

## Arizona End-of-Year Report 2025-2026

Commissioner Name: Peter Laing

I am the Commissioner for: AZ

The membership of the state's MIC3 council consists of the following:

MIC3 State Commissioner: Peter Laing, MIC3 Arizona Commissioner

Military Family Education Liaison: Nicola Winkel, Community Liaison, Arizona Coalition of Military Families

State Superintendent of Public Instruction: Tom Horne, Arizona Department of Education

Superintendent of a school district with a high concentration of military children: Denis Ponder, Superintendent, Yuma Elementary School District

Commander of Davis-Monthan Air Force Base: Col. Jose L. Cabrera, Commander, 355th Wing, Davis-Monthan Air Force Base

Commander of Fort Huachuca: Maj. Gen. Richard T. "Rick" Appelhans, Commanding General, U.S. Army Intelligence Center of Excellence & Fort Huachuca

Commander of Luke Air Force Base: Brig. Gen. David Berkland, Commander, 56th Fighter Wing, Luke Air Force Base

Commander of US Army Yuma Proving Ground: Col. John Nelson, Commander, U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground

Commander of Marine Corps Air Station Yuma: Col. Jared K. Stone, Commanding Officer, Marine Corps Air Station Yuma

Adjutant General: Brig. Gen. John A. Conley, Adjutant General of Arizona

Representative from the Executive Branch: Kennesha Jackson, Public Safety and Military Affairs Policy Advisor, Office of Governor Katie Hobbs

Representative from the Legislative Branch: Rep. Stacey Travers, Arizona House of Representatives

Representative from the Legislative Branch: Sen. Flavio Bravio, Arizona Senate

Additional Member at Large: Kara Sehr, Principal of Purple Star School, Luke Elementary School, Dysart Unified School District

Additional Member at Large: Mark Goodman, Superintendent, Fort Huachuca Accommodation School District

Two points of contact for issues related to the Compact in my state are:

The Arizona MIC3 Primary Point of Contact is:

Peter Laing, Arizona MIC3 Commissioner, Chief Deputy Superintendent, Finance & Operations, Pima County School Superintendent's Office

The Arizona MIC3 Secondary Point of Contact is:

Aaron Wonders, Policy Advisor, K-12 Education, Office of Governor Katie Hobbs

Provide the State Council meeting date(s) and documentation:  
28 May 2026

Cases and Inquiries:

#1 February 2026

1. Arizona & Illinois
2. SEC. 4.101 | WAIVER REQUIREMENTS; SEC. 4.103 | TRANSFERS DURING SENIOR YEAR
3. After transferring to the Arizona High School, student was informed that .5 credit in Economics would be required to graduate. Ultimately, this issue was successfully resolved through collaboration with the SLO and sending and receiving schools.

#2 November 2025

1. Arizona, Virginia, Georgia
2. SEC. 4.101 | WAIVER REQUIREMENTS; SEC. 4.103 | TRANSFERS DURING SENIOR YEAR
3. Student transferred from Virginia to Arizona, and then to Georgia. Georgia required evidence of credit for Algebra I course, for coursework taken in Virginia. Ultimately, the issue stemmed from Quarters vs Semesters for awarding credit. The issue was not raised while the student was in Arizona. All three states and schools collaborated, however, on a successful resolution in support of the student.

Training and Education:

School Liaison Officers and the Arizona Department of Education provided training and technical assistance support to schools and school districts participating in the new Arizona Purple Star School program.

Distribution of Compact-related Information:

School Liaison Officers and the Arizona Department of Education provided training and technical assistance support to schools and school districts participating in the new Arizona Purple Star School program

State-level Briefs, Communications, and Presentations:

Arizona State Council meeting - May 28, 2026.

Compact-related Actions

Accomplishments:

The membership of Arizona's MIC3 State Council was updated, and the new Council met on May 28, 2026.

The Arizona Department of Education has continued the expansion of Arizona's highly successful Purple Star Schools (AZPSS) program and website. The website includes online professional learning materials developed in collaboration with SLOs and pilot Purple Star Schools, along with additional guidance and resources to support Lee Fernwault, the ADE staffer responsible for leading the Arizona Purple Star Schools program has reported that ,Arizona Purple Star Schools Build Welcoming, Inclusive Communities for Highly Mobile, Military-Connected Students Whose Frequent School Changes Require Intentional Support that Eases Transitions, Elevates

Academics & Ensures Every Student Belongs.,

Schools recognized through the Arizona Purple Star Schools program have reported that associated peer mentorship and transition programs have led to improved student success and has improved the focus for providing early intervention services for their highly mobile students.

Arizona has now publicly identified over 82 Purple Star schools, with representation across all regions of the state, on the ADE Purple Star Schools website.

Arizona continues to support the implementation of HB2311 regarding the open enrollment preference that may be provided by public schools for children of a member of the armed forces of the United States who either is on active duty or was killed in the line of duty, (ARS  $\beta$ 15-816.01(C)(4)).

Activities:

ADE and School Liaison Officers continued to provide training and support the launch of Arizona's rapidly growing Purple Star School program.

Arizona publicly identified over 82 schools on the ADE Purple Star Schools website, with representation across all regions of the state.