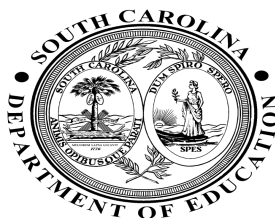


STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Ellen Weaver

STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION



2022 -23 Report on South Carolina Council on the
Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children

Pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 59-46-40

June 30, 2026

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Purpose

The purpose of the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children (S.C. Code Ann. § 59-46-40) is to remove barriers to educational success imposed on children of military families because of frequent moves and deployment of their parents by:

- A. Facilitating the timely enrollment of children of military families and ensuring that they are not placed at a disadvantage due to difficulty in the transfer of education records from the previous school districts or variations in entrance/age requirements.
- B. Facilitating the student placement process through which children of military families are not disadvantaged by variations in attendance requirements, scheduling, sequencing, grading, course content, or assessment.
- C. Facilitating the qualification and eligibility for enrollment, educational programs, and participation in extracurricular academic, athletic, and social activities. D. Facilitating the on-time graduation of children of military families.
- E. Providing for the promulgation and enforcement of administrative rules implementing the provisions of this compact.
- F. Providing uniform collection and sharing of information between and among member states, schools, and military families under this compact.
- G. Promoting coordination between these compacts and other compacts affecting military children.
- H. Promoting flexibility and cooperation between the educational system, parents, and the student to achieve educational success for the student.

SC Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission (MIC3) Council Members

- Ms. Ellen Weaver, State Superintendent of Education
- Mr. Felix J. Childs, Governor Designee (SC)
- Dr. Tremekia K. Priester, SC MIC 3 Council Chair, State Superintendent's Commissioner Designee
- Mrs. Beth Shwedo, Military Family Member
- Mrs. Sara Arnett, Military Family Advocate
- Mr. Kevin Shwedo, Military Family Advocate,
- Mr. Jason Fowler, Deputy Director of Military Affairs (SC)
- Dr. David O'Shields, State Board of SC Chair, Ex-Officio Member
- Hon. Rita Allison, State Board of SC- Chair Elect, Ex-Officio Member

**** Note:** SC is awaiting new legislators assigned to the military committee and will add to the webpage for update upon confirmation.

SC MIC3 Council Summary

- The South Carolina State Council Meeting was held on May 28, 2026. This meeting was held in-person at the SCDE headquarters.
- The purpose was to inform council members of the possible courses of actions for information and input by the commissioner, and bring awareness to members on the business of the commission, as well as discuss the council's plan to develop a training and awareness campaign for SC. The goal is to continue to increase the awareness of the compact throughout the state of SC and provide military connected/readiness resources via state agency webpage for military engagement and continue collaboration with MCEC to provide trainings via MCEC summits. The council agreed to also move forward with 2026-27 in providing compact 101 and 201 training near/on military installations for the military connected community and schools/districts. The sessions will also be apart of the SC Dept. of Education's roundtable series on building family and community engagement.
- During the May 28, 2026 meeting, Dr. Priester provided updates to the council members from the MIC3 Annual Business meeting held in Indianapolis, Indiana. Dr. Priester presented annual overview for the training committee. Following ABM, Dr. Priester took on the position of Training Committee Chair. Dr. Priester also provided an update on the social and academic support being provided to military families in collaboration with district military liaisons. Dr. Priester announced that currently SC has 19 Purple Star designated districts 4 private schools, and five public charter schools. It is understood that Purple Star is not an entity of MIC3 on the national level, SC utilizes the training of the compact as a requirement for becoming a Purple Star designated district in SC. This also assists Commissioner Priester and the council in increasing awareness of the compact throughout the state of South Carolina.
- During the May 28, 2026, council meeting, Dr. Priester provided information and necessary course of action for SC's Compact Statue, SC Code Ann. § 59-46-50 (2010- Articles II & III): The citation correction to articles II and III amending the incorrect citation from *sections* to *chapters*. Dr. Priester requested that council members who worked closely with government affairs and committee report back on SC's protocol for making this change. As of this date, the SCDE gov't affairs team has been provided this information to develop next steps, per director M.Childs.
- During the May 28, 2026, meeting Dr. Priester provided an overview of new military related bills by the SC Legislation, as well as the SC Education Oversight Committee's Military Academic Performance report. The council discussed the impact of each presented bill and report, on military connected students in SC.
- The South Carolina Department of Education sponsored the *2026 Military Honor Ceremony* for high school seniors who had enlisted into the uniformed services. The ceremony was held in-person on May 19, 2025, at Ft. Jackson Army Installation's Soloman Center. Students were provided with red, white, and blue military cords to wear

during their respective high school graduation ceremonies. SC Superintendent of Education, Ellen Weaver, presented the students with their military honor cords.

- On March 31, 2026, Governor Henry McMaster proclaimed April as South Carolina's Month of the Military Child. Supt. Of Education, Ellen Weaver was presented with the proclamation for the state of South Carolina.
- SC Dept. of Education recognized Month of the Military Child on April 6-10, 2026, and participated in a week-long of various activities for employees planned by Dr. Priester. Various council members, district military liaisons, military school officers, military families and students, and other individuals participated in Month of the Military Child and Purple UP Day celebrations. Each district designated a day for Purple UP Day, where appreciation activities were held for students and families.
- Dr. Priester, in collaboration with the base installation student liaison officers and district military liaisons, and MIC3 national team will be planning fall training for 101 and 201 sessions on or near installations.

Areas of Focus for the State Council

- Increase the awareness of the military compact through providing on-going training on the compact rules for the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children in collaboration with district military liaisons/school officers. The purpose of continuous training is to ensure that policies related to transitioning military students into the state's public school system are clearly understood and implemented effectively in all school districts statewide. The goal is to host training sessions near/on military installations in collaboration with student liaison officers and military liaisons.
- Raise awareness of the Month of the Military Child Proclamation and *Purple Up Day* in districts and schools statewide.
- Continue to increase the designation of Purple Star programs in district statewide for the purpose of increasing and highlighting military connectedness and support for military student and families in South Carolina.