



**ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
ARKANSAS COUNCIL FOR MILITARY CHILDREN
TO THE GOVERNOR
AND SENATE AND HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEES
COVERING ACADEMIC YEAR 2021-2022**

Executive Summary

Pursuant to the Arkansas Code Annotated (ACA) Section 6-28-204(f), the Arkansas Council for Military Children (hereinafter the Council) hereby submits this report to the Governor of Arkansas and to the Education Committees of the Senate and House of Representatives of the Arkansas General Assembly.

This report covers the period from July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022. Because this Council is concerned with the support of children of military families enrolled in Arkansas public schools, that time period is referenced in this report as Academic Year 2021-2022, or AY 2021-2022.

ACA 6-4-305 requires this Council to report on the following areas (excerpted verbatim from ACA 6-28-204(h)):

- (1) Information regarding the achievements of the State Council and public school districts regarding the support provided to military families under this chapter;
- (2) Details of the reports provided to the Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission (MIC3);
- (3) The number of children of military families in each public school district transferring to or from another state or federal education agency in the previous year;
- (4) Summaries of cases elevated to the chair for counsel and assistance in resolving cases involving the transition of children of military families that were elevated by military families, United States Department of Defense officials; or Public school districts.
- (5) Information regarding training that is provided to public school district personnel with respect to this chapter
- (6) Details regarding plans for future engagement efforts with uniformed services families under this chapter; and
- (7) Any other information deemed relevant by the Council.

The Council has also decided to submit this report to the Secretary of Education and the State Board of Education and will submit this report to the MIC3 national office to satisfy the requirements of MIC3 Rule 2.102.

I. Achievements of the State Council and Public School Districts.

During the last academic year the Council has focused wits efforts on four areas: increasing the number of persons attending the statutory military family forum; increasing its recognition programs; enhancing the educational environment for children of military families through expansion of the Arkansas Purple Star School program; and raising awareness of the obstacles faced by and special needs of children of military families in obtaining an education through a vigorous outreach and training program.

A. Military Family Forum. The Council held three Military Family Fora. The first was held via web-based conferencing on September 23, 2021, at 6:30 PM. The second was an in-person event held in the Fort Smith School District on April 21, 2022 at 5:00 PM; and the third was an in-person event on May 14, 2022 at 10:00 AM in the Jacksonville-North Pulaski School district.

B. Recognition Programs.

The Council has created an award to recognize private citizens who have rendered significant and sustained service to military families in Arkansas. The first Outstanding Service to Military Families Award was announced on April 14, 2022.

The Council has voted to develop an award to recognize one outstanding high school student who is a child of a military family statewide. The Awards Committee of the Council is currently developing the concept to present to the Council for approval or amendment. The Council hopes to present the first award under this program in May 2023.

The success of the various recognition programs operated by the Council is proximately due to the superior work of Awards Committee Chair Dr. Janice Walker.

C. Purple Star Schools.

The number of schools qualifying for Purple Star School status has increased from 35 on June 30, 2021 to 93 as of June 30, 2022. A sortable list of Arkansas Purple Star Schools is available at this link [at this link](#) on the Council web site. The number of school districts qualifying for recognition as Purple Star School Districts has risen from three on June 30, 2021 to nine on June 30, 2022. A sortable list of Arkansas Purple Star School Districts is available at this link [at this link](#) on the Council web site.

The most significant growth in the number of Purple Star Schools has been in the Arkansas River Valley area. This is in response to the anticipated expansion of the training mission at the Ebbing Air National Guard Station as schools in the area have recognized the greater need to support the children of military families and is a result of the energetic and proactive work of Council Vice Chair Andelyn Wright, Outreach Committee Chair Terri Williams, and Strategic Planning Committee Chair Jodi Bergstrom.

The most significant hindrance to expanding the Purple Star School program is lack of funds to provide recognition banners to qualifying schools. Over the past three years banners have been provided by the Arkansas Activities Association, the Child and Youth Education Service Office of the Little Rock Air Force Base, and Camp Alliance. In order to continue the program, the Council requires a consistent source of funding. The Council has submitted an application for funds for 300 school banners and 30 district banners to the Charles M. and Mary D. Grant Foundation. A response is expected in September.

D. Outreach and Training.

The Council has expanded its public awareness through increasing its social media following as well as through presentations in online town halls, television interviews, and in-person events. In conjunction with the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education, the Council has conducted fifteen training events during this academic year.

