



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

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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, 2020

**SUBJECT:** 2020 Annual Report on Kentucky MIC3 State Council

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

### Activities of the State Council

#### **MIC3 Annual Conference** (October 23-24, 2019; Colorado Springs, Colorado)

Kentucky State Council Commissioner Gen. Bullard attended the annual conference and was assigned initially to the Finance Committee. In early 2020, the Commissioner was reassigned to the Communications Committee and has been an active participant. Gen. Bullard briefed his activities at the conference, his first, and noted that next year's MIC3 annual meeting will be in Little Rock, Arkansas in the Fall of 2020, actual dates still to be determined. Gen. Bullard noted that anyone associated with MIC3 may attend, not just commissioners, and urged our Fort Campbell and Fort Knox liaisons to consider attending. (As a note, COVID-19 has since changed the 2020 annual meeting to a virtual one, of course)

#### **State Council Annual Meeting** (December 5, 2019; Frankfort, Kentucky)

The State Council meets at least once each calendar year, and met this fiscal year on December 5, 2019 in Frankfort, Kentucky. The MIC3 National Executive Director was represented by Lindsey Dablow, who presented a demonstration of the MIC3 website focusing on their new introductory video and other available resources, including printable materials. The Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) representatives present said they will update the KDE website to incorporate the MIC3 updates. The state update was provided by member Tracy Goff-Herman, KDE Policy Advisor for the Division of Learning Services, Office of Teaching and Learning. She discussed in detail a recent case where a military family moved from North Carolina to Kentucky with a child old enough to enter kindergarten in North Carolina, but not Kentucky. If the family had enrolled the child in North Carolina before moving, it would not have been an issue, but the Kentucky district ruled the child ineligible for enrollment in Kentucky. The district is technically correct, but should an exception have been made under the spirit of the compact? In addition, should Kentucky create legislation to cover the scenario? Dablow noted that this situation could have been easily resolved had the family worked with a school liaison officer prior to the move and understood what to do, but noted families often don't know to do that. State Rep. Myron Dossett offered to sponsor legislation to cover this scenario, but we all agreed the situation is so unusual that legislation might not be required. KDE in further study determined legislation was not required.

Other discussion centered around potential support for military children's enrollment in aviation training programs. We noted that the Kentucky Science and Technology Corporation is very interested in such training and are great points of contact.

KDE continues to provide support and assistance to local districts regarding the MIC3 and maintains information for parents and local districts regarding the Compact and the collection of related data at: [KY Dept of Education - Support our Military Families in School Transitions](#).

Brenda Weatherington, the Fort Knox School Liaison Officer, Child and Youth Services, Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation for Installation Management Command, extended an invitation for the new Lieutenant Governor, Jacqueline Coleman, also serving as the new Secretary of Education, and the new First Lady of Kentucky, Britany Beshear, to visit Fort Knox for their "Purple Up" Day Pep Rally as part of April's "Month of the Military Child" celebration. Following up, Gen. Bullard coordinated for them to visit Fort Knox Middle/High School the morning of Thursday, April 16, 2020 to tour the new 21st Century School, meet their students, teachers, faculty and staff and keynote their program. Unfortunately, COVID-19 restrictions have forced an indefinite postponement of visitation plans. We will reengage at the appropriate time.

### **Supporting Legislation**

The Kentucky General Assembly 2020 Legislative Session continues to pass key policy supporting military families, with a focus on their dependent students. The following legislation passed in the 2020 session and was signed into law.

- HB 266 – Allows parents or guardians who are transferring to a reserve component or separating from the military under honorable conditions to pre-enroll their child or participate in preadmission in a school district if the parent or guardian of the child is returning to the state after within one (1) year of being separated from the military with an honorable discharge, discharge under honorable conditions, or a general discharge under honorable conditions; include a home under contract to be built as a qualifying residence; allow qualifying students to temporarily reside outside of district if the housing is unavailable and be included in the attending district's average daily attendance.

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

As referenced above, this year Month of the Military Child activities in Kentucky were canceled or indefinitely postponed due to COVID-19 restrictions. Possible make-up activities were sought for the Fall of 2020 but at the current time look unlikely to occur due to continuing COVID-19 restrictions.

### **Annual State Dues Assessment**

Kentucky promptly paid its Fiscal Year 2021 dues assessment for membership in the MIC3. Kentucky currently ranks 19<sup>th</sup> among the 50 states and the District of Columbia in active duty military dependents (8,159).

### **Advancing Federal Outreach**

We completed the MIC3 "Successful Educational Transitions" mid-year survey in June 2020.

### **Military Student Identifier Update**

As part of the 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](#)

### **State Council Membership**

As required by Kentucky Revised Statutes 156.730, the following membership include:

- Brigadier General (USAF Ret.) Steven P. Bullard, State Council Commissioner
- Commissioner (Interim) Kevin C. Brown, Kentucky Department of Education
- Colonel Cletus. J. King, Garrison Commander of Fort Knox, Kentucky
- Senator Tom Buford, Kentucky General Assembly
- Representative Myron Dossett, Kentucky General Assembly
- Ms. Mary Ann Gemmill, Superintendent of Christian County Schools
- Ms. Teresa Morgan, Superintendent of Hardin County Schools
- Ms. Tracy Goff-Herman, Academic Program Manager, Kentucky Department of Education

### **Kentucky Key Points of Contact**

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