

MIC3 State Council Meeting Minutes

March 13, 2025

Council Members Attended:

- Mr. Nickolas Sojka, Commissioner (Executive Branch Appointment)
- Rep. Erin Pare (House of Representatives Appointment)
- Dr. Tim Locklair, Superintendent, Moore County Schools
- Ms. Jamie Livengood, Student & Family Support Coordinator, Wayne County Public Schools
- Mr. Bill Lanier, Member of the Onslow County Board of Education (NC School Boards Association Representative)

Opening Items:

- Call to Order - (10:05am) Mr. Nick Sojka (North Carolina Commissioner)
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Welcome by Commissioner Sojka, and Rep. Erin Pare (N.C. House of Representatives Appointment)
- Approval Previous Meeting Minutes, Commissioner Sojka
 - Motion to approve agenda Ms. Jamie Livengood (Council member)
 - Second by Dr. Tim Locklair (Council member)
 - Minutes were approved
- Welcome New Council Members, Commissioner Sojka
 - Commissioner Sojka informed council members of State Superintendent "Mo" Green joining the council and could not be present
 - Commissioner Sojka informed council members of Dr. Locklair, Superintendent, Moore County Schools, joining the council. Dr. Locklair spoke how honored to be a part of the council

General Updates:

- Welcome New Council Support Member, Howard Lattimore
 - Renee Baker (Military Liaison, Harnett County Schools)
 - Isaac Rancour (Military Family and Youth Liaison, Cumberland County Schools)
- MIC3 Professional Developments Dates, Howard Lattimore
 - Mr. Lattimore shared with council members of the MIC3 101 train dates from March 24 - November 13 that were shared with district and school military POCs. Ask that district POCs to submit certificate of completion
- 2024-2025 Purple Star Award Applications Updates, Howard Lattimore
 - Mr. Lattimore shared the growth from SY-2024 to SY-2025. 59 additional schools will receive the Purple Star Award therefore, 59 more school POCs are familiar with the MIC3. A total of 453 schools will be awarded
 - Commissioner Sojka gave an overview of the Purple Star Award and thanked Superintendents Truitt and Green for initiation and the continuation
- Updates From November's Meeting Questions, Howard Lattimore
 - Mr. Lattimore shared information from Jamie's question about the School Report Card Redesign. "It is one of Superintendent Green's priorities and plans to design it via his vision versus Superintendent Truitt's."

- Commissioner Sojka, council members, and support members shared their comments and the importance of looking into to ensure NC schools are graded fairly
- Council supporter Renee Baker (Military Liaison, Harnett County Schools) shared that she would research and share information on how other states score their schools
- Mr. Lattimore shared comments from Mr. Antony Hinson's on Rep. Pare's question about test support for military-connected students and if it directly correlates to. "I reviewed the historical trend data from previous years. I am able to confirm the support provided to military connected students enabled them to do better on our state assessments than their nonmilitary connected peers. While some student support may be universal, it will be necessary to consult with each liaison to determine the support offered to military connected students."
- Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance (DEA) Program, Chapter 35, Danielle Merrell (Military Liaison, Onslow County Schools) & Mark Patton (Military Student Consultant, Military Child Education Coalition)
 - Supporters Danielle and Mark shared the eligibility, benefits, process, and required Documents for Chapter 35 certification for high schools

Legislation Updates:

- Rep. Pare shared information on School Calendar Flexibility and Raise Teacher Pay & Dollar Allotment Study (HB 192)

MIC3 Updates:

- **Celebrations**-Marine Corps Representative Julie Fulton shared information to celebrate Military Child of the Year nominees from NC schools. Operation Homefront Award recipients will be flown with a parent or guardian to Washington, D.C. in July, and recognized at the April 2025 gala at the City of Jacksonville, City Hall
- **Challenges**-Julie also shared some challenges faced since the last council meeting
 - Enrollment related to school physicals
 - Temp custody not recognized for enrollment by some LEAs
 - Military-connected students are considered in-state for tuition but not for admission; may require legislative change

MIC3 Commissioner Updates:

- **Proposed MIC3 National Dues Increase**-Commissioner Sojka shared background information on why the proposal of MIC3 Dues Increase. Please see meeting slides via [this link](#) on other details shared.
 - **MIC3 Dues Structure Over Time:**
 - 2008 - \$1.00 per military-connected student
 - 2018 - \$1.15 per military-connected student
 - 2027 – Proposed \$1.78 per military connected student, PLUS 4% annual inflation factor; dues structure for FY 2027-FY 2031
 - **How Does this Impact NC?**
 - FY 26 current dues (\$1.15/student) 43,864 students
Total Dues = \$50,444.00
 - FY 27 proposed dues (\$1.78/student); Assume 43,864 students

Total dues = \$78,078.00

- FY31 proposed dues, apply annual 4% inflation factor, assume stable student number

Total Dues = \$91,237.00

- How NC Compare to Other Military-Heavy States:

	Military-Connected Students	FY26	FY27
Virginia	72,179	\$69,000	\$128,479
Texas	59,760	\$68,724	\$106,372
North Carolina	43,864	\$50,444	\$78,078
Florida	41,349	\$47,551	\$73,601
Georgia	30,272	\$34,813	\$53,885

- Commissioner Sojka asked for a motion to move forward with the increase proposal

- Motion to approve proposed MIC3 National Dues Increase by Dr. Tim Locklair
- Second by Mr. Bill Lanier (NC School Boards Association Representative)
- Motion carried unanimously

• Proposed Technical Corrections to MIC3 Statute G.S. 115C-407.5

ARTICLE II.
DEFINITIONS.

As used in this compact, unless the context clearly requires a different construction:

A. "Active duty" means: full-time duty status in the active uniformed service of the United States, including members of the National Guard and Reserve on active duty orders pursuant to ~~10 U.S.C. § 12301, et. seq. and 10 U.S.C. § 12401, et. seq.~~ 10 U.S.C. Chapter 1209 and 1211.

A. Except as otherwise provided in Section B, this compact shall apply to the children of:

1. active duty members of the uniformed services as defined in this compact, including members of the National Guard and Reserve on active duty orders pursuant to ~~10 U.S.C. § 12301, et. seq. and 10 U.S.C. § 12401, et. seq.~~; 10 U.S.C. Chapter 1209 and 1211;

- Commissioner Sojka asked for a motion to move forward with enabling legislation technical correction to NC MIC3 G.S. 115C-407.5)

- Motion to move forward with enabling legislation technical correction to NC MIC3 G.S. 115C-407.5) by Ms. Jamie Livengood
- Second by Mr. Bill Lanier
- Motion carried unanimously

• Public Comments:

- Mr. Lanier questioned the power of the MIC3 Council to change policies and legislation. Commissioner Sojka answered by informing how the council is an advisory board to the SBE and does not have the power to overrule PSU's policies however, advocate the use of MIC3 rules when feasible.

• Next Scheduled Meetings:

- October 16, 2025 at 10:00am at Education Building, Raleigh, NC

- March 19, 2026 at 10:00am at Eastern NC Regional Skills center, Jacksonville, NC
- November 19, 2026 at 10:00am at Education Building, Raleigh, NC
- **Adjourned at 12:00pm**