
NEW YORK STATE INTERSTATE COMPACT – MILITARY CHILDREN

June 30, 2024

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⁺
- d) key activities

Contact Information

- a. The primary contact for the New York State Council is Dr. Debra Jackson, Compact Commissioner 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 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, New York State Parent-Teacher 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 2023/2024 on **October 18, 2023**, and on **April 3, 2024**. 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 2024-2025 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. A thank you is in order to Dr. Betty A. Rosa, Commissioner of Education who supported this effort in our state. Her support, on behalf of military children, is exceptional.
- b. The NYS Veterans' Division has offered events for families throughout the state. These opportunities are shared through the NYS MIC-3 website and their partners. Governor Hochul was instrumental in supporting Military Child Events.
- c. The NYS Compact website remains a working document. New updates were posted in the content and the Q/A section. Military student "stories" continue to be posted on the NYS Compact website.
- d. 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. She also serves as a mentor to new commissioners, presented the work of NYS at the 2023 ABM and worked with the MIC3 leadership to create a training video for commissioners in 2024. Additionally, she presented to the Ohio Council to share the activities of the NYS Council.
- e. Dr. Jackson received, a Department of Defense Certificate of Appreciation, issued by the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense, received September 2023.

- f. The Governor's Office of Appointments new appointee, Sonia Draught, Chief Specialist Plans, Analysis & Integration, US Army Garrison Fort Drum attended her first meeting. The Draught appointment was signed in October 2023 by Governor Hochul. The Governor's appointment office has a candidate under consideration "a representative appointed by the governor". The council is awaiting finalization of this appointment.
- g. Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins' office acknowledged the resignation of appointee, Melissa Pandolf and indicated a new appointee will be forthcoming.
- h. The West Point Garrison Commander is designated as the DoD Mil Rep for New York. This is a "by position" appointment and as such it will continue to be filled by the current Garrison Commander. COL Anthony Bianchi, Commander, Former US Army Garrison, West Point, United States Army stepped down from his position. The new Army Garrison Commander, Col. Travis E. Robison, was noted as his replacement at the April meeting and will be contacted for follow-up.
- i. The Council welcomed two newly appointed SLOs, Carin Mogavero from West Point who replaced Michi Carl and Robin Banks from Fort Drum who is working with Wendy O'Sullivan.
- j. Kyle Fairbairn, Executive Director of MISA, initiated a request to partner with NYS. Troy will lead this effort and arrange for a statewide meeting in the fall of 2024.
- k. 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. This year three students who moved senior year were granted NYS diplomas to facilitate an on-time graduation. Two of these students transferred overseas to a DODeA school in Germany and Italy respectfully.
- l. Of continuing note, (as some districts cite local control) the State Council is exploring options 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 early June and need course credit in their receiving high school.
- m. Also of note are the difficulties in receiving end-of-course sign offs from out of state high schools for transfer students. 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.

- n. Graduation Requirements: The Office of Bilingual Education and World Languages approved additional Pathway Assessments in World Languages which more than doubled the number of languages students can use to fulfill the +1 pathway requirement. This will support our military transfer students.
- o. The Council members discussed the June 2023 report created in collaboration with the United States Department of Defense (DoD) Defense-State Liaison Office (DSLLO) and the Clearinghouse for Military Family Readiness at Penn State (Clearinghouse). We reviewed the NYS components noted in the report. We also recognized the ease to find our website information which the report indicated was not easily found.
- p. NYS Dues to the national organization have been paid in full and payments have been timely.
- q. Voting members appointed to the council are updated in JCOPE as New York State policymakers. NYS is changing the ethics training reporting. Mandatory ethics training was expanded to include live and online ethics training for all State officers and employees. The Agency Contact is required to submit monthly ethics training statistics by person, for State Council of the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children.

Future scheduled meeting dates+

September 18, 2024
April 30, 2025

Roster of Members* (* indicates policy voting appointment)

CHIEF STATE SCHOOL OFFICER

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

MILITARY FAMILY EDUCATION LIAISON

Carin Mogavero, School Liaison Officer, West Point, United States Army

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

Robin Banks, School Liaison Officer, Fort Drum, United States Army

MILITARY/DOD REPRESENTATIVE

COL Anthony Bianchi, Commander, US Army Garrison, West Point, United States Army

NEW YORK STATE COMMISSIONER

Dr. Debra Jackson*, Interstate Compact Commissioner

STATE COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Robin Banks, School Liaison Officer, Fort Drum, United States Army

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

Dr. David Brown, Superintendent, Past President New York State School Music Association

Kyle Belokopitsky, Executive Director at NYS Congress of Parents and Teachers (PTA)

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

Betsy Gilland, West Point Parent Advocate, United States Army

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

Michael McElduff, Superintendent Highland Falls - Fort Montgomery CSD, Highland Falls, NY

Carin Mogavero, School Liaison Officer, West Point, United States Army

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

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

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

Matt Rogers, Fort Drum, United States Army

Dr. Frank Sheboy, Retired 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

Morgan Woodson, Special Assistant for Outreach Activities for NYS Veterans' Services, Buffalo NY

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