



**KENTUCKY STATE COUNCIL
MILITARY INTERSTATE CHILDREN'S COMPACT COMMISSION**

Minutes

January 29, 2026 1:00PM EST

MS Teams, hosted from the Kentucky Governor's Office, State Office Building

1. CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME

Brig. Gen. (Ret.) Steven P. Bullard, Commissioner, Kentucky State Council
Called to order at 1:03 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of January 30, 2025 meeting, along with the 2025 Annual Report, were shared by email following last year's meeting and prior to this year's meeting. Meeting contributors included Commissioner Bullard, Military MIC3 Representative Colonel David Holstead (Fort Knox Garrison Commander), Hardin County Schools Superintendent Teresa Morgan (through sharing of script and feedback due to log-on issues), Kentucky Department of Education Director of Government Relations Dr. Brian Perry, Fort Knox School Liaison Officer Brianna Wolfe, Fort Campbell School Liaison Officer Laquvia Garrett, Lindsey Dablow and Trevin Stevens of the national MIC3 office staff, Regional School Liaison Lacey Allen of the Department of the Air Force, and Stacey Shane (KCMA). State Senator Mike Wilson and State Representative Myron Dossett were informed in advance by email due to legislative conflicts.

3. NATIONAL OVERVIEW OF MIC3

Lindsey Dablow, Interim National MIC3 Executive Director, presented an overview of current national MIC3 programs and briefly reviewed the 2025 Annual Business Meeting (ABM) held in October in Indianapolis, Indiana. Executive Director Dablow succeeds Cherise Imai, who left MIC3 last Fall to assume leadership of the National Association of Federally Impacted Schools.

Developed in 2006 by the U.S. Department of Defense and the Council of State Governments, by 2015 it was adopted by all 50 states and the District of Columbia. The Compact eases educational challenges that military-connected students encounter and supports easing transfers between public school districts and U.S. Department of Defense schools. Issues covered by the compact include enrollment, placement and attendance, and graduation. Executive Director Imai said the Compact also features ex-officio members Department of Defense, the Military Child Education Coalition, the Military Impacted Schools Association, the National Federation of State High School Associations, Blue Star Families and the National Military Family Association.

Executive Director Dablow reviewed updates to the report and administrative policies of the commission adopted at the national meeting last Fall. A highlight of the national meeting was the participation by the National Military Family Association's "BLOOM" military teen program. Participants share their experiences living the military lifestyle, and the impact it's had on their lives, through blogs, webinars and internet content (<https://www.bloommilitaryteens.org/>).

The commission passed a proposed dues increase from \$1.00 to \$1.78 per military-connected student residing in your state, which will be reflected on the FY27 dues invoice, to go out on July 1, 2026. She noted that the Finance Committee is preparing a memo on how to apply the dues increase, adding that Commissioner Bullard has likely already made the arrangements for Kentucky. Many state commissioners do not enjoy the same level of access to state leadership as does Commissioner Bullard, she said.

She and Trevin Stevens shared information on the national MIC3 monthly newsletter (<https://mic3.net/newsletter/>), their Month of the Military Child preview (<https://mic3.net/motmc/>), and their training webinars (<https://mic3.net/webinars-2/>). MIC3 also features a free online, on-demand training portal at mic3training.net.

Additionally, MIC3 is asking that commissioners work with their Department of Education representatives to disseminate the state superintendent letter that the MIC3 tier groups reviewed during the annual meeting. This MIC3 memorandum informs your school districts, public, charter and magnet schools about the compact statute and provides additional resources. We're seeing that housing shortages around installations are forcing families to move further away, so this draft letter from the Department of Education helps inform all school districts across the state of the challenges that military students face. It is a template that can be used as a baseline, modified to suit your state's needs.

In closing, she highlighted MIC3's ex-officio members, noting they play an invaluable role in promoting and socializing the impact of the compact. We try to work with them to assist with their objectives as well, she stressed.

