



2021 Annual Report – State of Ohio MIC3

This school year was completely comprised of the [global COVID-19 pandemic](#). However, our K12-MIL schools, educators, counselors, and administrators delivered for our students. And with it all, our



Military service-member parents, spouses, families, and kids displayed their grit and resilience throughout the year – and continue to do so.

[House Bill 244](#) was introduced, passed, signed, and enacted into law from Spring to Fall of 2021. 244 is legislation to ensure continued and easier education transition online for enrollment once Orders are provided to Military Families. Ohio became the third state to deliver on this important endeavor, after Virginia and New Mexico.

Representatives Brian Lampton (District 73, Beaver creek), a Member of

this Council, and Andrea White (District 41, Kettering) authored, sponsored 244 and introduced this cutting-edge act on 31 March 2021.

244 was signed by the Honorable Mike DeWine, Governor of Ohio on 14 July 2021. Governor DeWine has made it a priority to support Military families, and most recently with [Ohio Cares](#) – part of a key effort led by the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services and Ohio Department of Veterans Services. The state will work with local Veteran organizations to identify gaps in mental health services and offer assistance. The Governor's Chief Liaison for Military Families & Veterans and US Army Veteran Tammy Puff, a Member of this Council, advocates on behalf of Governor DeWine every day for Military families from Lake Erie to the Ohio River.





An Ohio K12-MIL Google Site was developed by local educators & leaders, and is to be launched as an online tool, available 24/7/365 for the 22 Members of the Council and 359 Purple Star School Liaisons across the state. This site was designed and developed by educator [Ashley Twedt, Purple Star School Liaison](#) at Bellville Elementary School in the Clear Fork Valley District, and a Member of this Council.



Nurtures is Networking Urban Resources with Teachers and University to enrich Early Childhood Science (N.U.R.T.U.R.E.S.); and is a [United States Department of Defense Grant](#) that continues in 2021-2022 with Elementary-aged STEM Learning here in Ohio.

2 Editions of *The Purple Star Bulletin* were created and distributed to the K12-MIL network around Ohio – in partnership with the Ohio MIC3 and the Ohio Army and Air National Guard. *The Bulletin* is edited and published by educator [Dr Michelle Lewis, Purple Star School Liaison](#), a Member of this Council at Hyatts Middle School in the Olentangy District



Four Town Halls were hosted in the Fall and 10 Webinars were convened in the Spring for our local educators and leaders to support MIC3 implementation,

share in K12-MIL outreach & strategies, and exchange in Purple Star best practices and new ideas. This partnership was led by the [Ohio Army and Air National Guard](#), Office of the Adjutant General and the [Ohio Department of Education](#), Office of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Four Purple Star School Liaisons; licensed and professional educators at the high school level, co-authored templates for Military Signing Day documents and events. These resources are now available to Ohio high schools who wish to host their own Military Signing Days. The Buckeye state has a state-wide Signing Day, the [All-Ohio Armed Forces Career Commitment Ceremony](#) every Spring in Columbus.



School Liaison Officer Trina Pauley, a Member of this Council at [Wright-Patterson](#) Air Force Base shared back to [school operations](#) on behalf of the installation's Military families.



There is a National Guard and Reserve Coverage Task Force out of Lexington, Kentucky which is collecting and analyzing relevant data to recommend whether MIC3 protections for Military-connected students already in place for the children of these reserve component service members in Title 10 status should be expanded to cover children of members in other status situations. On 4-5 November 2021, this Task Force plans to present recommendations to the National Commission for consideration by the 50+1 Member States.

[Members of the Rutan MIC3 State Council](#)

and Purple Star Advisory Board once again committed their expertise and time to this

state-wide mission, and renewed their agencies, associations, schools, nonprofits, and profession to our sacred, shared work.





There were two new and one renewal Classes of [Purple Star Schools](#) – by the Ohio Department of Education across 2020-2021. The administrative and senior teams at ODE have directly and expertly collaborated with more than one dozen state departments of Education as those states stood up Purple Star initiatives of their own. This Council has great friends and partners who comprise the K12-MIL professionals at ODE. It is partly through the innovations of ODE which helps make Ohio a truly Military family friendly state.

