

**2020-2021 Alabama State Council End of the Year Report Submitted by  
Dr. Douglas L. Ragland, Alabama Commissioner**

**State Council Members:**

- Dr. Douglas L. Ragland, Retired School Superintendent
- Dr. Eric Mackey, Alabama State Superintendent of Education
- Terry Roller, Chief Administrative Officer, Alabama State Department of Education and Alabama Military Education Family Liaison
- Kimberly Kozel, Military Representative and School Liaison Officer, Soldier Services Center, Fort Rucker, United States Army
- Maj Gen Sheryl Gordon, Alabama National Guard
- Robert Reichert, School Liaison, Child and Youth Services, 42nd Force Support Squadron, Maxwell Air Force Base, United States Air Force
- Dr. Diane C. Flournoy, School and Community Stakeholder Leader
- Nick Moore, Education Policy Advisor, Executive Office of the Governor
- Representative Will Dismukes, Alabama State House of Representatives
- Dave Pope, Supervisor of Security in Information and Technology Dept, Alabama Dept of Education
- Pat Mantell, Communication Specialist and Military Advisor, Alabama Department of Education
- Erica Lewis, School Resource Officer, Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation, Redstone Arsenal
- Dr. Lisa Stamps, Superintendent of Daleville City Schools
- Steve Savarese, Executive Director, Alabama High School Athletic Association
- Kim Vickers, Assistant Director for Publications, Alabama High School Association

**Highlights:**

- Month of the Military Child (April 2021)
  - Celebration of the Military of the Child Month, Big Youth Night and Resiliency Classes, Games, and Sponsorship in the Ozark Area at Fort Rucker per Kim Kozel.
  - Proclamation signed by Honorable Kay Ivey on March 18, 2021, proclaiming April 2021 as Month of the Military Child in the state of Alabama.
- Kindergarten Boot Camp
  - Erica Lewis, RSA School Liaison Officer, facilitated Kindergarten Boot Camp for about 20 children in the Strong Beginnings program. Students participated in various rotations that simulated what a day in the life of a kindergarten student would be like. Children got to complete an obstacle course in the gym, they listened to a story at the library station, and also learned how to go through the lunch line and practiced entering their lunch number. Students also heard from Sherita Joiner-Pryor, principal at Williams Elementary School. She talked to the children about what kindergarten would be like and what would be expected of them. The children were given certificates and goodie bags at the end of the boot camp.
- Garrison Education Meeting
  - The Garrison Quarterly Education Meeting was held on March 10 at Madison City Schools' Central Office. School leaders and representatives from Redstone

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Arsenal participated both in-person and virtually to discuss ways school districts can ease the transfer of military-connected students into their schools. Updates were given from each participating school district as well as a presentation on the Military Interstate Compact from Lindsey Dablow, Training and Operation Associate for MIC3. There were also presentations from our local Student 2 Student groups at Columbia High School (Huntsville City Schools) and Bob Jones High School (Madison City Schools). All information was well received and helped strengthen the partnerships Redstone Arsenal has with our local school districts.

- MIC3 101-2021 Military Interstate Compact Information Session and Training for School Personnel and Support Staff Training scheduled for July 22, 2021, hosted and facilitated by the Maxwell/Gunter Liaison Office and the Military Interstate Children’s Compact Commission.