4. STATE OVERVIEW OF MIC3

Commissioner Bullard was appointed by the Governor on August 20, 2019 to serve as the state commissioner for this national program as an additional duty for the Kentucky Commission on Military Affairs. The Kentucky MIC3 State Council was created by the Kentucky General Assembly during their 2008 session, through Senate Bill 68, sponsored by the late Senator Tom Buford.

Commissioner Bullard said Kentucky submitted our 2025 MIC3 Annual Report on June 30, 2025 and paid our annual dues on May 13, 2025. The MIC3 year runs July through June annually and payments are due by September 30. They are paid through the Department of Military Affairs, as KCMA has no budget function. This year's amount was \$10,355, based on K-12 dependents of military personnel assigned. Bullard submitted his mandatory annual Code of Conduct and Conflict of Interest forms for 2026 online in January 2026.

Commissioner Bullard said that MIC3, which ensures smooth transfer to new school districts, is very effective here in Kentucky. We have a great partnership with Kentucky Department of Education and our DODEA school liaisons at Fort Knox and Fort Campbell. All elements continue to go well, he briefed. Our MIC3 State Council membership is full, all requirements are met annually, and cases are at a minimum, with no cases thus far this current fiscal year thanks to the outstanding work of our school liaison officers at Fort Campbell and Fort Knox.

Bullard followed up on Executive Director Dablow's emphasis on the national dues increase passed by the full commission last Fall. Kentucky's dues increase has been coordinated with the State Budget Office and the Department of Military Affairs, which pays the bill, per Governor policy, as KCMA does not have a finance function. The dues increase begins with the July 2026 billing cycle for dues year 2027. Invoices may be received as early as May. Kentucky's dues, which are paid through the DMA budget, rise from \$10,404 to a new figure of \$16,205 for CY2027. The MIC3 dues have been approved to rise 4 percent annually through FY2034, at which time MIC3 hopes to cease increases. Dues are calculated based on the number of K-12 active-duty military children tracked by Department of Defense as assigned to the state, due to their parents' military assignment, and the numbers change a small amount annually, so these aren't hard figures. They'll be in the ballpark, though, Commissioner Bullard said.

Partnerships continue to go very well, including a new initiative of regular participation in the quarterly Fort Knox Education Leadership Council. Brianna "Bri" Wolfe is the new Fort Knox School Liaison Officer, succeeding Brenda Weatherington, who chose early retirement last summer. Unfortunately, Commissioner Bullard said, we just learned that Bri's husband is transferring out this summer to a new role, so Fort Knox will need to find a successor. Laquvia Garrett Fort Campbell noted that Fort Campbell also has an Education Leadership Council, which meets twice annually, including their next meeting on February 26. Garrett said she will send Commissioner Bullard an invitation with meeting details.

Commissioner Bullard said that First Lady Britainy Beshear filmed a video for the Fort Knox Military Children's Awards of the Year program this week. The event was postponed due to weather; however, Fort Knox has received the video for use at the rescheduled event. He noted that the First Lady also visited Fort Campbell for Purple Up! Day, giving COL Holstead and Bri Wolfe a heads up that most likely she will visit Fort Knox this Spring, so please start thinking about planning.

The Kentucky Purple Star Schools program, chaired by Commissioner Bullard, released its K-12 Schools' Veterans Day Program Guide last Fall. This was developed at the request of their school liaisons, and is already proving to be a popular resource. The Kentucky Purple Star School is also drafting guides for Purple Up! Day and the Month of the Military Child. We successfully worked with U.S. Army Cadet Command to get a Purple Star Schools ribbon approved for participating Kentucky schools with an Army JRTOC program. Goal is to eventually get this approved nationally. Commissioner Bullard said he shared the details with national Purple Star Schools founder Pete LuPiba of Ohio for socialization with the Air Force, Marine Corps and Navy JROTC programs.

The Legislature's Annual Military Kids Day will be February 19, Commissioner Bullard briefed. Complications arise due to the closure of the Capitol, so it will be limited to 200 or so participants. We already have excellent participation, especially by Fort Knox – slots are almost filled already, and everything is planned and ready to go.

