



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

**ANDY BESHEAR**  
Governor

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**STEVEN P. BULLARD**  
Commissioner

**TO:** Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission (MIC3)

**FROM:** Brigadier General Steven P. Bullard, USAF Retired  
Commissioner, Kentucky State Council

**DATE:** June 30, 2024 (covers period July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024)

**SUBJECT:** 2024 Annual Report on Kentucky MIC3 State Council (<https://mic3.net/state/kentucky/>)

**PURPOSE:** To provide an annual report summarizing the Commonwealth of Kentucky's State Council activities, to include membership and key points of contact

### **State Council Roster**

- Brig Gen (USAF Ret.) Steven P. Bullard, State Council Commissioner
- Commissioner Robin Fields Kenney, Kentucky Department of Education
- Colonel Christopher James Ricci, USA, Garrison Commander, Fort Knox, Kentucky
- Senator Mike Wilson, Kentucky General Assembly
- Representative Myron Dossett, Kentucky General Assembly
- Mr. Chris Bentzel, Superintendent, Christian County Public Schools
- Ms. Teresa Morgan, Superintendent, Hardin County Schools
- Mr. Brian Perry, Director of Government Relations, Kentucky Department of Education

### **State Council Point of Contact**

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(State Council for Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission  
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### **Primary School Liaison Officers**

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Brenda Weatherington  
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Website: <https://knox.armymwr.com/programs/school-liaison-officer>

### **Activities of the State Council**

#### **MIC3 Annual Conference (November 7-9, 2023)**

Commissioner Bullard attended the 2023 MIC3 Annual Business Meeting (ABM) held in November in Richmond, Virginia. He was joined there by Fort Campbell School Liaison Officer Laquivia Garrett. Keynote speakers included Dr. Lisa Coons, State Superintendent of Education, and retired Army Major General Craig Crenshaw, Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs who underscored the importance of taking care of our military servicemen, women, and their families. Business items included business reports, briefs from the U.S. Departments of Defense and Education, and Blue Star Families was approved as an advisory member. Military school district superintendents from Kansas and New Jersey spoke to the challenges students encounter in a post-pandemic environment, and how their schools provide innovative mental health and academic support. A panel highlighted Project SEARCH, which connects high school students with intellectual and developmental disabilities to internships and on-the-job training at Naval Air Station (NAS) Oceana in Virginia Beach. Newly elected officers include Louisiana Commissioner Ernise Singleton as chair after serving two terms as vice chair; Minnesota Commissioner, Daron Korte, as vice chair; and Washington Commissioner, Greg Lynch, as treasurer. The Executive Committee also includes Connecticut Commissioner, Laura Anastasio, as past chair and one non-voting member, Dianna Ganote, from the Office of the Secretary of Defense, Military Community and Family Policy Office of Children, Youth and Families.

The following commissioners were appointed by Chair Singleton to the Executive Committee:

- Communication and Outreach Committee – Chad Delbridge, Wyoming Commissioner
- Compliance Committee Chair – Steven Bullard, Kentucky Commissioner
- Training Committee Chair – Shelly Ramos, Texas Commissioner

#### **State Council Annual Meeting (January 30, 2024; virtual)**

The State Council conducted its annual meeting on January 30, 2024 through Zoom video teleconference. In Kentucky, per direction of the governor, the executive director of the Kentucky Commission on Military Affairs serves as the state commissioner for this national program, with a Kentucky Department of Education representative. Commissioner Bullard was appointed by the Governor on August 20, 2019 to serve as the state commissioner. 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.

There was 100 percent attendance by state commission members, including State Sen. Mike Wilson and State Rep. Myron Dossett and representatives from national MIC3, KDE, Fort Campbell and Fort Knox. Commissioner Bullard said Kentucky submitted our 2023 MIC3 Annual Report on June 30, 2023 and paid our annual dues on May 11, 2023. The MIC3 year runs July through June annually and dues 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 \$10,355.00, based on K-12 dependents of military personnel assigned. Bullard submitted his mandatory annual Code of Conduct and Conflict of Interest forms for 2024 at the ABM in November 2023. 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, and cases are at a minimum, with one case thus far this current fiscal year. That case involved a Fort Campbell High School Senior who did not receive credit for French language course taken in New York State. It was successfully (and rapidly) resolved through Ms. Garrett, the Fort Campbell School Liaison Officer. No further issues are anticipated.

