

MINUTES
TN Council on Educational Opportunity for Military Children
MIC3
APRIL 17, 2013

The TN Council on Educational Opportunity for Military Children met via conference call for an annual organizational meeting at 09:00 a.m., CST, on April 17, 2013.

Members Present.....7

Deanna McLaughlin, Chair
Scott Eddins
David Dellinger
Many-Bears Grinder
LaDonna McFall
Zachary Rossley
B. J. Worthington

Members Absent.....3

The Honorable Dolores Gresham
CPT. Steven Fimple
Trina Gillam

Others Present.....3

Brad Meeks (for Steven Fimple)
Michael Maren (for The Honorable Dolores Gresham)
Lieutenant Colonel Eric Goslowsky

1. Our Purpose

Pursuant to the terms of the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children, (the Compact”), the Tennessee State Council on Educational Opportunity for Military Children (the “Council”) is established to fulfill the objectives of the Compact, through a means of joint cooperative action among the Compacting States: to promote, develop and facilitate a uniform standard that eases the state to state transition of military personnel, their spouses and primarily their children as these children transfer from one state to another and from one school system to another as a direct result of the military parent’s frequent reassignments.

Chair Deanna McLaughlin called the meeting to order and welcomed the new members to the council identifying them by name. She then summarized the council’s mission and purpose.

2. Roll Call to Establish Quorum

Scott Eddins called roll and detected a quorum present.

3. Introduction of Guests

Chair Deanna McLaughlin recognized Colonel Eric Goslowsky as a special guest.

4. Discussion on the Military Family Education Liaison

Dr. Worthington noted there is a Fort Campbell liaison who serves in this capacity; however, those people are not allowed to serve in that capacity state wide. They don't have the ability to support state wide issues. The primary purpose of this position is to serve as the first point of contact for the state council.

Lt. Colonel Goslowsky has a person, Cynthia Davis, special services for the Knox county area, who is currently working in this professional area.

Commissioner Grinder asked, "Will this person be able to interact via telephone or will there be travel involved?" The consensus was that limited travel may be required. **Lt. Colonel Goslowsky** will get more information to the council concerning her qualifications.

Chair Deanna McLaughlin suggested tabling this issue until a further conversation can be had. Deanna will continue serving in this role until the council can vote on the issue. **Dr. Worthington** raised additional concerns and conversations about having one stable contact verses having multiple contacts.

Fort Campbell Commander **Colonel Dellinger** commented that this would be helpful. **LaDonna McFall** commented that she didn't know if there is a person in this capacity at Arnold Air Force Base, but there certainly may be such a person; however, she is unaware of such person.

Commissioner Grinder asked about the total number of contacts that have been raised. Deanna responded as 13 cases mostly during fall enrollment period across the state concerning active duty military children.

Chair Deanna McLaughlin will coordinate with the Colonel of the Guard and get some information regarding other candidates as well.

It was also noted that the Montgomery County service area makes up 47% of the state.

5. Rules Change – Kindergarten Entrance

Kindergarten and First grade entrance age – Students shall be allowed to continue their enrollment at grade level in the receiving state commensurate with their grade level (including Kindergarten) from a LEA in the sending state at the time of transition, regardless of age. In the case of a Kindergarten student, the student must have been enrolled and attended class in the sending state in order to assure continued attendance in Kindergarten in the receiving state. A student that has satisfactorily completed the prerequisite grade level in the local education agency in the sending state shall be eligible for enrollment in the next highest grade level in the receiving state, regardless of age. A student transferring after the start of the school year in the receiving state shall enter the school in the receiving state on their validated level from an accredited school in the sending state.

- (1) Any student who transfers from an out-of-state public school and who does not meet regular age requirements for admission to the school of the state being transferred into shall be admitted upon presentation of the data required in subsection (3).
- (2) Any student who transfers from an out-of-state nonpublic school and who does not meet regular age requirements for admission to a public school in the state being transferred, shall be admitted if the student meets age requirements for public schools within the state from which he or she is transferring, and if the transfer of the student’s academic credit is acceptable under rules of the school board. Prior to admission, the parent or guardian must also provide the data required in subsection (3).
- (3) In order to be admitted into a school of the state being transferred, such a student transferring from an out-of-state school must provide the following date:
 - i. Official documentation that the parent(s) or guardian(s) were resident(s) of the state in which the child was previously enrolled in school;
 - ii. An official letter or transcript from the proper school authority which shows record of attendance, academic information, and grade placement of the student;
 - iii. Documented evidence of immunizations against communicable diseases; and
 - iv. Evidence of date of birth.

No questions or comments on this item.

6. Compact Issues from 2012 to Now

- i. Placement of Advanced Students who Do Not have an IEP
 1. Placement of Talented and Gifted Students
 - a. Compact Language Article V Placement and Attendance, Sections A and B

A. Course placement.

When the student transfers before or during the school year, the receiving state school shall initially honor placement of the student in educational courses based on the student's enrollment in the sending state school and/or educational assessments conducted at the school in the sending state if the courses are offered. Course placement includes but is not limited to honors, international baccalaureate, advanced placement, vocational, technical and career pathways courses. Continuing the student's academic program from the previous school and promoting placement in academically and career challenging courses should be paramount when considering placement. This does not preclude the school in the receiving state from performing subsequent evaluations to ensure appropriate placement and continued enrollment of the student in the course(s).

B. Educational program placement.

The receiving state school shall initially honor placement of the student in educational programs based on current educational assessments conducted at the school in the sending state or participation/placement in like programs in the sending state. Such programs include, but are not limited to: (1) gifted and talented programs; and (2) English as a second language (ESL). This does not preclude the school in the receiving state from performing subsequent evaluations to ensure appropriate placement of the student.

Chair Deanna McLaughlin explained the issues. One case concerned a family with four students who transferred from a DoDEA school. The issue concerned needing an IEP to get enrolled into the advanced classes. This student experienced a delay of several weeks before getting an appropriate placement pending their documentation.

Discussion regarding gifted and talented access to AP courses ensued. This management of this issue is a local control decision process.

7. Plan of Action (Strategy) of How to Education Schools (School Administrators, Registrars, and Guidance Counselors) on the Military Interstate Children’s Compact

- a. School Liaisons
- b. State Commissioner
- c. State Council Members
- d. State Board of Education

Dr. Worthington explained the process used in Clarksville Montgomery County for placement issues that involves guidance counselors at the high school level and more with principals at the elementary level.

Dr. McFall, “our process is working well locally without any issues currently.”

Dr. Eddins explained the process for the state board if any issues require a state wide policy.

Note: the compact only relates to public schools. It does not have authority regarding private or home schools.

8. New Electronic Brochure

- a. <http://online.flipbuilder.com/rpryor/prlj/ - p=1>

Chair Deanna McLaughlin noted that this is a good tool for schools, parents, school liaison officers. Let her know if something needs to be added.

9. MIC3 Resources

- a. <http://mic3.net/pages/resources/resources.aspx>

10. Website Updates

- a. **Add Most Recent Rules (November 2012)**
- b. **Add New Electronic Brochure**

11. Other Issues

Dr. Worthington asked if this compact relates to others groups like the PTSD group. He noted that there needs to be some coordination of effort between these groups. One group is interested in staff development.

The MFEL (Military Family Education Liaison) issue only relates to making transition issues work more smoothly for military children and families. However; **Deanna McLaughlin** confirmed MIC3 is a resource for recruiters as well.

It was also noted that Pre-K is outside the scope of the Compact.

Chair Deanna McLaughlin thanked members for being available to participate in the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 a.m. C.S.T. with next meeting dates planned for April, 2014.