



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF **Public Instruction**

Wisconsin State Council
of the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunities
for Military Children (MIC3)

Commissioner Shelley Joan Weiss 608.698.2409

Minutes

FEB 17, 2026, 2:00 pm Online

- 1) Call to Order
- 2) Roll Call
 - a) In attendance: Dr. Jill Underly, State Superintendent; Tom McCarthy, Deputy State Superintendent; Shelley Joan Weiss, State Commissioner of the Interstate Compact for Military Children; Andréa Donegan, DPI Education Consultant; Lisa King, Tomah School Counselor; Office of Rep. Hysell - Maggie Veak; Rebecca Walley, Wisconsin School Liaison Officer for Military Families; Senator Rachael Cabral-Guevara, Legislative Representative; Samuel Russ, Superintendent of Sparta Area School District; JD Engelhardt, Wisconsin National Guard Youth and Child Program Executive Director; Michael Hanson, Superintendent of Tomah Area School District; Simon Garcia, Military OneSource; Stephanie Hauser, Representative, Executive Director of the WIAA
 - b) Thank you to State Superintendent Jill Underly and her staff for their ongoing support.
 - c) Thank you to Kelly Behling for coordinating the online meeting
- 3) Approval of the Agenda
 - a) Motion made by Mike Hanson, Seconded
 - b) Approved
- 4) Approval of the [AUG 2025 minutes](#)

- a) Motion made by Andréa Donegan, Seconded
 - b) Approved
- 5) Welcome from Dr. Jill Underly, WI State Superintendent
- a) Dr. Underly welcomed the Council members and shared her appreciation for the work being done to support military students and families. She is looking forward to learning more about the efforts of all Council Members.
- 6) Welcome to our guests
- a) Lisa King, Tomah High School
 - b) Maggie Veak, staffer for Representative Andrew Hysell.
- 7) Sharing the [2025-26 WI State Council Member Listing](#)
- a) Guests are welcome to join us for online meetings. Guests who desire to share information should contact [Shelley Joan Weiss](#) two weeks prior to meetings.
- 8) Sharing Resources
- a) Please see the Information shared on the [WI DPI Interstate Compact for the Education of Military Children \(MIC3\) website](#) and the [Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission website](#).
- 9) Update on Commissioner Shelley Joan Weiss Activities
- a) All required documentation for 2025 has been completed and submitted to MIC3. I continue to share information with MIC3 and ensure that any requirements are fulfilled.
 - b) Responded to all inquiries. No complaints were filed.
 - c) [Purple Star Schools](#) has been launched in Wisconsin. The Purple Star School designation recognizes schools that demonstrate a strong commitment to meeting the unique needs of military-connected students and their families with intentional support and programming to ensure educational access, opportunities, and connections. [Overview](#) of WI Purple Star School program. One page [Wisconsin Purple Star information](#).
 - i) Tom McCarthy gave an update on the Purple Star Schools and shared that the timeline can be moved to open the application window and award announcements sooner.
 - ii) Mike Hanson shared support of the Purple Star programs and supporting schools that are ready to apply, and providing time and

support for schools that have a smaller military presence to earn the designation.

- iii) Decision to change the timeline for this year and consider the best timeline going forward after this inaugural year was approved.
- d) Has shared information on WI Purple Star Schools extensively.
 - i) Thank you to
 - (1) DPI ConnectEd for sharing.
 - (2) Andrea Donegan for sharing with folks on her newsletter and email lists.
 - (3) Stacy Eslick for sharing with the members of the Wisconsin School Counselor Association ([WSCA](#))
 - (4) Steve Schroeder and Jim Lynch for sharing with the members of the Association of Wisconsin School Administrators ([AWSA](#)) and the Wisconsin Association of School District Administrators ([WASDA](#)).
 - (5) Members of the Council who have shared.
- e) Presented with Andréa Donegan and Lisa King, Tomah High School at the [WSCA](#) annual conference. Shared information on our work to support military children and families. Thank you to Stacy Eslick for her ongoing support of our work to share with a wider audience.
- f) Presented the closing session at the National Purple Star Schools annual online convening. Participated in the sessions.
- g) Shared [Wisconsin DPI Military resources](#) and [MIC3](#) Resources with the [Building the Heart Conference](#).
- h) Attended the State of Education Meeting at the Wisconsin State Capitol. Thank you to Superintendent Underly and her staff for including me.
- i) Presented for a gathering of Veteran Support Groups in the Madison area.
- j) Will be attending the Annual Business Meeting of the Military Children's Compact Commission in Indianapolis in October, 2026. We are returning to the same location as 2025. Thank you to Stephanie Hauser and the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association (WIAA) and the NHSF for their strong support of military children and Veterans.
- k) Worked with a Wisconsin High School student who is researching the types of support Wisconsin schools have for military students. Connected the student with well-established Purple Star schools throughout the country.
- l) Shelley was recognized by the Wisconsin State Legislature as a [Hometown Hero](#). Thank you to [Representative Andrew Hysell](#) and his staffer, Maggie Veak for their nomination, presentation, and ongoing support of military

children. Representative Hysell was a military child. I took the opportunity to remind all members present that April is the Month of the Military Child.

10) [April is the Month of the Military Child \(MOTMC\)](#)

- a) The theme for the 2026 MOTMC is **Military Children and Youth Strength in Every Story**
- b) Although April 22nd is listed as the celebration date, schools and districts may select the date they desire to celebrate.
- c) Additional Resources: [Department of Defense Education Activity\(DODEA\)](#), National Military Family Association ([NMFA](#)).

11) Cases related to the Interstate Compact

- a) There have been no cases related to the Interstate Compact.

12) Input from Members

- a) Members are always invited to reach out to Shelley with good news, agenda items, or questions.

13) Council member announcements

- a) Simon Garcia - [Military One Source](#) representative shared that Wisconsin is currently an open position. Simon will be providing support until the new staff is hired.
 - i) Military One Source has many resources for military families, including mental health resources. Counselors are available and it is free of charge for military members.
- b) Sparta and Tomah School Districts are sending out invitations to celebrate Month of the Military Child, and invited dignitaries at the local and state level. The event is April 27th 11:30 - 1:00.
- c) Shelley has reached out to share April Month of the Military Child information to Statewide news outlets, Chambers of Commerce, and other State and local community groups and organizations.
- d) JD Engelhardt- Wisconsin National Guard Youth and Child Programs: First 4-H military kids group. Tools available to help prepare, get through, and reunite. Five hundred activity kits were sent out throughout Wisconsin. This coming year they are planning to send 600 kits. Many events are being held, including an I Spy program, a teen program, a spy academy in Appleton for 5k - 6th grade, Purple Up Military Camp, and Military Kids Ball with the Masquerade theme.

- e) Becky Wallace - Coordinating guest speakers to read in the elementary schools for April Month of the Military Child.
 - f) Maggie Veak - Thank you to State Commissioner Weiss for the advocacy of military students.
- 14) Thank you to everyone for their contributions.
- a) Shelley will continue to share updates via email between now and future meetings.
- 15) Save the date for the August, 2026 Council meeting.
- a) August 18, 2:00 pm, Online
- Microsoft Teams meeting**
- Join:**
- <https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/27106837837380?p=EoFM63QPB80FoU8Aqq>
- Meeting ID: 271 068 378 373 80
Passcode: Am9x9Vo6
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