



NEW MEXICO STATE COUNCIL MINUTES
Tuesday, September 29, 2020

- PRESENT** Teresa Ferenczhalmy, Compact Commissioner
Aaron Rodriguez, NM Deputy General Counsel, NM Public Education Dept.
Zach Chavez, Civic Outreach Coordinator
Cherise Imai, MIC3 Executive Director
Beth Mann, Kirtland AFB School Liaison Specialist
Sally Marquez, Executive Director of the New Mexico Activities Association
Greg Myers, NM Director, Military Base Planning and Support
Major General Kenneth Nava, Adjutant General, NM National Guard
Secretary Sonya Smith, NM Military and Veterans Affairs
Dr. Ryan Stewart, Secretary of Education, New Mexico Public Education Dept.
Renee Rust, Superintendent of Clovis Schools
Colonel Juan Alvarez, 377 MSG Commander, Kirtland Air Force Base
- EXCUSED** Andres Romero, Education Chair, New Mexico House of Representatives
Senator Bill Soules, Education Chair, New Mexico State Senate
- GUEST** Colonel Bryan Callahan, 49 WG Vice Commander, Holloman Air Force Base
LaurieAnn Goodier, School Liaison Specialist, Holloman Air Force Base
Brenda Hildreth, School Liaison Officer, White Sands Missile Range
Sara Williams, School Liaison Specialist, Cannon AFB

ITEM 1 – CALL TO ORDER

1. The meeting was called to order at 8:04 AM PT by New Mexico Compact Commissioner Teresa Ferenczhalmy and roll call was taken. A quorum was established.

ITEM 2 – AGENDA

2. Beth Mann motioned to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Ryan Stewart. Motion carried.

ITEM 3 – WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

3. Commissioner Ferenczhalmy welcomed all attendees to the meeting. She invited all participants to introduce themselves and tell the group how they work with military children in the state of New Mexico.
4. Dr. Stewart introduced himself as the Secretary of the New Mexico Public Education Department. He said the department is very committed to supporting military families and removing barriers they experience. He concluded by stating he is excited to begin this process.
5. Colonel Juan Alvarez is the 377 Commission Support Group Commander at Kirtland Air Force Base. He said he works closely with Beth Mann at the diverse school district they have near the base. They try to make the educational process the best they can.

6. Greg Myers is the Director of Military Based Planning and Support for the State of New Mexico. Mr. Myers said he works closely with all the installations on quality-of-life issues for military families. He also works closely with the state liaison officers and said he's excited this Council is underway and is eager to participate.
7. Aaron Rodriguez is Deputy General Counsel with the Public Education Department. He stated that he has been with the Public Education Department since 2017 and he provides legal support for this Council meeting. He said he looks forward to working with everyone.
8. Zach Chavez is the Civic Engagement Coordinator for the Public Education Department. He said his team has been working with families, teachers, and civic departments and he looks forward to working together.
9. Ms. Mann said she was a military child, having moved 12 times over her educational career. She said She taught elementary school for 11 years at Sandia Base Elementary School, which is the elementary school on Kirtland Air Force Base. She said she's been a military child, taught military children, and been the administrator of a program for military children. For ten years she has been the School Liaison Specialist at Kirtland Air Force Base and is thrilled the Council has begun.
10. Sara Williams said she was a military spouse for 10 years. She also was a teacher for 11 years and has been the School Liaison Specialist for Cannon Air Force Base for the past three years. She said she is excited about everyone being in contact to see what can be done better for military kids.
11. Sally Marquez is the Executive Director of the New Mexico Activities Association. She said they follow the Military Compact when students move and want to participate in athletics and activities.
12. LaurieAnnAnn Goodier is the School Liaison Specialist (SL) at Holloman Air Force Base. She stated she has been the SL for seven years and is excited that the Council is up and running.
13. Brenda Hildreth was not able to connect but Commissioner Ferenczhalmy introduced Ms. Hildreth as the new SLO at White Sands Missile Range.
14. Major General Kenneth Nava is the Adjutant General at the New Mexico National Guard. He said he would like to advocate for the state's military families who don't live next to a military installation. The New Mexico National Guard and Reservists may not live next to a military base.
15. Secretary Sonya Smith is taking over for the retiring Secretary Griego. She is new to Veteran Services though she is a veteran. She looks forward to working with everyone.
16. Renee Russ is in her second year as Superintendent of Clovis Schools. She was the principal of an elementary school that was 89% military students and gained a deep understanding of the challenge's military families and students experience. She welcomes military spouses into her district as employees and is interested in integrating students well both academically, socially, and emotionally. She stated that it is important to her that her school district meets the needs and desires of military families.
17. Commissioner Ferenczhalmy is the Military Community Liaison for Alamogordo Public Schools and the Military Interstate Children's Compact Commissioner for the State of New

Mexico. She has been in her role for one year. This is a passion for her heart as she was a military spouse and parent of two military connected students.

