

Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children  
Maryland State Council Meeting  
Tuesday, June 21, 2022, 10:00 AM

## Minutes

### **Attending:**

Delegate Anne Kaiser

Andy Warner, MSDE, Maryland Public Secondary School Athletic Association (MPSSAA)

Sunny Lee, SLO Joint Base Andrews

Sarah Bonise, SLO Fort Meade

Horace Franklin, Regional Liaison Officer, Navy

Rene Swink, Parents Place of Maryland.

Dr. Michael Markoe, Public School Superintendents of Maryland representative, Frederick County Public Schools. Acting Superintendent

T Jones (Chad), Public Affairs Fort Meade (on behalf of Garrison Commander)

Ryan Voegtlin, Anne Arundel County Schools, Director of Student Services

Tanisha Andrus, SLO, Navy, Bethesda

Jonathan Turner, MSDE, School Counseling Specialist

Deborah Demery, Free State PTA

Lolita Gunther, SLO Charles County

Teresa Dantzler, MSDE, Ombudsman

Alonso Hay, SLO Joint Base Anacostia

Flavia Walton, Military family representative

### **1. Review of Minutes of Last Meeting, Updates, Strategic Plan**

Mary Gable reminded the Council of the discussion at the last meeting about the inclusion of the National Guard in the Compact. Maryland and other states have considered this question and gathered input from stakeholders. The discussion at the national level continues and will be further considered at the next national meeting.

At MSDE, if there are any concerns for a family in the Guard, the department and local education agencies (LEAs) will assist on a case-by-case basis as with any other military student.

One of the responsibilities of the Compact states through the Commission is development, implementation, and update of the strategic plan. The national executive committee is working on the revised plan which will be finalized and voted upon at the Annual Business Meeting of the Compact Commissioners.

The strategic plan is under revision by the national executive committee.

Mary reviewed the goals of the current strategic plan including:

- Increase awareness of MIC3 by getting the message to members of military and support the School Liaison Officers (SLO) of military installations.
- Maintain a cohesive and aligned body of work that is focused on easing transitions for children in military families.
- Maintain the fiscal stability of the compact, primarily through the dues system, in which all states participate.

## **2. Update on National and Maryland Cases**

Many questions and cases are handled by the SLO and the LEAs. The Maryland state commissioner (Mary Gable) is also involved in certain cases for further assistance and sometimes to address and resolve questions which may require input from the national office of the Compact. Data was shared on the number of cases received by the national office, including topics, states, and applicability of the Compact.

Chad Jones noted that in the Maryland Installation Council, commanders expressed a desire to see more flexibility in children having access to choice of specialty programs outside of the LEA in which they live. Mary noted that efforts are made to ensure programs are available to the student in the LEA in which the family lives. Any change of school within the LEA or another LEA is made with the approval of the Local Superintendent.

Examples of cases that have arisen in Maryland include:

- A student took a college course in the sending school which was not included in the transcript. If a course is approved elsewhere in the sending state, it should be on a transcript. This could be communicated to SLOs so that a student who is leaving one state can ensure that the sending states include all approved courses on the student's transcript.
- A student transferred from Maryland before the end of the school year. Upon the move to the new state, the school year had ended. At enrollment for the new school year, the new district informed the student that no credits were awarded for the previous year. It was requested that the sending school review the student's record to ensure that grades were closed for the semester and credit was awarded so that the student could move to the next grade. Delegate Kaiser recommended that school systems consider timing when students have to transfer out of state at the end or very close to the end of the school year and that this message is shared in training and presentations.
- One of the School Liaison Officers shared her work to resolve the situation for a student who transferred to Maryland, from Nevada where there is not a high school language graduation requirement. Working with both schools, the student was able to enroll

locally but would graduate from the sending school. The student returned to the Nevada to graduate with her peers at her former high school. The goal here as in all cases is to keep the focus on the student and ensure on time graduation.

### **3. Home Schooling**

Jonathan Turner summarized Maryland's compulsory attendance law and how home schooling is managed under the Code of Maryland and regulation. Families seeking to home school in Maryland provide formal notification to the LEA. This keeps the family compliant with compulsory attendance laws and notifies the LEA that the family is providing home instruction. There are few options for how homeschooling is overseen by the LEA, including working with an approved partner or to undergo a portfolio review with the LEA. A family can elect to start or stop any time in the year, but if home instruction is stopped the student must be enrolled. Of note, special education services are not provided by the LEA to students who are in home instruction since the student is withdrawn from the school system when home instructed. Parents are informed of this.

Home schooled students may take the GED to earn a diploma or elect to enroll in local high school, meet the requirements, and be awarded a diploma by that LEA. Jonathan provided his contact information and the MSDE home instruction website.

### **4. Review of Rules**

At the national level, the Rules Committee of the Compact is charged with reviewing all rules and proposing updates that will be considered at this year's Annual Business Meeting (ABM) of the Compact. Mary is the chair of the Rules Committee and stated that the committee is completing their review which will come to the ABM.

### **5. Athletics**

Andy Warner, MSDE, shared that he ensures that all local Athletic directors are aware of the provisions that allow transfer students in military families to have the opportunity to try out for sports when the family's move prevents the student from participating in scheduled tryouts. There have been no questions in this area this year.

### **6. Purple Star Legislation SB234 Chapter 66**

Purple State Legislation was passed by the Maryland General Assembly in this legislative session. Similar legislation has been enacted in several states. The recognition described in the bill is not a part of the Interstate Compact. The legislation is intended to recognize schools that are doing good work to support children in military families.

The MSDE will develop implementation regulations. The Council noted that the Space Force is now its own branch but is not listed in the statute. The inclusion of Space Force could be part of the regulations. It was recommended that the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) should also be considered.

The designation is optional for schools. A school applies for the designation. The MD PTA

representative suggested that the MD PTA could support and promote this idea as part of the military family / child month (April). The MD PTA representative stated that she appreciated learning about the supports from the Interstate Compact, MIC3, and the MSDE office.

#### **7. Training**

Interstate Compact training occurs regularly. There are two opportunities coming up soon: June 22, 2022, at 2 pm and July 27, 2022, at 2 pm. Mary will send the link to all State Council attendees to share (this email was sent to all with the links).

#### **8. State Council Resource**

Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission webpage can be found at <https://mic3.net/>.

#### **9. Conclusion**

MSDE will forward the materials and resources mentioned at the meeting. Thank you to all for support of all children of the military.

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 am.