Commissioner Bullard noted we had two 2025 cases rise to his state level, unfortunately, neither of which were protected by the Compact. The first was a request for preferred school placement by a University of Louisville Army ROTC officer. The city was unable to comply due to Louisville's "pod" placement policy, as the requested school was already filled and there was a viable replacement available. Preferential treatment is not granted under the compact. The second was a request by an Army Recruiter to enter their 4-year-old into Kindergarten, too young for Kentucky's 5-year-old requirement, as the child was not prior-enrolled in their previous state. He noted he had a call earlier this month from a Fort Knox spouse, with the challenge being at the originating school in Virginia – she was optimistic for a solution and I've not heard back, Commissioner Bullard said.

There was no MIC3-related legislation in the 2025 Kentucky General Assembly; however, we do have some related legislation here in 2026, Commissioner Bullard said. House Bill 261 (Rep. Vanessa Grossl) establishes the DOD-priority School Psychologist Interstate Licensure Compact, a multistate licensing compact for school psychologists, allowing them to practice in any member state to address critical mental health provider shortages in schools.

Rep. Grossl also has House Bill 322, which would establish an exemption from the state certification requirements for a child-care provider on a military installation or military facility that is licensed or certified as a family child-care provider by the United States Department of Defense, any branch of the United States Armed Forces, the National Guard, or Reserve component thereof. That bill is brand new and running into some headwinds, so a socialization period is likely required, he said. We're linking the head of DOD child-care programs with Rep. Samantha Heavrin, chair of the House Families & Children Committee, to initiate that process, he said.

Lastly, Rep. Grossl is also sponsoring HB 383, which would require a school district to take the necessary steps to ensure that a child of a military family who has an individualized education program or section 504 plan shall receive comparable services when the child begins school and require a point of entry to take the necessary steps to ensure that a child with an individualized family services plan shall receive comparable services prior to the child's arrival to their new location. This is DOD Defense State Liaison Office (DSLO) priority legislation to protect military families when they transfer to new locations and new school districts. It was reviewed by the Kentucky Department of Education, which added measures to improve the legislation. We're looking for (hopefully) a Committee Substitute from Rep. Grossl with additional tweaks by KDE.

Lastly, Commissioner Bullard said, we advised Sen. Wilson and Rep. Dossett that the General Assembly needs to approach with caution the brand-new draft state legislation initiated and now being socialized by the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC), the "Uniformed Services Child School Transitions Act."

ALEC surely had the best of intentions with this legislation, which seeks to incorporate school transition goals from the 2024 Department of Defense (DOD) “Recommendations for the Improvement of the Military Interstate Children’s Compact” report to Congress. Unfortunately, ALEC crafted this legislation unilaterally, with no consultation with either Department of Defense or MIC3, which manages the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children, of which all 50 states and the District of Columbia are members. The draft legislation, while intended to support the existing compact, creates conflicts with the existing compact and is at best a confusing and competitive document. DOD and MIC3 were caught by surprise and are now studying the draft legislation for feedback to ALEC while assessing whether a more unified approach is possible. We notified Sen. Wilson and Rep. Dossett, who are Kentucky’s MIC3 state council legislative members, and the VMAPP chairs/co-chairs, for their situational awareness, asking them to hold on any action during the DOD/MIC3 assessment process. This is also occurring across the nation, and we have not see any related legislation across the 50 states, Executive Director Dablow and Commissioner Bullard noted.

5. OLD BUSINESS

None.

6. NEW BUSINESS

Lacey Allen, Regional School Liaison for the Department of the Air Force, introduced herself to the council members. While Kentucky is an overwhelmingly “Army” state, she said, the Air Force does track approximately 500 K-12 Air Force dependents attending school in the Commonwealth.

7. OPEN DISCUSSION

None.

8. NEXT MEETING

January 28, 2027, 1 p.m., Microsoft Teams.

9. ADJOURN

1:35 p.m.