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*NEW YORK STATE INTERSTATE COMPACT – MILITARY CHILDREN*

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June 30, 2023

**To:** MIC-3 Leadership

**From:** Dr. Debra Jackson, NYS Commissioner

**Re:** Summary Report on the New York State Interstate Council for Military Children as required by MIC-3 policy

**Policy:** By June 30 of each year, member States shall submit the following information regarding their State Council to the national office:

- a) contact information
- b) roster of active members and voting members\*
- c) meeting schedule<sup>+</sup>
- d) key activities

**Contact Information**

- a. The primary contact for the New York State Council is Dr. Debra Jackson, Compact Commissioner [djackson2@me.com](mailto:djackson2@me.com)
- b. The secondary contact is Mr. Stephen Todd, District Superintendent: Jefferson-Lewis-Hamilton-Herkimer-Oneida Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) [stodd@boces.com](mailto:stodd@boces.com) 20104 State Route 3, Watertown New York 13601.
- c. The NYS Interstate Council has an active roster of members as named below\*. Representation includes: the New York State Education Department, New York State Higher Education Institutions, School District Leaders, Office of Veterans Affairs, New York State Public High School Athletic Association, New York State School Music Association, Military Installations, School Liaison Officers, the State Legislature, and the Governor's Office.

## Meeting Schedule:

- a. The New York State Council met for the school year 2022/2023 on **October 12, 2022**, and on **March 29, 2023**. The meetings were held at the New York State Museum, Cultural Education Center, 222 Madison Avenue Albany, NY. Meetings are open to the public in compliance with open meeting law. Agendas and Minutes are posted on the MIC-3 website <https://mic3.net>.
- b. A calendar for the 2023-2024 New York State Interstate Compact Meetings has been established.

## Notable Activities:

- a. April as the Month of the Military Child was highlighted on the NYSED website. School district personnel received access to information and resources thanks to the work of the NYSED Office of Curriculum and Instruction. The New York State Education Department highlighted local *Month of the Military Child* and *Purple Up! Day* celebrations by including stories and *Purple Up!* celebrations on the [Month of the Military Child webpage](#). Melissa Montague, who is an active member, led this work.
- b. Military student “stories” continue to be included in the NYS edition of Staying Connected and in the P20 weekly/content area notification to districts. In working toward stronger communication about the NYS Interstate Compact these newsletters are a vehicle for outreach to NYS educators. The NYSED communications office distributes this newsletter.
- c. Dr. Debra Jackson, in her role as NYS Compact Commissioner, serves on the MIC-3 Finance committee, the MIC-3 Leadership committee as vice chair, and as facilitator of the MIC-3 Tier 2 meetings.
- d. The Governor’s Office of Appointments vetted and approved Sonia Draught, Chief Specialist Plans, Analysis & Integration, US Army Garrison Fort Drum to the position of “a representative from a military installation appointed by the governor”. She will begin participating as a voting member in 2023. The Draught appointment was signed in October 2023 by Governor Hochul.
- e. The Commissioner for the State Education Department, Dr. Betty A. Rosa, appointed Troy Decker, Superintendent of the Indian River Central School District, to serve as “a superintendent of a school district with a high concentration of military children appointed by the commissioner” replacing Dr. Frank Sheboy who retired as Superintendent of the Highland Falls -Fort Montgomery School District. The Decker appointment was effective August 2022.

- f. West Point designated the Garrison Commander as the DoD Mil Rep for New York. This is a “by position” appointment so it will continue to be filled by the current Garrison Commander. COL Anthony Bianchi, Commander, US Army Garrison, West Point, United States Army joined the Council in 2023. COL Michael Yankovich, Academy Professor, USMA, West Point, United States Army served as the MIL Rep through 2022.
- g. The Governor’s Office of Appointments has not yet approved the following: “a representative appointed by the governor”.
- h. The Council acknowledged the work by Marybeth Casey, Frank Sheboy, and Michael Yankovich, who retired in 2022, and Michi Carl who retired as a SLO in 2023. Their active participation during our formation enabled our New York State Council to initiate the work with efficacy.
- i. Student placement/graduation requirements/enrollment matters continue to be resolved on a case-by-case examination. Resolutions are reviewed at the meetings as an after-action conversation. Between meetings, emails and phone conversations assist with student transitions as families enter and exit New York State public schools. Most concerns during the 2022-2023 year were immediately resolved with a single communication to the school or district leadership. The council commented that the willingness of council members to facilitate these conversations made a difference statewide for military impacted students.

