

North Dakota

Military Interstate Children's Compact Council (MIC3)

Wednesday, 01 Apr 2026 | 1530 - 1630 | Microsoft Teams

Attendance (voting members – NDCC 15.1-04.1-02)			
☐	Levi Bachmeier (State Supt) – 1a	☐	Col Reynaldo Champion (319 th MSG) – 1c
☐	Scott Faul (Minot Supt) – 1b	☐	Rep. Karen Karls (State Legislator) – 1d
☐		☐	Mitchell Johnson (NDNG) – 1e
☐		☐	LtC. Jay Sheldon (NDNG) – 1f
Attendance (non-voting members)			
☐	Mark Vollmer (Commissioner)- 2a	☐	Jennifer Schroeder (GF SLO) – 2b
☐		☐	Alyssa Kelly (Minot SLO) – 2b
☐		☐	CMSgt Marcus Cook Perry (319 th MSG)
☐		☐	Col Richard Zeigler (5 th MSG)
☐		☐	Lt Dalton Gaither (5 th MSG)
☐		☐	
☐	Terry Brenner (Grand Forks Supt)	☐	Jennifer Odell (DPI Comms)
☐	Katie Wald (NDDPI)	☐	Steve Snow (NDDPI)
☐		☐	
Approval of Minutes			
Old Business			
none			
References			
Military State Policy: Personnel Administrative Policy Resource			
State Implementation of Four Initiatives to Support Military-Connected Students			
New Business			
Remarks from State Supt (Levi Bachmeier) Remarks from Commissioner (Mark Vollmer): Remarks from ND National Guard (LtC Sheldon): Remarks from SLO (Alyssa Kelly and Jennifer Schroeder): Items for Discussion - Updates (possible legislation) to improve policies designed to support military connected students (refer to attached documents) - o Advanced Enrollment - o Enhancements to Education Compact			

- Enhancements to Purple Star Program
- Homeschooled Military students
- Website enhancements

Other Business:

Tasks:

☐

Next Meeting

Quick Reference Guide: State Priority Assessments

Education Policy Implementation and Information Enhancements Priority

Key Message

States have a valuable opportunity to facilitate improved local implementation of policies designed to support military-connected children and ensure families are empowered with the knowledge they need by clarifying requirements, enhancing communication efforts and streamlining access to information on state and local education websites.

Overview

- In order for a state to fully meet the criteria identified by the Defense-State Liaison Office (DSLO) for this priority, all sub-issues (Advance Enrollment, the Education Compact, the Military Student Identifier and the Purple Star Schools Program) must be fully met.
- For a state to fully meet the criteria for Advance Enrollment, the Education Compact, and the Purple Star Schools Program sub-issues of this priority, it must provide both Information Accessibility and Policy Implementation enhancements to existing policies. If only one area of enhancement is met for a given sub-issue, the state will be identified as “partially met” for the sub-issue and the priority.
 - **Information Accessibility Enhancements:** For Advance Enrollment, the Education Compact, and the Purple Star Schools Program, the state must have detailed information on the policy/program that is easily accessible on a *dedicated state web page* for military families to receive “credit” for meeting the information accessibility enhancements objectives for each.
 - **Policy Implementation Enhancements:** Evaluating a state’s progress towards meeting the policy implementation enhancements objectives for Advance Enrollment, the Education Compact, and the Purple Star Schools Program is more complex and nuanced. Bottom line, we are looking for the state to have adopted one or more of the *enhancements* that we recommend in the DSLO Best Practices (BP) document. The information provided below is intended to support the work of DSLO Regional Liaisons in assessing their respective states’ progress towards meeting our criteria for the policy implementation enhancements component of this priority.
- Note: We are taking a tailored approach to evaluating state’s progress on implementation and information accessibility of the Military Student Identifier, which is detailed at the bottom of this guide.

