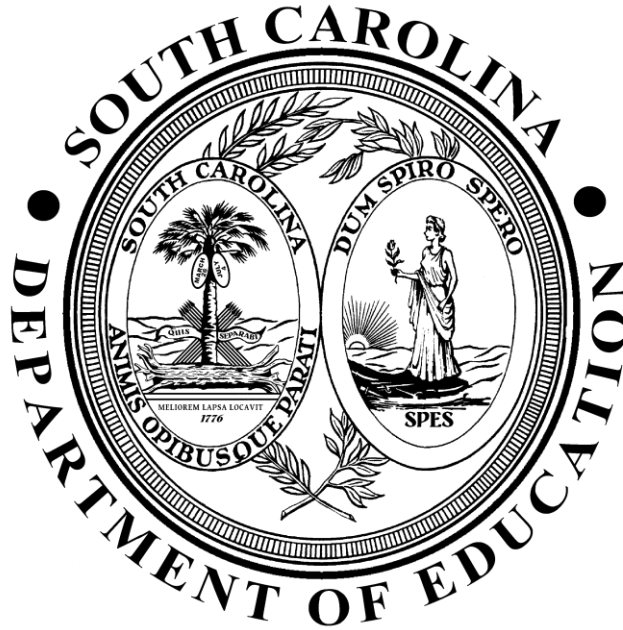


STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

MOLLY M. SPEARMAN
STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION



2020–21 Report on South Carolina Council on the
Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children

Pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 59-46-40

August 31, 2021

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Contents

Purpose..... 1
SC Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission (MIC3) Council Members..... 1
SC MIC3 Council Summary 1
Areas of Focus for the State Council 2

Purpose

The purpose of the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children (S.C. Code Ann. § 59-46-40) is to remove barriers to educational success imposed on children of military families because of frequent moves and deployment of their parents by:

- A. Facilitating the timely enrollment of children of military families and ensuring that they are not placed at a disadvantage due to difficulty in the transfer of education records from the previous school districts or variations in entrance/age requirements.
- B. Facilitating the student placement process through which children of military families are not disadvantaged by variations in attendance requirements, scheduling, sequencing, grading, course content, or assessment.
- C. Facilitating the qualification and eligibility for enrollment, educational programs, and participation in extracurricular academic, athletic, and social activities.
- D. Facilitating the on-time graduation of children of military families.
- E. Providing for the promulgation and enforcement of administrative rules implementing the provisions of this compact.
- F. Providing for the uniform collection and sharing of information between and among member states, schools, and military families under this compact.
- G. Promoting coordination between this compact and other compacts affecting military children.
- H. Promoting flexibility and cooperation between the educational system, parents, and the student in order to achieve educational success for the student.

SC Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission (MIC3) Council Members

- Mrs. Molly M. Spearman, State Superintendent of Education
- Dr. Baron Davis, Superintendent of Richland County School District Two
- Mr. Felix J. Childs, Governor Designee
- Representative Joseph F. Daning, Berkeley District 92
- Representative Shedron D. Williams, Hampton District 122
- Senator Ronnie W. Cromer, Newberry District 18
- Senator J. Thomas McElveen, Sumter District 35
- Dr. Tremekia K. Priestler, SC MIC 3 Council Chair, State Superintendent's Designee
- Mrs. Beth Shwedo, Military Family Member
- Mr. George Patrick, Military Installation Representative
- Wanda A. Davis, Ombudsman, South Carolina Department of Education

SC MIC3 Council Summary

- South Carolina State Council Meetings were held on November 23, 2020, and April 28, 2021. Both meetings were held virtually via Microsoft Teams.
- During the November 23rd meeting, Yolande Anderson, former MIC3 Chair, gave an update on the social, emotional, and academic supports being provided to military

families in collaboration with district military liaisons. Ms. Anderson also announced Sumter County School District as the fourth Purple Star designated district, joining Aiken County Public School District, Richland County School District Two, and Kershaw County School District.

- The South Carolina Department of Education sponsored the *2020-21 Military Honor Cord Ceremony* for high school seniors who had enlisted into the uniformed services. Prior to the virtual ceremony, students were provided red, white, and blue military cords to wear during their respective high school graduation ceremonies.
- During the April meeting, Governor Henry McMaster proclaimed April as South Carolina's Month of the Military Child. After the proclamation, Dr. Kimberly Priester, recently appointed (May 2021) as the State Superintendent of Education's designee for the MIC3 Council, identified five additional Purple Star districts in South Carolina: Charleston County School District, Berkley County School District, Beaufort County School District, Richland County School District One, and Edgefield County School District.
- Dr. Priester then provided an overview of Veterans Affairs Education Benefits for veteran survivors and informed the Council that the SC Commission on Higher Education was notified about requests for assistance from students from military families who were planning to attend college. To assist families further, the Council agreed that a presentation related to educational benefits and resources available for students from military families should be developed in collaboration with the Veterans Affairs Education Department.
- Various council members, district military liaisons, military school officers, military families and students, and other individuals participated in Month of the Military Child and Purple UP Day celebrations. Each district designated a day for Purple UP Day, during which several appreciation activities were held for students and families.
- Dr. Priester will be the state contact for districts seeking information and training on how to achieve the Purple Star designation.
- The South Carolina Department of Education will host the 2021 Family and Community Engagement Summit in September. A session related to how to effectively engage military families will be offered.

Areas of Focus for the State Council

- Provide on-going training on the compact rules for the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children in collaboration with district military liaisons/school officers. The purpose of the continuous training is to ensure that policies related to transitioning military students in the state's public school system are clearly understood and implemented effectively in all school districts statewide.
- Raise awareness of the Month of the Military Child proclamation and Purple Up Day in districts and schools statewide.
- Raise awareness of the South Carolina Department of Education's Purple Star program, which provides information and resources to districts to assist them in helping students from military families have a seamless transition into the state's public education system.