

FINAL

**STATE COUNCIL FOR THE INTERSTATE COMPACT ON EDUCATION FOR
CHILDREN OF MILITARY FAMILIES**

MARCH 13, 2025

Meeting was held both in-person and virtually.

Attendees:

Senator Eric Buckson
Rep. William Carson, DE House
Jessilene Corbett, Caesar Rodney SD
Jennifer Davis, Dept. of Education
Christine Kubik, DE National Guard
Nicole Lawless, Dept. of Education
Secretary Cindy Marten, Dept. of Education
Laurie Sisk, DAFB School Liaison
Fonnie Taylor-Martin, UD Cooperative
Lt. Col. Kyle Waite, DAFB

Unable to Attend:

David Baylor, DIAA
Kelly Coffey, DE PTA
Doug Crouse, UD Cooperative
Col. Brian Ellis, DAFB
Corey Miklus, Caesar Rodney SD
Senator Laura Sturgeon
Douglas Hudson, Military Officers Assoc.

Introductions and Welcome:

The State Council for the Interstate Compact on Education for Children of Military Families (MIC3) was called to order at 11:04 a.m. on Thursday, March 13, 2025, by State Commissioner for MIC3, Jennifer (Jenn) Davis. Everyone was welcomed to the meeting and attendees introduced themselves. Roll call was conducted.

Approval of Meeting Notes from March 14, 2024:

The Committee reviewed the meeting minutes from the March 14, 2024. Christine Kubik made the motion to approve the March 14, 2024, meeting minutes and the motion was seconded by Jessilene Corbett. Motion carried unanimously.

The Purple Star Update - Nicole Lawless

Jenn Davis introduced Nicole Lawless who gave a quick overview of The Purple Star Program. The program is designed to help schools respond to the educational and social emotional challenges military connected students who are transitioning to new locations. Purple Star designation is offered to K-12 public schools who demonstrate military friendly practices which include a webpage containing information & resources for military families, staff point of contact for military families, student lead transition programs and professional development for staff to support the families. Purple Star is in year 4 and the program application period runs from November 1st to February 1st. This year, 10 schools applied and all 10 were awarded. Jenn Davis recognized Laurie Sisk for her hard work on this program.

Student Data Update – Nicole Lawless

Nicole provided an update on the Student Data and went over the Military-Connected Student Count by LEA for the 2025 School Year. Schools with no number beside them reported 15 or less students. Total count was 2132 and noted that this is not a complete list, the reason being with the transition from ESchool to Infinite Campus, data might have been not entered or entered incorrectly – she is working with the districts and charters to ensure the right information is being entered.

Christine Kubik stated that she noticed a decline in numbers and asked for Jenn to give them notice when forms are being sent out regarding Military Connected Youth so that they can let their families know it is coming to make sure everyone completes the form. Commissioner Davis let the group know that the new forms are available on the website for next year as the LEAs usually request them in January/February as Kindergarten registration starts. The forms are in English, Spanish and Haitian Creole.

National Council Updates- Commissioner Jenn Davis

Commissioner Davis presented a MIC3 Overview to the group, explaining the mission, students covered by the compact, students not covered and what is covered regarding enrollment, placement & attendance and graduation. She shared a story allowing a student to receive a diploma from the sending school instead of the receiving school. One of her previous students transferred from Germany in December as a senior and did not meet Delaware's 4 years of math requirement. Germany did not have that requirement. After working with the school in Germany, the student was able to enjoy her senior year and walk with the Delaware class to graduate, the only difference was that she had a diploma from her school in Germany.

Jenn reviewed the Compact and Commission history, Compact Complexity, MIC3 Staff and her responsibilities as Commissioner.

For Action: Proposed Member Dues Increase

Commissioner Davis reviewed the MIC3 dues update – what it covers, history and inflation and finance committee work. She also reviewed the budget forecast for FY26 – 2034. It was noted that there are projected expenses and deficit that is required by the reserve, resulting in eventually completely depleting the reserve. She explained that we are at the minimum of \$2,300 per year and would stay at that amount for FY26. The minimum would increase to \$4,000 per year in FY27 through 2034. DOE absorbs the cost in their discretionary funds. Jessilene Corbett made the motion to support this dues increase and the motion was seconded by Nicole Lawless. Motion carried unanimously.

School Liaison Report-Laurie Sisk

Laurie Sisk reported that she worked 3 cases this year. The first one fell under Article 3 Enrollment in Kindergarten Entrance Age. Laurie mentioned that she has seen an uptick in early entrance testing. Because the family did not meet the threshold for that, they went to another state and had their child start Kindergarten there for 6 weeks before returning to Delaware. Under MIC3 the student only has to spend one day in kindergarten to be accepted in Delaware. The second one fell under Article 5 Placement and Attendance – there was a middle school student transitioning into a Delaware school and the sending state curriculum was having him take 6th grade math (by Delaware standards) in 5th grade. Laurie provided resources to the family and the family was able to work with the district to have the MIC3 5th grade student now taking 6th grade math. The third one fell under Article 6 Eligibility – Deployment. A parent contacted Laurie from Virginia and explained she was getting ready to deploy (dad already deployed) and that she wanted to have her child stay with family friend in Delaware for school. When trying to enroll the child, the school/district was uncomfortable having the child stay with a non-blood relative. The school wanted to classify the child as homeless. Laurie spoke with the social worker at the district office, explaining MIC3 and what was written in Delaware Code, resulting with the child being enrolled everything going well.

Laurie also updated the group on a case from last year's meeting. This one is in the spirit of the compact. There was a student coming in from Alabama that was a Senior when he arrived in Delaware in June, 2024. Student planned to attend Caesar Rodney school district but will return to Alabama and graduate. Initially, the student wanted to return to his home state to be a firefighter, but after attending school in

Caesar Rodney and utilizing benefits of what the school had to offer, he is now attending college and loves it.

Laurie also wanted to thank Senator Buckson for spearheading in Senate resolution to turn Delaware purple for the month of April (including Leg Hall and DE bridges throughout the state). This will be presented on the Senate floor on March 18th.

Secretary Marten offered her help and support to continue this important work.

National Guard Report- Christine Kubik

Christine Kubik stated they still do the School Outreach Letter and how effective the letter is as a means of communication for deployed national guard families. In March they would like to highlight Military Youth in preparation for April, specifically Purple Star schools. They are also under new leadership with a new Adjunct General, Brigadier General James Benson.

On a side note, the Veterans Affairs Office asked about interacting with the schools on safe gun storage and active shooter topics. Commissioner Davis suggested that it would be the LEAs decision and will also reach out to our School Climate Education Associate.

Month of the Military Child (April)

Commissioner Davis mentioned that this is when there would be discussion about proclamation and senate resolution, but as the legislators are not available she will need to reach out to them. She provided drafts for the group to review during this meeting, stressing not to disclose the Purple Star Schools outside of this meeting. There was logistical conversation regarding limiting number of attendees due to limited size for when the Governor presents the Purple Star Banners and recognizes the scholarships for the National Guard students. Dr. Corbett suggested possibly staggering the times for when the schools go in to receive their banner. A picture of all in front of Legislative Hall would be ideal. Next steps would be to set a date with the governor's office.

Other Items for Discussion:

None

Public Comment:

None

Commissioner Davis asked for a motion to adjourn. Motion approved by Christine Kubik and seconded by Jessilene Corbett.