



# 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, § 5401-540

**APPOINTING AUTHORITY:** Governor

<b><u>COMMISSIONER</u></b>	Barbara Clemmer	2020-present
	Vacant	2019-2020
	Dr. Kraig R. Kiehl	2018-2019
	Robert F. Staver	2016 -2018
	Major General (R) Dan O’Neill	2012-2014

## STATE COUNCIL

- Compact Commissioner: Barbara Clemmer
- Secretary of Education: Noe Ortega
- Representative of the Executive Branch: Brigadier General Edwards Little, Jr.
- Superintendent of a School District with high numbers of military children: Ms. Christina Spielbauer, Carlisle Area School District
- Representative from a Military Installation in the state: Mr. Drew Turinski, Deputy Garrison Commander, Carlisle Barracks
- Representative of the School Boards Association: Mr. Stuart Knade, Esq.
- Legislative Branch Representative: Mr. Joe Webster
- Legislative Branch Representative: Ms. Tracy Pennycuick
- Ex-Officio Members: Jacqueline Schultz, School Liaison; Joseph Gordon, School Liaison



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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. Plans are underway to hold the State Council Meeting in the fall of 2021.

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS:** Pennsylvania completed appointments to the State Council in May 2021 and is pleased to have a full complement of members serving on the Council. In fiscal year 2020-2021, with the pandemic being a factor, Pennsylvania responded to 19 requests from military families' and students' with the assistance of Pennsylvania's School Liaisons, who worked directly with school districts and families. Requests for assistance were resolved by the Department of Education contacting key stakeholders to explain the Compact Rules. Pennsylvania's Commissioner continues to reach out to military contacts across the state, support School Liaisons, and military families and students transitioning to Pennsylvania.

### **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. Ms. Barbara Clemmer attended the 2019 and 2020 ABM.

### **PRIMARY CONTACT**

**Barbara Clemmer, MA | BEA II**

Compact Commissioner

Pennsylvania Department of Education | Bureau of School Support

Division of Planning

333 Market Street | Harrisburg PA 17126

**Phone: 717.425.5728**

[baclommer@pa.gov](mailto:baclommer@pa.gov) | [www.education.pa.gov](http://www.education.pa.gov)