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May 30, 2024

Ms. Cherise Imai, Executive Director  
Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission  
1776 Avenue of the States  
Lexington, KY 40511

Dear Ms. Imai,

The following information is provided in accordance with MIC3 Policy 01-2017, state coordination, for the period of July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024. Points of contact for the Kansas State Council are me and Sherry Root, Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE). Mrs. Root may be reached at 785-296-3871 or via e-mail at [sroot@ksde.org](mailto:sroot@ksde.org).

The Kansas Military Child Education Council (KMCEC) held a virtual Teams meeting on February 29, 2024. The agenda and minutes for that meeting are being submitted with this letter and are posted on the Kansas Military Families [website](#).

The Council reviewed basic and historical information concerning MIC3 efforts in Kansas. Members were briefed on the 2023 Annual Business Meeting. The Council thanked Dr. Keith Mispagel from the Fort Leavenworth district for his presentation on Innovative Supports for Military Children at the ABM in November. The dues for FY24 were reviewed and discussed. Several State student challenges were discussed. All were resolved and none of them rose to the national level.

Discussion moved to the Month of the Military Child and Purple Up activities. Many districts had activities planned to recognize and celebrate military students and their families. KSDE requested a formal signing ceremony for the Governor's Proclamation for Month of the Military Child. On March 27, Governor Kelly welcomed military families and Superintendents from Leavenworth and Derby to the official signing ceremony in her office. Pictures are attached from that event.

*Kansas leads the world in the success of each student.*

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The meeting was adjourned, but many members who sit on the Purple Star Review Committee stayed to consider a Purple Star District application from the Leavenworth District. The application was approved and forwarded to the Kansas State Board of Education (KSBE) for Final Action.

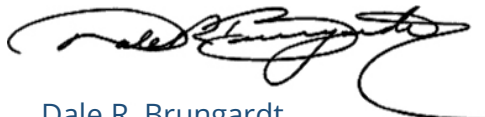
The KSBE recognized Leavenworth's Purple Star award at the April meeting. The Superintendent and School Liaison Officer presented information on their district's efforts to help military students and smooth the school transitions of military families. Pictures from the KSBE meeting of Leavenworth's presentation are attached as well.

Another focus of the KMCEC team this year was to increase the number of Purple Star Schools in Kansas. To meet this goal the Council discussed how to inform districts across Kansas of the Purple Star movement. To that end, current Purple Star Superintendents presented information to the statewide Council of Superintendents at their March meeting in Topeka.

This short presentation was to raise awareness about the challenges facing military children and introduce the concepts of Purple Star Schools. Additional plans have been made for a more thorough presentation in the fall that is several months prior to the application deadline. Due to these efforts and those in the future, the team hopes to see more applications and additional help for military-connected students in the future.

If you should have any questions regarding the information presented in this letter or the minutes, please do not hesitate to call me 785.296.3872. Have a super day and Be GREAT!

Respectfully,



Dale R. Brungardt  
[dbrungardt@ksde.org](mailto:dbrungardt@ksde.org)  
MIC3 Commissioner  
Kansas State Council

Proclamation signing ceremony held on March 27, 2024, declared April as Month of the Military Child. Standing next to Gov. Kelly is Mateo, a bright third-grade student at Derby's Wineteer Elementary.



A feature story was published April 4<sup>th</sup> in the KSDE weekly newsletter: [Purple Star School district officials and families attend governor's proclamation signing for Month of the Military Child - Kansas State Department of Education \(ksde.org\)](#)



Students, parents and superintendents from Derby and Leavenworth school districts attended.



Photos taken of Leavenworth District's Purple Star Award presentation while being recognized by the State Board of Education in April 2024.



Five districts now meet the criteria to be recognized as a Kansas Purple Star School.

# Kansas Purple Star Schools





**Dr. Reginal Eggleston**  
Geary County Schools USD 475  
Enrollment Sep 2024: 7,366  
Military Student Count: 3,689



**Dr. Keith Mispagel**  
Fort Leavenworth School District USD 207  
Enrollment Sep 2024: 1,576  
Military Student Count: 1,521



**Heather Bohaty**  
Derby Public Schools USD 260  
Enrollment Sep 2024: 6,873  
Military Student Count: 879



**Dr. Jay Ensley**  
Mulvane Public Schools USD 263  
Enrollment Sep 2024: 1,779  
Military Student Count:



**Dr. Kellen Adams**  
Leavenworth Schools USD 453  
Enrollment Sep 2024: 3,494  
Military Student Count: 468

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