The United States Department of Defense, [Defense State Liaison Office](#) along with the [Military Child Education Coalition](#) nonprofit have placed Purple Star as a national priority and top quality of life issue for 2021-2022. DSLO and MCEC make sure to note the local, grassroots, bottom-up framework as originally developed in Ohio during 2015-2016 and launched in Month of the Military Child 2017 at the National Museum of the United States Air Force in Dayton.



As of this Report’s submission, there are 33 Purple Star States and partners for our Military families, local schools, and the existing Ohio K12-MIL network and team, which includes the Rutan MIC3 State Council. Additionally, a dozen States are considering adoption of Ohio’s Purple Star initiative as an act of legislation.



The State’s Strategic Plan continued with a growing number of educators and volunteers to expand the K12-MIL network and team. To fully implement our laws and supports for Military families and kids – Team Ohio continues its collaboration, and coalition of the willing with our local educators and state-wide partners.



The Rutan MIC3 State Council placed a Memorial Bench at Weisenborn Junior High School in the Huber Heights District, in memory of Wright Patterson Air Force Base School Liaison, Mrs Janet R. Wynn on

Wednesday, 5 May 2021. The Memorial Bench location is significant because Mrs. Wynn’s two daughters attended this school here in Ohio,



and the school is located right off the Wright-Patterson Air Force Base installation. We will be forever grateful for her dedication and commitment to military families!

We are all volunteer, and we are grateful for the honor and opportunity to serve our Military families and kids.

STATE COUNCIL MEMBERS

Pete LuPiba, Chair & Ohio MIC3 Commissioner

Chris Picha, Ohio Department of Veterans Services

Trina Pauley, School Liaison Officer - Wright-Patterson AFB

Kristin Ronai, Ohio High School Athletic Association

Shari Obrenski, Ohio Federation of Teachers

Julie Davis, Ohio Association of Elementary School Administrators

Jackie Spector, United Services Organization (USO)

Tim Freeman, Ohio Association of Secondary School Administrators

Tom Perkins, Buckeye Association of School Administrators

Tammy Puff, The Honorable Mike DeWine - Office of the Governor

Jason Durell, School Counselor - Olentangy Local Schools

Lieutenant Colonel Roberson Hill, 88th Mission Support Group, Wright-Patterson AFB



Frank Hoagland, Ohio State Senate

Kenny Yuko, Ohio State Senate

Brian Lampton, Ohio House of Representatives

Allison Russo, Ohio House of Representatives

Jared Shank, Ohio Department of Higher Education

Chip Merkle, Ohio National Guard

Shawn Grime, Ohio School Counselor Association

Andreana Tartt, Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction
Services

Mark Scherer, Ohio Military Kids and 4-H

Rick Lewis, Ohio School Boards Association

Chad Wyen, District Superintendent - Mad River Local Schools

Bill Stratton, U.S. Army - Education Supports

Cherie Chenault, U.S. Navy Operational Support Center

Corey O'Brien, Ohio Association of Purple Star Schools (Hamilton
Township HS Teacher)

Ana Chapman, Ohio Parent Teacher Association

Michelle Lewis, Editor in Chief of The Purple Star Bulletin newsletter
(Hyatts MS Teacher)

Erin Lunday, Wright Patterson AFB Community

Dave Schklar, Ohio Troops to Teachers



Ashley Twedt, Ohio Association of Purple Star Schools (Bellville ES
Teacher)

Major Crystalyn Fillmore, U.S. Army Recruiting Battalion

Valerie Kunze, Ohio Department of Education - Purple Star Schools &
Military Signing Day



*Faithfully submitted on this 17th day of September in the year 2021,
On behalf of the Members of the Thomas D. Rutan MIC3 State Council in
Ohio, Pete.LuPiba@obm.ohio.gov / Email of Council Chair,
Commissioner Pete LuPiba (USN and Operation Iraqi Freedom Veteran)*