**Recent Bills that have passed in Legislation:**

SB #	HB #	Bill / Resolution	Senate		House		Senate <i>Concurrence</i>	Governor
			<i>Committee</i>	<i>Full</i>	<i>Committee</i>	<i>Full</i>		
SB16		Troops-to-Teachers	Passed 3 Feb	Passed 4 Feb	Passed 25 Feb	Passed 4 Mar	N/A	Signed 11 Mar
SB82	HB 247	Physical Therapy Licensure Compact	Passed 3 Feb	Passed 4 Feb	Passed 25 Feb	Passed 4 Mar	Concurred	Signed 11 Mar
SB83		In-State College Tuition Continuity	Passed 3 Feb	Passed 4 Feb	Passed 25 Feb	Passed 4 Mar	N/A	Signed 9 Mar
SB84		Expand Military Stability Commission	Passed 3 Feb	Passed 4 Feb	Passed 25 Feb	Passed 4 Mar	N/A	Signed 9 Mar
SB102	HB 266	Psychology Inter- jurisdictional Compact	Passed 3 Feb	Passed 4 Feb	Passed 25 Feb	Passed 4 Mar	Concurred	Signed 11 Mar
SB103		Military Charter Schools	Passed 3 Feb	Passed 4 Feb	Passed 25 Feb	Passed 4 Mar	Concurred	Signed 11 Mar
SB124		Military Medical Licenses	Passed 3 Feb	Passed 4 Feb	Passed 25 Feb	Passed 4 Mar	N/A	Signed 9 Mar
SB130		Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact	Passed 3 Feb	Passed 4 Feb	Passed 25 Feb	Passed 4 Mar	Concurred	Signed 11 Mar
SB202		Pharmacists, revise licensure requirements	Passed 24 Feb	Passed 2 Mar	Passed 11 Mar	Passed 1 Apr	N/A	Signed 1 Apr
SJR3		Purple Star Schools Program	N/A	Passed 3 Feb	N/A	Passed 11 Feb	N/A	Signed 11 Feb
SJR19		Commending Veterans and Military Families	N/A	Passed 4 Feb	N/A	Passed 11 Feb	N/A	Signed 11 Feb

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Note: SJR3 Bill created by Alabama Legislature Establishing the Purple Star Schools Program and Committee on February 2, 2021. The Purple Star Schools SJR3 Bill was approved on February 3, 2021. The Alabama Commissioner was appointed to Purple Star Schools Committee by Alabama Legislature on February 2, 2021.

**Public K-12 Education 2021-25 Strategic Plan:**

- **G.1.** Increase eligibility for Maxwell Elementary/Middle School (MEMS)
- **O.1.1.** Establish eligibility for the children of AD personnel residing off base to attend MEMS, to increase quality school options
- **O.1.2.** Implement expanded eligibility to MEMS equitably, to increase military readiness
- **O.1.3.** Institutionalize on base educational opportunities, to maximize quality options
- **G.2.** Improve communication with Airmen/spouses about quality public K-12 educational options
- **O.2.1.** Change the narrative about public K-12 in the River Region, so Airmen/spouses associate Maxwell w/ quality education
- **O.2.2.** Inform personnel & spouses (in-bound & assigned) of quality educational options, to help them choose acceptable pathways
- **G.3.** Deepen collaborative relationships with key stakeholders and partners
- **O.3.1.** Regularize communication and collaboration with public school districts, to achieve shared educational priorities
- **O.3.2.** Strengthen relationships with local, state & national stakeholders, to expand support of shared educational priorities
- **G.4.** Expand off-base educational options for military-connected children
- **O.4.1.** Standardize out-of-district enrollment policies, to make quality educational options seamless
- **O.4.2.** Modify varsity eligibility for the children of off-base residents attending school out-of-district, to avoid having to choose
- **O.4.3.** Improve support for students with special education needs, to enhance their school experience
- **O.4.4.** Reduce barriers to magnet school applications, to maximize military-connected students' ability to attend
- **O.4.5.** Facilitate additional social/emotional learning resources for adoption by local schools, to boost wellbeing & performance
- **O.4.6.** Support community-driven STEM education efforts, to increase delivery of top-notch curriculum in local district

Recent Accomplishments aligned w/Strategic Plan:

**Goal 1. Maxwell Elementary & Middle School**

- \* FY21 NDAA authorized a 4-year pilot allowing off-base kids to attend on-base K-12
- \* Maxwell-Gunter AFB was selected as the first site; receiving applications

**Goal 2. Improve communications**

- \* Added "Public K-12" to Wing Commander Spouses' Seminar
- \* Implement the Purple Star School program in the River Region this Fall

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**Goal 3. Deepen relationships**

\* Worked closely with Lt Gov Ainsworth & Military Stability Commission

**Goal 4. Expand options**

\* Modified magnet school dates to align with assignment cycles

Enhance support/options for families with special education needs

Re-engage on varsity athletic eligibility for all out-of-district students

Pursue grants to expand STEM & SEL programs in local school districts

DoDEA/MEMS Pilot: Local Schools:

Maxwell Elementary and Middle School (MEMS) Pilot Program

BLUF: DoDEA selected MEMS as the first site of the “expanded enrollment” pilot\ program; PA blitz in coordination with DoDEA 3-9 June; application portal opened June 9, 2021.