Commissioner Bullard said we have omnibus military legislation filed by State Rep. Steve Bratcher, House Bill 200, which includes the MIC3 Compact Statute Correction for KRS 156.730 and the addition of the National Guard and Reserve to the protections of KRS 156.735. He expects it to pass easily. Last year this same legislation passed the Kentucky House unanimously and Senate committee unanimously; however, it got caught up in a logjam of bills at the end of the session and time ran out before it could receive a floor vote in the Senate. He said he has been assured by leadership that will not happen again this year. HB 200 was approved by the House Veterans, Military Affairs and Public Protection Committee this morning (and later in the week passed the House by a 91-0 vote).

National MIC3 Training and Operations Associate Lindsey Dablow presented an overview of current national MIC3 programs and reviewed the 2023 Annual Business Meeting (ABM) held in November in Richmond, Virginia.

Commissioner Bullard noted they are working with the Christian County Chamber of Commerce Military Affairs Committee to publicize in the counties around Fort Campbell the availability in Kentucky of the new Military Child Care in Your Neighborhood-PLUS (MCCYN-PLUS) program, adopted last January. Child care providers must be certified through the Cabinet for Health and Family Services in order to qualify for the monthly stipend of up to \$1,500 for the children of military service members.

Commissioner Bullard briefed the just released Penn State University's Department of Defense funded study on State Support for Military Connected Children. Kentucky fared quite well, Bullard said, with minor shortfalls in Advance Enrollment (as were the majority of states). The Kentucky General Assembly passed Advance Enrollment legislation for military children in 2019, sponsored by Rep. Chris Freeland, passing unanimously through the legislature. Where the Penn State study rated Kentucky "Red" is that the enrollment requirements established in Kentucky Revised Statute (KRS) 159.075 did not include two elements:

- A specification that orders may be used to establish residency for enrollment, and
- A specification that families do not need to appear in person to enroll.

The statute does specify the following requirements:

- Residence in a temporary on-post billeting facility,
- Residence in a purchased or leased home or apartment,
- Residence in any federal government housing or off-post military housing, including off-post military housing that may be provided through a public-private venture.

Commissioner Bullard said Rep. Freeland is interested in sponsoring legislation to fix these two areas, and said he had reached to inform the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) of the need. In the discussion that followed, state council member Brian Perry of the Department of Education said they have assessed this potential legislation and stressed that KDE already voluntarily complies with both of the unspecified areas. Perry said they are not opposed to legislation; however, it's technically not necessary. Bullard said it's still a good idea to amend the law so that DOD has visibility on Kentucky's action. They are able to easily assess law, he noted; however, it's far more challenging to track internal processes. The council agreed with that assessment and supported the legislation, with both Sen. Wilson and Rep. Dossett noting this is a good way ahead. Commissioner Bullard said we are working through Rep. Chris Fugate to file Kentucky Purple Star Schools enabling legislation (later filed as HB 469). The official Kentucky Purple Star Schools website is at <https://www.facebook.com/KYPurpleStarAward>. Bullard also noted that Kentucky First Lady Brittainy Beshear plans to visit Fort Knox schools on April 19 for Purple Up! Day. (NOTE: Shortly after the meeting, Commissioner Bullard met with Rep. Freeland, who then introduced House Bill 471 to meet this goal.)

### **State Training Activities**

On November 17, 2023, Commissioner Bullard traveled to Fort Campbell to meet with new Fort Campbell Garrison Commander, Colonel Christopher Midberry and brief him on KCMA and MIC3 activities and working relationships. Commissioner Bullard invited Deanna McLaughlin, the MIC3 Commissioner for Tennessee, to join him for the briefing to share our roles in supporting military families and children.

Fort Campbell School Liaison Officer Laquvia Garrett hosted U.S. Army staff training on the Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission (MIC3) at Fort Campbell on February 8. Kentucky MIC3 and national MIC3 provided the training materials and vision while the training itself was internally conducted by our close partners, the Fort Campbell School Liaison Officer team.

In January 2024, Kentucky MIC3 shared "Kentucky Education Trends and Practices for Military Youth" information with the Department of Defense Education Authority (DODEA) through Fort Knox.

Commissioner Bullard participated in the annual Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission (MIC3) leadership retreat (at MIC3 expense) in his roles as Executive Committee member and National Compliance Chair on April 16-18 in Lexington, Kentucky. Discussions included strategic planning and support to Department of Defense, federal agencies and state governors/education agencies.

On September 19, 2023, Commissioner Bullard, in his role as national MIC3 Compliance Chair and Kentucky State MIC3 Commissioner, presented virtually to The Council of State Governments' (CSG) Commission on Military and Veterans Affairs Education Matters Panel on the following areas:

- Compact overview
- Compact statute legal parameters
- Best practices
- Compact Commissioner and School Liaison roles in supporting military children

As side note, CSG noted that Kentucky is one of the nation's leaders in military spouse-priority interstate occupational licensing compact adoption.