- E. Other. The Council has sought input from relevant groups and individuals by inviting guests to present to the Council on subjects of interest and by asking for the Secretary of Education to appoint a special education liaison to the Council. Mr. Rick Porter was appointed to serve in the capacity. The Council has also requested that the 2022 Arkansas Teacher of the Year, Ms. Jessica Saum, to serve as a special advisor to the Council. Ms. Saum is a military spouse.

II. Reports to the Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission.

The Council has submitted two reports to the MIC3. The first, which was submitted on June 30, 2021, was the required annual report due to the MIC3 under its Rule 2.102. The report itself was the Council's report to the Governor and House and Senate Education Committees.

The second report, submitted in July 2021, was the Council's position on a course of action to be adopted by the MIC3 to ensure the children of reserve component service members receive the protections of the Compact. A copy of that report is attached.

III. Children of Military Families Transferring Into and Out of Arkansas Public Schools During AY 2021-2022, by Branch and Component of Service

A table with data on the number of children of military families transferring into and out of Arkansas public school districts is at **Appendix A**. The data are provided by the Division of Research and Technology of the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education.

IV. Cases Brought to the State Council.

Typically, cases are not addressed by the Council, but are addressed by the Compact Commissioner and/or School Liaison. A table of cases addressed by the state Compact Commissioner or Military Family Education Liaison is at **Appendix B**.

V. Training for Public School District Personnel.

Paragraph I.D of this report makes reference to training activities conducted. A schedule of training events conducted during AY 2021-2022 is at **Appendix C**.

VI. Plans for Future Engagement.

During AY 2022-2023 the Council will:

- A) Conduct three Military Family Forums, pursuant to ACA 6-28-204(f).

- B) Hold its regularly scheduled council meetings in various communities in order to facilitate in-person attendance by members of the public. Each Council meeting will feature a web-based option for persons who wish to attend virtually.
- C) Increase the number of Purple Star Schools from 93 to 200.
- D) Continue to conduct training statewide.
- E) Implement a statewide award to recognize an Outstanding Military Scholar.

VII. Other Information Deemed Relevant by the Council.

- A. Membership. The membership of the Council with contact information is available [at this link](#).
- B. Meetings. A schedule of Council meetings is at **Appendix D**. A schedule of Committee meetings is at **Appendix E**. Records from all Council and Committee meetings are available [at this link](#).
- C. District Military Education Coordinators.

Currently 59 school districts in Arkansas are required to appoint a district military education coordinator under ACA § 6-28-116. The number of districts failing to comply has decreased from seven on July 1, 2021 to zero. All school districts required to appoint a district military education coordinator are now in compliance with the statute.

Point of contact for this information is John I. Kaminar, Military Family Engagement Advisor, Arkansas Department of Education, Division of Elementary and Secondary Education, 501-683-5188, john.kaminar@ade.arkansas.gov.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/

John I. Kaminar
Compact Commissioner for Arkansas and
State Council Chair

/s/

Andelyn Wright
State Council Vice Chair

Appendix A: Children of Military Families Transferring Into and Out of Arkansas Public Schools During AY 2021-2022, by Branch and Component of Service (Data provided by ADE Data Center as of May 31, 2022)

Branch and Component of Service	# of Children of Military Families Enrolled in Arkansas Public Schools	# of Children of Military Families Who Transferred Out of Arkansas Public Schools	% of Children of Military Families Who Transferred Out of Arkansas Public Schools	# of Children of Military Families Who Transferred Into Arkansas Public Schools	% of Children of Military Families Who Transferred Into Arkansas Public Schools
Air Force	2807	181	6.45%	18	0.64%
Air Force Reserve	173	4	2.31%	0	0.00%
Air National Guard	560	10	1.79%	0	0.00%
Army	1092	76	6.96%	21	1.92%
Army Reserve	547	14	2.56%	3	0.55%
Army National Guard	1760	40	2.27%	3	0.17%
Coast Guard	56	1	1.79%	3	5.36%
Coast Guard Reserve	18	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
Marine Corps	125	12	9.60%	0	0.00%
Marine Corps Reserve	53	2	3.77%	0	0.00%
Navy	210	19	9.05%	4	1.90%
Navy Reserve	107	4	3.74%	0	0.00%
Space Force	1	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
Parents Serve in Multiple Branches	56	4	7.14%	0	0.00%
Total	7565	367	4.85%	52	0.69%

