June 30, 2021

The Honorable Larry Hogan

Governor

100 State Circle

Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

The Honorable William Ferguson

H-107 State House

100 State Circle

Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

The Honorable Adrienne A. Jones

H-101 State House

100 State Circle

Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

Re: MSAR #7598 and #8880 – Interstate Commission on Educational Opportunity for Military Children Report

Dear Governor Hogan, President Ferguson, and Speaker Jones:

Pursuant to §7-1303 of the Education Article, MSAR #7598 and MSAR #8880, the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) shall report annually to the Legislature, Governor, Judiciary, and State Council of the member states concerning the activities of the Interstate Commission on Educational Opportunity for Military Children during the preceding year. Such reports shall also include any recommendations that may have been adopted by the Interstate Commission. Maryland adopted the Compact in 2009, when the Maryland General Assembly added the Compact provisions to the Maryland Code.

The Military Interstate Children’s Compact Commission (MIC3) is the national organization leading the work on educational opportunity for military children. The MIC3 is proud that all 50 states and the District of Columbia are members of the Interstate Compact. The Interstate Compact ensures the uniform treatment of military children transferring between states. It was developed by the Council of State Governments’ National Center for Interstate Compacts, the U.S. Department of Defense, national associations, federal and state officials, the Department of Education of each State, school administrators, and military families.

The military child faces many challenges as the military family transfers from one assignment to the next. The average military student faces transition more than twice during high school and most military children will attend six to nine different school systems in their lives from kindergarten to 12th grade. The Compact seeks to make transition easier for children of military families to ensure that they are afforded the same opportunities for educational success as other children and are not penalized or delayed in achieving their educational goals.

In accordance with the requirement of the Education Article to report on the work of the Interstate Compact, please find attached the following:

* MIC3 one-page summary of the Interstate Compact
* MIC3 Annual Report 2020
* Agenda for the October 1-2, 2020 Annual Business Meeting of the MIC3 (virtual meeting)
* Minutes of the October 23-24, 2019, Commission Meeting (Minutes of the 2020 Commission meeting are not yet available.)
* Executive Committee Meeting Agenda and Minutes for April 15, 2021 (virtual meeting)
* Maryland State Council Meeting, March 3, 2021

Maryland was represented at the Annual Business Meeting and the Executive Committee Meetings, which were held virtually, by Mary L. Gable, Assistant State Superintendent of the Division of Student Support, Academic Enrichment, and Educational Policy. Ms. Gable is the Maryland State Commissioner and the Chairperson of the Rules Committee. As Commissioner, Ms. Gable annually shares information on the Interstate Compact with the Directors of Student Services and Coordinators of School Counselors across the 24 local school systems. Ms. Gable assists families and the local school systems when there are challenges in a student’s transition.

Dr. Teresa Alban, Superintendent of Frederick County Public Schools, represents the Public School Superintendents Association of Maryland (PSSAM) on the State Council and shares information on the Compact with all local Superintendents.

Information on the accomplishments of the Military Interstate Compact Commission can be found in the attached *2020 Annual Report.* Also attached is a copy of the agenda and minutes of the March 3, 2021, meeting of Maryland’s State Council for the Interstate Compact. At the meeting, the Council welcomed the new Garrison Commander of Fort George G. Meade, Colonel Christopher M. Nyland. Colonel Nyland is the Department of Defense member of the Maryland State Council. Each state must have a State Council that meets annually.

The Interstate Compact operates under rules that were adopted by the Compact and each state. In order to make these rules available, a Compact Rules Desk Reference is available for each Commissioner. A copy of the rules can be found at: <http://www.mic3.net/documents/MIC3CommissionRules-Final-amendedNov2012v2.docx>. The Chairperson of the Commission communicates through a monthly newsletter with each State Commissioner and Ex-Officio member of MIC3. A question being considered by every State Council this year is the addition to the Compact of National Guard and reserve dependents beyond those under Title 10 active duty status. During the 2020-2021 school year, the MIC3 provided all states with an update on the status of "return to school" in each state. The most recent update can be found at: <https://mic3.net/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/42-School-Update_20210419.pdf>

Based on active duty military, as of August 2020, (the most recent data available), Maryland serves 19,998 children, aged 5 – 18, from active duty military members in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Department of Defense, and Coast Guard. Dues for membership to MIC3 are paid based on the number of active duty military in the State. As a member of the Compact, Maryland’s dues for FY 2021 were $22,998.00.

Should you have any questions regarding this report, please feel free to contact Mary Gable by phone at 410-767-0472 or by email at mary.gable@maryland.gov. You may find additional information on the MIC3 website: <http://mic3.net/index.aspx>.

Thank you for your support of children of military families who attend Maryland schools.

Best Regards,

Karen B. Salmon, Ph.D.

State Superintendent of Schools

KBS/mlg

Enclosures:

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