



ILLINOIS MIC3 STATE COUNCIL MEETING
Thursday, December 12, 2024
9:00 AM - 10:30 AM

Table with 3 columns: Category (PRESENT, EXCUSED, GUESTS), Name, and Title/Role. Lists attendees like Dr. John Price, Rep. Brandon Schweizer, and various school district representatives.

ITEM 1 – CALL TO ORDER

1. MIC3 Illinois Commissioner and Council Chair John Price called the meeting to order at 9:05 AM CT.

ITEM 2 – ROLL CALL

2. Roll call was conducted by Ms. Alicia Route, Legislative Affairs, Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE). A quorum was established.

ITEM 3 – WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

3. Ms. Route and Commissioner Price introduced themselves and welcomed the members to the first meeting of the new Illinois State Council. Commissioner Price stated there were no actions to be taken. The next meeting would be used to draft the council's rules and procedures and approve the minutes.

ITEM 4 – PUBLIC COMMENT

4. Ms. Tiffany Jordan, a military parent residing in Shiloh School District, stated she was eager to see schools in Illinois become Purple Star designated. Her children attended Purple Star schools while stationed in Texas and Arkansas previously.

ITEM 5 – NATIONAL OFFICE GREETING

5. Commissioner Price introduced MIC3 Executive Director (ED) Cherise Imai and yielded the floor. ED Imai provided background history of the Compact and how it was formed. Illinois joined the Compact in 2010 and was then reauthorized and revised in 2014. ED Imai reviewed the purpose and functions of the state council, including state compliance of the Compact, legislative matters, stakeholder engagement, and education and awareness of the Compact.

ITEM 6 – 2024 MIC3 ISSUES UPDATE

6. Commissioner Price reported most cases that he received in 2024 were from smaller school districts with lower numbers of military-connected students. Cases from the larger districts were resolved at the local level between district personnel and school liaisons. Many cases were not Compact-related, such as an inquiry from an Army service member stationed as an ROTC director who contacted Commissioner Price with questions regarding the school district and local area. Compact-related cases included topics such as unofficial transcripts and hand-carried documents, and local testing for course placement qualifications.

ITEM 7 – NEW BUSINESS

7. **State Council Statutory Language** – ED Imai reported the Illinois state statute required a citation correction for Compact compliance. The model language of the Compact in Article II(A) and Article III(A)(1) listed “10 U.S.C. Section 1209 and 1211” instead of “10 U.S.C. Chapter 1209 and 1211.” The statute also had several required sections removed previously that needed to be added back.

8. **Purple Star School Recognition Program** – Commissioner Price reported ISBE was drafting the program application and would present it for review once complete in 2025.

9. **State Dues Funding** – Commissioner Price reported MIC3 state dues are assessed on a per-student basis, and the dues for 2024 were paid by the Office of Veteran Affairs. The department suggested finding a new source for the 2025 dues as they believed they were not the one responsible for the state's compact budget.

10. **Branding and Logo** – Commissioner Price stated a logo specific to the council offered a sense of permanence and importance and asked the members for help to see if they knew of old ones or had available resources to design a new one. The logo could then be used to create letterhead and other items.

11. Mr. Scot Heathman stated a comprehensive communications plan was needed and should be made public to bring awareness of the Compact and show that the council is very active. He asked if the term active duty covered Guard and Reserve members under the Compact. ED Imai responded that Guard, Reserve, and uniformed service members under Title X orders were covered. The state could adopt external statute language to cover other titles if they wished to provide the same protections to those groups as are outlined in the compact statute for active duty. Mr. Heathman also recommended utilizing Facebook groups such as the Military Spouses Group to share information because they are very active in the community.

12. Ms. Kelcey Liverpool asked if there was a website or place to access information and showcase Compact activities. Commissioner Price responded the Illinois state page on mic3.net was the only site but stated it was a good idea to have one specifically for the council. Ms. Route stated a landing page

was being created on the ISBE website and it could be linked to the national page. Mr. David Lehfeld, School Liaison at Great Lakes Naval Base, recommended adding links to the landing page and MIC3 website on school district websites as well.

13. Dr. Cindy Doil, School Liaison at Scott Air Force Base, suggested inviting organizations such as the Illinois High School Association and the Illinois Parent Teacher Organization, and people like the Defense-State Liaison Office regional representative and United Services Organizations Director to become council members or attend the meetings as public guests. She stated many military families experience issues with athletics when transitioning to new schools and it would benefit the council to include these organizations.

14. ED Imai reported several states send out an annual superintendent letter that goes out before the school year begins, advising school districts about military-connected student transitions and how to assist them. She stated that she could send a template that several states use as a sample. Ms. Jordan suggested sending the letter out in January or February because most military families move in the summer and it will be too late for the districts to prepare if the letter is provided after the students have already arrived. The members agreed that sending the letter out in the winter was a good idea.

ITEM 9 – OTHER BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

15. **2025 Meeting Schedule** - Commissioner Price recommended holding quarterly meetings until the state council was well-established and accomplishing goals. He proposed to continue holding the meetings on Thursday mornings at 9:00 AM CT, and provided the dates January 23, April 17, July 24, and October 9, 2025, for the next meetings. The members agreed to the proposed dates.

16. **Compact 101 Training** – ED Imai informed the members of the monthly Compact 101 Training webinars and the Training Portal modules available on mic3.net. She recommended sharing the training resources with state stakeholders and school districts to spread awareness and knowledge of the Compact. The national office could be contacted to schedule in-person or virtual trainings for school districts.

19. Representative Katie Stuart stated the submissions deadline for the 2025 state legislative session was January 9, 2025, and gave permission to use her name as sponsor for the citation correction. Ms. Route and ED Imai confirmed they would be in contact with her to follow up.

ITEM 9 – ADJOURNMENT

20. Commissioner Price thanked the members for holding a successful first meeting of the new council. The meeting adjourned at 10:12 AM CT.