ITEM 4 – COMPACT TRAINING

18. **Cherise Imai, Executive Director of MIC3** – Executive Director (ED) Imai introduced herself and her colleague, Lindsey Dablow. Initially, she played a video introducing the “why” behind the Compact and a brief history. There are 51 members of the Compact and it became activated in 2009. By 2014, all 50 states and the District of Columbia signed on to the Compact. There are approximately 1.65 million military connected children, and the majority of them are school- aged (5-18). About 76 percent of military connected children attend public schools. Children who attend Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) schools are covered under the Compact as well. Approximately 8 percent of military connected students attend DoDEA schools.

New Mexico is the 26th state with the highest number of military-connected children. The majority of military connected students in New Mexico are due to the Air Force. ED Imai explained that an Interstate Compact is a self-regulated agreement without federal intervention. Once a Compact is adopted, the rules in it supersede any inconsistent state law. New Mexico is a member of 40 Compacts right now, beginning in 1923. New Mexico adopted the Military Interstate Children’s Compact in 2010. There are two areas in the model Compact but there are two areas that can differentiate from state to state: the makeup of the State Council and how the State Commissioner is appointed.

The Compact only covers K-12 education, not preschool or higher education. The Compact doesn’t advocate for preferential for military connected students, just equal treatment. Also, the Compact does not impact curriculum. The Compact is important because before it was enacted students were subject to each district or state’s particular rules.

At the national level, the State Commissioner is the point of contact for his or her state and attends Commission meetings, both national and state level. Commissioner Ferenczhalmy makes sure the state is compliant with the Compact’s rules, and acts as a liaison for cases. The Compact allows for a unified effort to support military kids.

State Councils are the advisory body for the state, working with the Commissioner to make sure your state is compliant with the Compact. Each state pays dues annually. The National Office receives a list from the Defense Manpower and Data Center (DMDC) on how many K-12 Active-Duty military dependents your state has. The formula is \$1.15 for each military dependent. The dues thresholds range from \$2,300 - \$69,000.

There is a Compact Rules book available online. There are four areas the Compact covers: transfer of records and enrollment, graduation, placement and attendance, and eligibility. ED Imai displayed a slide with more details on requirements for schools regarding educational records, immunizations, entrance age for Kindergarten and First Grade, course program placement, and special education services.

If a child has enrolled and started either Kindergarten or First Grade and the receiving school has a different eligibility requirement the student can continue in the grade they began. If a student is enrolled in Gifted and Talented in the sending school, they should be enrolled in the equivalent program in the receiving school the receiving school can re-test the student and if the student does not meet the requirements, they can be unenrolled. Some school districts have waived requirements for military connected students for sequencing of classes or specific graduation requirements.

There is an allotment for extra time off/excused absences for students when a family member is deployed or returns from deployment. Participation in extracurricular activities is a great way to have children assimilate. The Compact just asks that a student is given an opportunity to try out for the extracurricular activity.

Graduation requirements and Kindergarten are the two most used components of the Compact. If a student has a graduation requirement at the receiving school that can't be met, they can graduate from the sending school as long as the student has met its requirements. Sometimes these issues fall outside the Compact, but the Commissioner can act as a referral source. ED Imai showed a slide that details the Case Resolution Process. The first step for families is to talk to their first point of contact (teacher/principal) and if they have, they are encouraged to talk to the School Liaison Officer. Sometimes a ruling can be made informally, or a state can request a legal advisory and that can be provided by the legal counsel at the National Office. She referenced the website (www.mic3.net) and encouraged the attendees to use the resources available online.

ITEM 5 – School Liaisons

19. Commissioner Ferenczhalmy invited New Mexico's four School Liaison specialists/officers to give an example of a case they have worked on that involved the Compact.
20. Ms. Mann, who serves as the School Liaison Specialist at Kirtland Air Force Base in Albuquerque stated she supports about 185 public and charter schools. She said last month she had a case recently of a senior who moved his senior year and was told he would have to take the competency tests in New Mexico. The issue was resolved because the Compact allows out of state testing to be accepted as an equivalent. Ms. Mann was able to work with the student, school, and family to get a timely resolution to the issue.
21. Ms. Williams, serves as a School Liaison Officer at Cannon Air Force Base. One issue that came up was the Gifted and Talented classes. In New Mexico, gifted children are on an Individualized Education Plan (IEP). She said students who move into New Mexico don't have an IEP for their gifted student because their previous state did not require them. Ms. Williams said the school districts are great at working with the students on their documentation, placing them in the gifted classes, or retesting them to see their eligibility. She said having a Compact is a great support piece.
22. Ms. Goodier is the School Liaison Officer (SLO) at Holloman Air Force Base. She said her school districts have had great success in following the Compact. She referenced a current case of a family that moved overseas and was having a hard time getting their student placed in the correct courses. The mother reached out to Ms. Goodier because they had a relationship from when they lived in New Mexico and with her help they were able to work out the issue for the child.
23. Ms. Hildreth is the new School Liaison Officer at White Sands Missile Range. She doesn't have any direct experience with the Compact yet, but she has been an educator for 36 years.
24. Commissioner Ferenczhalmy referenced a case she worked with Ms. Goodier of a student who was a rising senior and his parents PCS'd to Germany. The school he would attend in Germany would have had him stay an extra year to graduate. She said one key component of the Compact is to keep the students on track and on time for graduation. He was enrolled in

