

Military School Liaison Committee/State Council for Military Children
Joint Meeting
April 30, 2026
Meeting at Beacon Point Homes Community Center
100 Tern Road, Groton, CT 06340

Minutes

Attendees State Council: Captain Litty, Jason Hartling, Susan Austin, Laura Anastasio, Andrea Ackerman, Kristea Francolino, Bob Ross, Miranda Chapman

Attendees MSLC: Captain Aaron Baskin, Army; Groton- Susan Austin, Lauren Casini, Stephanie Sawyer; LEARN- Katherine Ericson; Navy- CMDCM Stephenson, Elizabeth Mosier; national Guard- Carrie Joseph

1. Welcome and introductions
2. MSLC/MIC3 minutes from the March and December 2025 meetings were approved.
3. Update on MIC3:
MIC3 is conducting a search for a new Executive Director. The annual business meeting will be held again at NCAA Headquarters in Indianapolis.
4. MIC3 proposed rule change regarding the granting of diplomas that are “advanced level,” or “honors.” Connecticut only awards one high school diploma. Because there are no other categories of diploma this rule change would not impact Connecticut. However, the group noted that other states, including New York, may not wish to remain a member of the Compact if they are required to award the advanced diploma to students based on the other state’s “equivalent” advanced diploma.
5. HB 5468 (Equivalent Instruction.) The group discussed the impact of the bill (as amended) on military families. Specifically, the requirement to file an intent form 14 days after arriving in the state may not give families sufficient time to settle or have finalized residency. In addition, the provision concerning the withdrawal of students (requiring a DCF check on the adults in the household before being permitted to withdraw) seems to require the parent to keep the child in school regardless of a PCS order. The burden on families, school staff, and the lack of enforcement mechanisms may render this provision ineffective.
6. An increase in the need to utilize the reciprocal diploma provision has been noted (Ch. 400, Sec.4.103) for students moving into Connecticut. Several cases have been challenging as the sending school is unaware of/not well versed in the Compact. This highlights the need for continuous training to ensure all personnel are familiar.
7. High school enlistment rates- Bob Ross crafted a letter requesting the Department of War share enlistment data with State Departments of Education; the letter was shared with DASW Simmons via the DSLO chain. The State Department of Education is also pursuing access to the data.
8. Department of War Education Activity has opened a school construction grant: Charles Barnum School will be applying for this grant. However, relatively few schools in the state qualify at this time.
9. Local School Updates:

New London: currently reorganizing schools (with the closing of Jennings), eliminating the International Education pathway, and the reconfiguration of grades within the schools.

Ledyard: moving forward with district-wide accreditation, conducted a very successful invention convention, conducting a feasibility study on a new high school.

LEARN: experiencing a notable increase in applications for the magnet schools; continuing the reconfiguration of grade levels at The Friendship School and RMMS.

Groton: Smart Start Grant is funding the 4-year-old preschool program at Mary Morrison and will be opening in the fall. Before and after school care will be offered. Charles Barnum finishing up the Month of the Military Child/PurpleUp! activities, hosted a junior achievement project about submarines with volunteers from Electric Boat. The school's focus on chronic absenteeism has had positive results with a significant decrease.

Youth Center: offered a financial activity/toolkit for teens; upcoming babysitting course with CPR and first aid training; finishing activities for Month of the Military Child which included family game night, family movie night and operation megaphone (teen lock in).

Capt. Baskin introduced himself. He is the recruiting manager for the Army in Connecticut. Offered any support and assistance (education, outreach, leadership, career opportunities with the Army) that his recruiters could provide to the local school districts.

Capt. Litty reported that the Albany will be departing in June; USS Iowa and USS Idaho are commissioned. They are working to ensure that the Naval Register reflects accurate status. More submarines will be coming to Groton in the next 5 years, which will mean that there will be a greater demand for housing and education.

CMDCM Stephenson- USS Massachusetts will be homeported in Groton within the next year; Columbia construction will have two crews- doubling the personnel attached to those boats

10. Military-related training

- a. Military Lifestyle, Deployment, resources, or other specific training /professional development is available to school staff – contact Miranda or Laura to explore options and set up
- b. MIC3 Training Portal - <https://mic3.net/mic3training-net/>

11. Upcoming Activities

Future meeting dates to be determined in the near future.

12. Adjournment