A special thanks to the Director and Assistant Director of the New York State Public High School Athletic Association for their assistance with the athletic matters on mid-year transfers.

Of note, with districts citing local control, the Council is exploring the need to create new regulations regarding end-of-course completion when a student exits prior to the Regents exam yet the student completes the course work. Practices currently vary statewide. This topic is under study as it affects military students who transfer in late May or June.

Also of note are the difficulties in receiving end-of-course sign offs for military educational transfers. The current “Attestation Letter Template” is more rigid than the Compact language, therefore the Council members are working to amend the current template, opening it up to reflect alternative measures of proficiency/mastery.

- j. The Council members reviewed their response to the proposal by MIC-3 to expand Compact coverage to the National Guard and Reserve beyond service members in Title 10 status. Currently the Council is not recommending a change in law for New York State.

- k. The Commissioner and Council members took the lead to initiate a citation correction following up on the MIC-3 request to address the technical amendment. Upon learning a change in the law resides with the Education Department, the Council made a formal request for the change to NYSED. This technical amendment (one word change, changing the word “sections” to “chapters” correlates to the definition of “active duty”). NYSED responded adversely to the request, stating “the legal team does not want to act at this time”. Explaining that this is considered a non-issue as it is likely understood what this is referring to and if it is not causing any confusion or issues in the field, the NYSED leadership recommendation is to leave law as exists.
- l. The Liverpool CSD identified new military enrollments in their area, specifically due to changes at the Hancock ANG. 26 districts are within the Base Housing Allowance zones, one of those being Liverpool Central School District. The Liverpool CSD reached out to MIC3 for a Compact 101 Training Presentation, for their regional Professional Development Day. Lindsey Dablow of MIC3 conducted the presentation in March 2023.
- m. All voting members appointed to the council are updated in JCOPE as New York State policymakers.

### **Future scheduled meeting dates+**

October 18, 2023

April 3, 2024

### **Roster of Members\***

#### **CHIEF STATE SCHOOL OFFICER**

Dr. Betty Rosa, Commissioner of Education, New York State Education Department

#### **MILITARY FAMILY EDUCATION LIAISON**

Michi Carl, School Liaison Officer, West Point, United States Army

Wendy O'Sullivan, School Liaison Officer, Fort Drum, United States Army

#### **MILITARY/DOD REPRESENTATIVE**

COL Michael Yankovich, Academy Professor, USMA, West Point, United States Army (Fall 2022)

COL Anthony Bianchi, Commander, US Army Garrison, West Point, United States Army (Spring 2023)

## **NEW YORK STATE COMMISSIONER**

Dr. Debra Jackson\*, Interstate Compact Commissioner

## **STATE COUNCIL MEMBERS:**

Lisa Beatha\*, University Director of Veteran Affairs, City University of New York

Dr. David Brown, Superintendent, DeRuyter Central School District and Past President New York State School Music Association

Michi Carl, School Liaison Officer, West Point, United States Army

Marybeth Casey, Retired, New York State Education Department

Sonia Draught\*, Director, Plans, Analysis, and Integration Fort Drum, United States Army

Troy Decker\*, Superintendent of Schools, Indian River CSD, NY

Heather Evangelista\*, Parent, West Point, NY

Joel Evans\*, Director Division of Veterans Services, Albany, NY

Kevin Getnick\*, Designated Representative of the Adjutant General

Kristen Suatoni Jadin, Assistant Director, New York State Public High School Athletic Association

Melissa Montaque\*, New York State Education Department; Graduation and Program Requirements, Albany, NY

Wendy O'Sullivan, School Liaison Officer, Fort Drum, United States Army

Melissa Pandolf\*, Veterans Service Officer, Patchogue, New York

Diana Pasterchick, Coordinator of Veterans and Military Affairs, State University of New York Albany

Matt Rogers, Fort Drum, United States Army

Dr. Frank Sheboy, Deputy Superintendent, Highland Falls-Fort Montgomery CSD

Major General Raymond F. Shields, Jr., Adjutant General of New York

Stephen J. Todd\*, District Superintendent, Jefferson-Lewis-Hamilton-Herkimer-Oneida Board of Cooperative Educational Services

Dr. Robert Zayas, Director, New York State Public High School Athletic Association