proposal from the Department of Defense State Liaison Office (DSLO) and is looking into extending coverage.
18. Chair Ragland asked Mr. Moore if he would be responsible for the Alabama Citation Correction. Mr. Moore agreed, and the Council concurred Mr. Moore would be in charge.

19. **National Guard and Reserve** – Chair Ragland informed the Committee this item would be voted on at the ABM. ED Imai explained several member states had expressed a desire to extend the coverage of the Compact to include the families of all NGR members, regardless of status or orders. General Counsel reviewed the six options before the Council regarding expansion of the Compact provisions to include those families. General Counsel recommended proposing standalone state legislation, external to the Compact, providing identical benefits to the NGR members. Ed Imai noted General Counsel's recommendation was provided before the DSLO proposed correcting the statute's citation language along with including all NGR families under the Compact.

20. Maj Gen Gordon added that in Alabama Active Guard soldiers are Title 32 not Title 10 unless they activated by the US government making this proposed change unapplicable to the majority of Alabama soldiers. Chair Ragland reiterated at Alabama's State Council Meeting in 2021 they had determined to take no action on extending coverage. He called on Maj Gen Gordon to share her recent viewpoints on the issue. Maj Gen Gordon responded that she stands with the opinion from 2021 as Alabama soldiers rarely move making the coverage extension unnecessary.

21. **2022 Annual Business Meeting** – Chair Ragland asked ED Imai to provide an overview of the upcoming ABM in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. She informed the council there would be several Rule change proposals to be voted on alongside the NGR and Compact Citation Correction voting items. She expressed excitement for the Commission to be back in person.

#### ITEM 8 – SCHOOL LIAISON OFFICERS/MILITARY REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

22. **Maxwell AFB** – Chair Ragland yielded the floor to Mr. Robert Richert who expressed thanks to Mr. Roller and the school districts for their support. He noted he and Ms. Ganster had worked on cases regarding graduating on time for senior transfers, and several cases in which a student enrolls in a school on base, is involved in athletics, but wants to transfer to a different school while continuing to play sports in the original school, they enrolled in. Mr. Richert informed the Members the School Liaison Office had pushed for awareness among the Alabama Guard and Reserve to utilize the services the School Liaison provides to families.

23. **Redstone Arsenal** – Chair Ragland noted Ms. Lewis was unable to attend the meeting to provide an update, but Redstone Arsenal's report was included with the meeting's handouts.

24. **Fort Rucker** – Due to technical difficulties Ms. Kozel was unable to present and Chair Ragland informed the Council her update would be included in the report.

#### ITEM 9 – ADJOURNMENT

25. With no further business to conduct, Chair Ragland adjourned the meeting at 11:10 AM CT.