

**Maryland State Council  
 June 23, 2025**
**Attending**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>
Tashina Andrus	Regional School Liaison/Dept of the Navy
Carol Beck	Maryland State Department of Education
Michelle Boone	School Liaison, NSA Annapolis – US Naval Academy
Andrea Bridgewater-McCarthy,	School Liaison, Fort Detrick
Matrice Brooks	School Liaison, Joint Base Andrews
Jennifer Cole-Pharro	School Liaison, NSA Bethesda
Don Corbin	Safety Specialist, MSDE
Teresa Dantzler	Ombudsman, MSDE
Cheryl Dyson*	Superintendent, Frederick County Public Schools
Brad Engel	School Engagement Specialist, MSDE
Mary Gable*	Assistant State Superintendent, MSDE
Col Yolanda Gore*	Garrison Commander, Fort George G. Meade
Lolita Gunter	School Liaison, NSA South Potomac
Charise Imai	Executive Director, Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission (MIC3)
Brittany Johnson	School Liaison, Aberdeen Proving Ground
Meredith McCandless	School Liaison, Fort George G. Meade
Kaitlin Quigley	Coordinator of Special Projects, MSDE
Brook Schmidt	Military Specialist, Parents' Place of Maryland
Ryan Voetglin*	Assistant Superintendent, Student Service, Anne Arundel County Public Schools
Flavia Walton*	Military Family Representative
Andrew Warner	Executive Director, Maryland Public Schools Athletic Association, MSDE

\*Member of the State Council

### Invited, Unable to Attend

Name	Organization
Akilah Allyene	Executive Director, Government Affairs, MSDE
Rene Averitt-Sanzone	Executive Director, Parents Place of Maryland
Cynthia Chance	School Liaison, Aberdeen Proving Ground
Alonso Hay	School Liaison, Joint Base Andrews
Kimberly Johnson	School Liaison, Ft. Detrick
Anne Kaiser*	Delegate, Maryland House of Delegates
Talissa McMullen	School Liaison, Fort George G. Meade
Dawn Simpson	School Liaison, Patuxent River Naval Air Station
Gerrod Tyler	Free State PTA
Ronald Wolfe	School Liaison, NSA Annapolis – US Naval Academy

### Update on Purple Star Program

The Purple Star program was established by Legislature to acknowledge schools doing exemplary work to support military students. There are now 31 schools that have earned the designation. There is not a cap on the number of schools that can participate. There is an application process; the school must apply.

Statute and regulation state that the status is for two years. Schools that were recognized in April are Purple Star schools for the next two school years, 2025-2026 and 2026-2027. Feedback is provided to schools if the school applied and did not meet the criteria, so that the application can be revised for the next submission. It was suggested that Technical Assistance to interested schools and include representatives of schools that already had the designation. The re-application process is not yet final. The re-application will request updates on progress made since the original designation as a Purple Start school, including the three year plan that was a part of the original application.

Liaisons noted that schools and school systems should make it easy for a military family to locate contacts and resources, and the military sites should ensure that families can find the military school liaison and the local school contacts easily. It is important the good work happening in many schools and by the school liaisons be communicated widely.

## **Interstate Compact**

The Interstate Compact is the main focus of the Council and is the legal commitment of states to ease school transitions for military connected students. The Interstate Compact is incorporated into state law, and in Maryland, regulation. Identification of families who are relocating should be a priority and is managed differently in the military branches and installations. School liaisons reach out to families and work with external partners in the school systems. In at least one case, the liaison receives a list of all service members coming in to and departing from an area. Liaison outreach can be directed to these families.

## **Technical Correction to the Interstate Compact.**

The MIC3 has identified that in the model language for the Compact, incorporated in the law in all 50 states, there is an error. The error is an incorrect reference to the U.S. Code defining “active duty military.” In Maryland, the General Assembly passes an Annual Corrective Bill which enacts changes for technical errors that make no change to the substance of the statute. MSDE’s government relations team will work with the legislature to request this correction in the next session of the Maryland General Assembly.

## **Legal Advisory by MIC3**

A summary of recent advisory opinions was provided and reviewed by Ms. Imai of the national office of the Commission. When questions arise in states, they can be addressed by counsel for the compact, if needed, so that the answer is available to all states.

A commissioner can request a rule change to address a specific question, but there are also ways to address situations within the State such as through a local waiver. This flexibility means that the rules are broad enough to accommodate variance in law and policy at the state level.

## **National Case Review**

Statistics were provided regarding cases that are reviewed at the national level. Note that this does not include matters that are resolved at the local level. The national office will conduct a five year review of the data.

Cases that are received at the national level can result from outreach of parent, or a commissioner. The majority of requests are from parents, then from compact Commissioners. Many are unrelated to the

Compact, or regarding issues that are not covered by the Compact. The most common areas of questions are placement and graduation requirements (Articles 5 and 7 of the Compact, respectively).

### **Financial Report/Dues Recommendation of the Commission**

States pay dues to support the operations of the national office. The national office of the Commission provides printed and online materials, technical assistance, case review, and staff support for convenings of the Commission and its committees. Dues are based on the number of military-connected students in the state. There has not been an increase in the rate used to determine state dues since 2015.

If there is an increase, it will take effect two years after approval. Currently the per student rate is \$1.15. The proposal of the Commission is that the new rate be set at \$1.78 for FY 2027, with a 4% increase annually to account for inflation. Previously there was a cap on the total amount of dues, which does impact Maryland, but this will also be removed.

*All members of the State Council present support the proposed rule change to increase the State dues.*

### **Adjourn**

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