Sub-Issue Assessments: Policy Implementation Enhancements

1. Advance Enrollment: In order to meet the policy implementation enhancements component of this sub-issue, the state needs to *outline clear procedural guidance and use of standardized enrollment applications to operationalize the state’s provisions* by doing one or more of the following:
 - Make clear that **proof of residency isn’t required** for school enrollment, course registration and program application (i.e., electronic copies of military orders shall substitute in-person and proof-of-residency requirements until a specified period upon arrival).
 - **Explicitly include military-connected students with special education needs in Advance Enrollment provisions.** Upon notification of their pending arrival, require that local education agencies facilitate the timely exchange of information and records, leveraging requirements under the Military Interstate Children’s Compact Commission, or MIC3.
 - Require **regular training for school administrators and enrollment personnel** on military-specific policies, including Advance Enrollment.
 - Designate a **state point-of-contact**, or POC, who can educate enrollment personnel on Advance Enrollment requirements, work with military school liaisons and liaise with local school agencies on behalf of military families.

2. Education Compact: In order to meet the policy implementation enhancements component of this sub-issue, the state has adopted *one or more of our recommended enhancements to clarify requirements and procedures* to improve implementation of the Education Compact.
- Outline data collection and reporting protocols, define clear accountability measures, establish dispute resolution pathways — particularly for special education — and standardize credit transfer procedures to ensure smooth transitions for military-connected students.
 - Clarify the role of the state Education Compact council (or equivalent) in educating school districts and military families about the protections and rights afforded by the Education Compact and relevant state and federal laws.
 - Mandate recurring training for school administrators and enrollment staff to ensure consistent, informed implementation of the Education Compact and other military-specific education policies at the school level.
 - Institute annual training for state Education Compact council members to equip them with the knowledge and tools needed to fulfill their responsibilities and engage effectively.
3. Purple Star Schools Program: In order to meet the policy implementation enhancements component of this sub-issue, a state must have the following:
- Written law or policy that includes all specified requirements of the model policy:
 - Targeted professional development and training for school staff to build understanding of military family needs and transitions;
 - A student-led transition initiative that pairs incoming military-connected students with peer ambassadors;
 - A dedicated webpage on the school's website providing information and resources for military families; and
 - A clearly identified point of contact for military-connected families, serving as a liaison between the school and military community; AND
 - Established rules or policy to implement a recertification process requiring schools to reapply for designation within a specified time frame (recommend 3 years or less).

Sub-Issue Assessment: Military Student Identifier

The DSLO is taking a tailored approach to assessing states' progress towards meeting the objectives of the Military Student Identifier sub-issue under this priority. While we are not providing "partial" credit to states for meeting either the information accessibility or policy implementation enhancement components of this sub-issue (both need to be met to receive credit), at this time, the recommended "enhancements" in the DSLO BP document are not required to meet the priority criteria given the need for clarification in federal law. However, we encourage states to consider these enhancements as potential best practice examples. We recommend that policymakers and other stakeholders review the Penn State University [SPEAK Military state reports](#) for more info on the criteria we have identified regarding implementation and information accessibility of the MSI.

- In order to meet the objectives of the MSI sub-issue, a state should have comprehensive data available at all levels (school, district, state). This data should cover both enrollment and achievement and information for families and school staff on the MSI that is easily accessible on each state's education agency website.
- Ease of accessibility is measured by:
 - Number of clicks from education department homepages to the academic-achievement data system (2 or less);
 - Clearly labeled data fields and locations;
 - Level of effort for a layperson to find the data on military-connected students; and
 - Data located in the main academic-achievement data system.

Solutions for Military Homeschool Students:

- **Full inclusion in interscholastic activities:** Allow homeschooled students to participate in public school extracurricular activities and sports.
- **Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps access:** Clarify that pursuant to federal law, homeschool children are required to have access to JROTC programs. Ensure local education agencies provide clear and accessible guidance to schools and information for parents.
- **Compliance grace periods for relocating families:** When applicable, provide a compliance grace period for relocating military families that provides reasonable time for them to meet new state homeschool requirements without disrupting their children's education. A 30-day window prevents families from falling into immediate noncompliance during a Permanent Change of Station (PCS) move. *Note – some states don't have regulations that would require a 30-day grace period in the first place, which also works for our purposes as there is no barrier for our military families.*

DPI Website Enhancements

- Establish a **single page on DPI website with info for military connected students and their family** (including links to other resources)
- Examples
 - South Dakota - <https://doe.sd.gov/military/>
 - Ohio (not specifically DoE) - <https://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Other-Resources/Military-Resources/Schools>