Appendix B: Cases Brought to the State Council During AY 2021-2022

Case #	Date Initiated	Date Concluded	Arkansas School District(s) Involved	Other State Involved	Description of the Issue	Applicable Law or Compact Article	Outcome
21-01	July 15, 2021	July 30, 2021	Nettleton	Kentucky	Service member retired from the Army and wished to have his daughter attend a different district under School Choice Act.	ACA 6-18-227	Student did not qualify under school choice.
21-02	August 20, 2021	August 20, 2021	Cabot	Maryland	Service member was being deployed to Afghanistan. Mother brought the student home to Arkansas and wanted to enroll her in GT programs.	Article V	District placed student in GT program.
22-01	January 26, 2022	January 28, 2022	Conway	Texas	Student was told he could not try out for All-Region Choir.	Article VI	Student was allowed to try out and was placed in the All-Region Choir

Appendix C: AY 2021-2022 Training Activities

Date	Subject/Content	Location	Presenter(s)
August 18, 2021	District Military Education Coordinator Training	Web-Based	J. Kaminar
August 25, 2021	District Military Education Coordinator Training	Web-Based	J. Kaminar
September 1, 2021	District Military Education Coordinator Training	Web-Based	J. Kaminar
September 8, 2021	District Military Education Coordinator Training	Web-Based	J. Kaminar
September 27, 2021	Purple Star School Training	Web-Based	J. Kaminar
October 15, 2021	District Military Education Coordinator Training	Web-Based	J. Kaminar, T. Williams
November 2, 2021	Purple Star School Training	Web-Based	J. Kaminar
January 4, 2022	Purple Star School Training	Web-Based	J. Kaminar
February 1, 2022	Purple Star School Training	Web-Based	J. Kaminar, T. Williams
March 1, 2022	Purple Star School Training	Web-Based	J. Kaminar
March 17, 2022	Purple Star School Training	Web-Based	J. Kaminar
April 5, 2022	Purple Star School Training	Web-Based	J. Kaminar
April 19, 2022	School Military Liaison Training	Web-Based	J. Kaminar
April 30, 2022	Awareness Training	Little Rock Air Force Base	J. Kaminar, T. Williams
May 3, 2022	Purple Star School Training	Web-Based	J. Kaminar

Appendix D: Schedule of State Council Meetings During AY 2021-2022

Date	Group	Location
July 1, 2021	Council	Bobby G. Lester Elementary School, Jacksonville
September 2, 2021	Council	Web-Based
September 23, 2021	Council (Military Family Forum)	Web-Based
November 18, 2021	Council	Web-Based
January 6, 2022	Council	Web-Based
March 3, 2022	Council	Web-Based
May 5, 2022	Council	Web-Based

Appendix E: Schedule of Meetings of Committees and Subordinate Groups During AY 2021-2022

Date	Group	Location
October 14, 2021	Awards Committee	Web-Based
February 16, 2022	Awards Committee	Web-Based
May 17, 2022	Awards Committee	Web-Based
December 6, 2021	Awards Committee Work Session	Little Rock Air Force Base
January 7, 2022	Awards Committee Work Session	Little Rock Air Force Base
January 21, 2022	Awards Committee Work Session	Little Rock Air Force Base
February 18, 2022	Awards Committee Work Session	Little Rock Air Force Base
June 6, 2022	Awards Committee Work Session	Little Rock Air Force Base
February 28, 2022	Committee Chair Work Session	Web-Based
July 8, 2021	Military Family Forum Committee	Web-Based
July 22, 2021	Military Family Forum Committee	Conference Call
September 9, 2021	Military Family Forum Committee	Web-Based
March 31, 2022	Military Family Forum Committee	Web-Based
May 4, 2022	Military Family Forum Committee	Web-Based
February 10, 2022	Outreach Committee	Web-Based
February 15, 2022	Outreach Committee	Web-Based
March 9, 2022	Outreach Committee	Web-Based
April 27, 2022	Outreach Committee	Web-Based
June 23, 2022	Outreach Committee	Web-Based
December 27, 2021	Strategic Planning Committee	Web-Based
January 18, 2022	Strategic Planning Committee	Web-Based