classes in Alamogordo High School online and he was able to graduate on time. She closed by thanking the School Liaison Officers for their hard work.

ITEM 6 – New Business

25. Within the compact, Commissioner Ferenczhalmay said there is a statement that members should designate a Military Family Education Liaison to assist military families in implementation of the Compact. She said this usually is someone already working in the Department of Education. Zach Chavez, was suggested to fulfill this role, and he was instrumental in getting the Compact meeting arranged.

26. Mr. Chavez said he is excited to work with the Council and said he has a lot of family members in both the military and in education, so it's a great merge of his areas of interest. He said he would be glad to support the Council in this way.

27. Ms. Mann motioned to appoint Mr. Chavez to the role of Military Family Education Liaison. Mr. Myers seconded the motion. The motion carried.

ITEM 7 – MIC3 National Report

28. ED Imai noted that the MIC3 Annual Report was published and is available on the website. The Annual Business Meeting (ABM) will be held October 1-2, 2020 and will have over 300 attendees. The agenda and docket book are posted on the website. She noted there were more spaces available if anyone wanted to sign up.

ED Imai said there was a new training workbook that will be launched at the ABM. She said if you're a school district or SLO in need of training, to please let the National Office know. There is also an emphasis on capturing Successful Education Transition videos. These 30 second videos can be submitted to your State Commissioners and they will submit to the National Office.

There has been a proposal to expand the Compact to include the National Guard and Army Reserve. A task force will present their findings at the ABM. ED Imai anticipates MIC3 working on this issue over the next year.

ITEM 8 – New Mexico Early Enrollment Guidance

29. Mr. Chavez began by stating in September, the New Mexico Education Department issued some guidance regarding early enrollment. The guidance covered children of military connected families who had been deployed or transferred to New Mexico but had not relocated yet. These children should be allowed to enroll in the 100 percent virtual option to create more continuity for students. The physical location on the school registration will be their intended address or their assigned military base. The New Mexico public schools' website now has a military families tab, and it will have resources available. Mr. Chavez encouraged people to reach out to him if they need guidance on a particular case.

ITEM 9 – Additional Business

30. Commissioner Ferenczhalmay addressed the frequency of the State Council Meetings. By the Compact, the requirement is to meet once a year, but she stated it is common to meet more often as the Council is in its first years. She asked if anyone had topics that would be helpful for discussion at the next meetings.

31. Ms. Mann responded and said that the Military Student Identifier which is part of the federal Every Student Succeeds Act. She said it would be helpful for the Council to work to improve this so they could have a better idea of where their students are.
32. Ms. Goodier stated her agreement with what Ms. Mann suggested. She said it would give them a better idea of where New Mexico's Guard and Reserve families are located and what schools their children attend.
33. Commissioner Ferenczhalmy said she would like to visit the Military Student Identifier and the Impact Aid and make sure all the students are captured.
34. Secretary Stewart suggested a topic be strategies for welcoming military families that could be sent out to schools.
35. Ms. Goodier said with the number of Department of Defense civilian employees that are housed at the military bases it may be good to look at expanding eligibility to those members as other states have done.
36. ED Imai said there are two states that have extended the provisions, Kentucky and Arkansas.
37. Another SLO responded that Purple Star Schools are schools that recognize military students. New Mexico is an open enrollment state, but charter schools make no accommodations for military families, so it may be worth looking to see if there could be an opportunity for military students to attend these schools.

ITEM 10 – Next Meeting

38. Commissioner Ferenczhalmy suggested the next meeting be held fairly soon to keep the momentum going. She asked for input on whether the next meeting be held in November or in January. She said there would be a follow up email with various dates to consider.
39. Ms. Mann responded that bylaws for the State Council have been drafted and wanted to have them reviewed by the Council. Commissioner Ferenczhalmy said she would send those out for review to Council members and email a digital copy of the Compact rules book. She thanked ED Imai and Ms. Dablow for their assistance in the meeting and State Council members for supporting military students.

ITEM 11 – Adjournment

40. With no further business to conduct, Commissioner Ferenczhalmy adjourned the meeting at 9:50 AM PT.