### **Additional Duties**

Commissioner Bullard continues to serve as national Compliance Committee chair, which also places him on the national MIC3 Executive Committee. He was appointed to this role in January 2022. The Compliance Committee meets bi-monthly and the Executive Committee meets quarterly. His activities include ensuring compliance by all member states and their appointed commissioners; working with state commissioners, as required, to assist them in resolving MIC3 cases; and submitting a yearly Compliance Committee Annual Report. This year his committee created and published a new state compliance tracking wheel graphic for use by state commissioners and the public.

### **Supporting Legislation**

Kentucky's military community had an outstanding state legislative session in 2024, featuring House Bill (HB) 200, which fixed a technical error (common to all states due to citation error in initial implementation) in the Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission (MIC3) statute (KRS 156.730) and added the National Guard and Reserve to state MIC3 protection (KRS 176.735). In addition, HB 200 recognized the new U.S. Space Force and created a Space Force license plate, created a Legion of Merit medal license plate, and corrected the name of the Army Reserve Aviation Command at Fort Knox in our KCMA statute.

Additionally, the following military/veterans related bills passed this session:

- HB 56 – KCMA and DOD priority Social Work Occupational Licensing Compact membership
- HB 397 – Support for military personnel and spouses in occupational licensing
- HB 453 – DOD priority Child Abuse case reporting to military installations
- HB 471 – Support for Advance Enrollment of military connected students
- HB 469 – Kentucky Purple Star Schools enabling legislation
- HB 715 – Military Family Assistance Trust Fund benefits expansion

### **Month of the Military Child**

At our invitation, First Lady Britainy Beshear visited Fort Knox DODEA schools on April 19, 2024 to promote the Month of the Military Child, meet installation leaders, and promote military family readiness. We joined with Kentucky Purple Star Schools to induct 22 new schools into the program in April, bringing the total number statewide to 93. We continue to utilize the outstanding videos filmed by the Governor and First Lady in 2021 and 2022 highlighting the Month of the Military Child, and issued a Governor's proclamation honoring April's Month of the Military Child on April 15, 2024.

### **Annual State Dues Assessment**

Kentucky received its Fiscal Year 2025 dues assessment for membership in the MIC3 on May 1, 2024, in the amount of \$10,355.00, invoice number FY24-001KY, and submitted it for payment, per Governor-directed memo, to the Kentucky Department of Military Affairs. The current dues formula for FY25 is outlined in the Compact Rules, Chapter 200, Sec. 2.103 (<http://www.mic3.net/assets/rules-book-edits-20190905.pdf>). Payments are due by September 30, 2024. Payment in full was immediately processed by the Department of Military Affairs and was received by MIC3 on May 14, 2024.

### **Administrative Requirements**

Commissioner Bullard completed and submitted to MIC3 his mandatory Code of Conduct and Conflict of Interest statements at the MIC3 Annual Business Meeting in November 2023. All Kentucky administrative

requirements for the fiscal year are complete with the filing of this year's Annual Report effective June 30, 2024.

### **FY23 Kentucky MIC3 Cases (three)**

- Successfully worked with the Fort Knox School Liaison Officer to resolve a MIC3 case of a military student (high school junior) transferring with her family to Fort Knox from Hawaii and asking for a waiver for a locally required Human Geography freshman-level course
  - Meade County Schools, after an initial “no,” granted the requested credit to the student in April 2024
- Successfully worked with the Fort Knox School Liaison Officer to handle the MIC3 case of a military student (high school junior) transferring with her family to Fort Knox from Hawaii and asking for a waiver for a locally required Human Geography freshman-level course
  - Waiver granted in April 2024
- Successfully worked with the Fort Campbell School Liaison Officer to resolve a Fort Campbell-related MIC3 issue in January 2024
  - Local school initially denied credit for French language class to student whose Army family transferred to Fort Campbell from New York State
    - Would have prevented his ability to graduate on time this Spring

### **Military Student Identifier Update**

As part of Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) requirements, the U.S. Department of Education requires school districts to identify students who are armed forces family members. This information is a voluntary submission by parents and guardians. Kentucky's Student Information System (KSIS) includes a “Military Connections” tab to track guardian data for those who are active duty military personnel. A student is considered military connected if a parent or guardian is a member of the armed forces on active duty or serves on full-time National Guard duty. KDE continues to promote the importance of this data collection to public schools and districts.

Information related to the collection of this data can be found at Kentucky Department of Education's website, KSIS Data Standard – Census (Section G: Military Connections) Sample Data Collection Form for Local Districts and Schools.