



# Military Interstate Children’s Compact Commission PENNSYLVANIA



## OVERVIEW

The Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children was developed jointly by The Council of State Government’s National Center for Interstate Compacts and the Department of Defense, with input from policy experts, and stakeholders from 18 different organizations and national associations, including representatives of parents, teachers, school administrators, military families, and federal, state, and local officials. The Interstate Compact eases education transition issues faced by the children of active duty service members transferring between school districts and states. Most military children will attend six to nine different school systems during their education from kindergarten to 12<sup>th</sup> grade. The Compact allows for uniform treatment of military children when dealing with issues of enrollment, eligibility, placement, and graduation when transferring schools.

Initial discussions about the Compact began in 2006 and drafting of the Compact began early in 2007. The Compact was first available for legislative consideration in 2008. The Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children was adopted by all 50 states and the District of Columbia in just six legislative sessions.

## HISTORY

Pennsylvania adopted the Interstate Compact, placing it in statute in February 2012. The language of the Interstate Compact adopted was almost verbatim. The dues are paid by the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

**Bill sponsor(s):** Senator Robert Robbins

**Location in Statute or Code:** Pennsylvania Statutes, Chapter 24, § 5401-5403

<b>COMMISSIONER</b>	Vacant	2019 - present
	Dr. Kraig R. Kiehl	2018 - 2019
	Robert F. Staver	2016 - 2018
	Major General (R) Dan O’Neill	2012 - 2014

**APPOINTING AUTHORITY:** Governor

## STATE COUNCIL

- Compact Commissioner: TBD
- Secretary of Education: Noe Ortega as of October 1, 2020
- Representative of the Executive Branch: TBD
- Superintendent of district with high numbers of military children: Ms. Christina Spielbauer, Carlisle SD
- Representative from a military installation in the state: TBD
- Representative of the School Boards Association: Mr. Stuart Knade, Esq.
- MIC3 Program Coordinator: Ms. Barbara Clemmer, Pennsylvania Department of Education
- Legislative Branch (Senate) representative: TBD
- School Liaison Officer: Ms. Lindsay Fontana, Naval Station Lakehurst, New Jersey



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### **STATE COUNCIL MEETINGS**

The last meeting was held on May 7, 2014. Plans were in place to conduct the 2019 State Council meeting. Due to the departure of Dr. Kraig R. Kiehl, Commissioner, the 2019 State Council meeting was cancelled.

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS:** In the 19-20 school year, Pennsylvania received over 12 requests for assistance. In the current the school year 20-21, Pennsylvania received 7 additional requests as of September 23, 2020, and continues to respond to families' and students' needs. Requests for assistance were resolved by PA Department of Education staff members contacting key stakeholders to explain the areas of the Compact along with the assistance of our School Liaison Officers working directly with school districts and families. Pennsylvania plans to attend the special town hall invitation sponsored by the Military Child Education Coalition to learn about the Purple Star School Program. Pennsylvania continues to reach out to our military contacts across the state as well as supporting our School Liaison Officers. Ms. Clemmer continues to work with, and support, the challenges of military families and students transitioning to Pennsylvania in her role at the Department of Education while awaiting the Governor's appointment to Commissioner.

### **MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD**

Pennsylvania intended to acknowledge the Month of the Military Child via the Department's website, proclamations from the Governor and the Secretary of Education, as well as a press release to Pennsylvania school districts. However due to the impact of COVID-19, information was not released this year.

### **MIC3 ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING ATTENDANCE**

Pennsylvania attended every MIC3 Annual Meeting since 2012, sending either the Commissioner or designee. Dr. Kiehl attended the ABM in 2018 and Ms. Barbara Clemmer, MIC3 Program Coordinator, attended the 2019 ABM.

### **PRIMARY CONTACT**

**Barbara Clemmer, MA** | Basic Education Associate 2

Act 48 Approved Provider Applications/MIC3 State Commissioner Designee

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Division of Planning

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