



Idaho Department
of Education



MIC3 Idaho State Council Meeting

Wednesday, June 10, 2026

1:00

Physical Location:

Mountain Home School District Office
470 North 3rd East, Mountain Home, Idaho

Zoom Link

<https://idahosde.zoom.us/j/99238942266?pwd=P1efGu8ldRJUs1h2avdq8t7ExPFNjT.1&from=addon>

Attendees

Domineek Haag, School Liaison Officer, Mountain Home School District

James Gilbert, Superintendent, Mountain Home School District

Jolene Lincoln, Student/Federal Programs, Boise School District

Spencer Barzee, Director, Idaho Department of Education, Idaho Commissioner, MIC3

1. Purple Star Schools

a. Stephensen Elementary update

Stephensen Elementary is progressing fabulously with the initiative. The effort has been well received by faculty, staff and administration

b. Promotion of the program

For each LEA with a student population that is more than 10% military-connected, Deputy Superintendent Barzee and Domineek will connect with school leadership to discuss the Purple Star Program and its benefits. This outreach effort will include a total of 15 schools.

2. Military Identifier

a. [Current number of students by LEA](#)

i. FY 2024 – 3,585

ii. FY 2025 – 4,323

iii. FY 2026 – 4,230

The decline in the enrollment of military-connected students mirrors the overall decline in student enrollment across Idaho.

b. Is there a need for a reminder to be sent out from the SDE?

Debbie Critchfield, Superintendent of Public Instruction

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In June, Deputy Superintendent Barzee will distribute an email to LEAs providing guidance on the proper identification and coding of military-connected students within their student information systems.

3. MIC3 Cases/Inquiries

No official cases or formal inquiries were opened during the past year. Domineek effectively addressed all preliminary questions and concerns at the initial stage, preventing the need for further escalation.

4. Summary of Legislation/Policy

Superintendent Gilbert explained that House Bill 657 would have a detrimental impact on the Mountain Home School District due to the anticipated loss of enrollment. He also expressed concern about the additional costs associated with students who choose to participate in extracurricular activities, particularly athletics, while enrolled elsewhere, whether in the charter school or home school. Because Mountain Home does not receive discretionary funding for these students, the district has limited ability to offset the costs associated with their participation.

Domineek spoke about the presentation that she will give in September.

5. 25-26 Initiatives

- Promotion of Purple Star, as discussed previously.**
- Domineek asked about expanding and promoting JROTC opportunities. Superintendent Gilbert responded that JROTC is an exceptional program that provides significant benefits to students; however, the cost of instructors and facilities makes implementation difficult. He noted that there is currently no dedicated state funding for JROTC, and discretionary funding was not increased during the most recent legislative session, limiting the district's ability to support such a program.**

6. Homeschool

It would be beneficial to explore additional support for homeschool students in Idaho. Homeschooling has become an increasingly important consideration for military-connected families, and the U.S. Department of Defense has identified educational flexibility as a key factor for many military households. Some reports indicate that homeschooling among military families has increased by as much as 30 percent in recent years. Given this trend, providing greater support and resources for homeschool students could help Idaho better serve military-connected families and meet their evolving educational needs.