

SOUTH DAKOTA STATE COUNCIL FOR EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY FOR MILITARY CHILDREN



ANNUAL STATE MEETINGS

Date: September 17, 2025 and September 19, 2025

Location:

- *In-Person:* Douglas School District, 400 Patriot Drive, Box Elder, SD 57719
- *Virtual:* Via Zoom

Time:

- 1:00 PM Central Time (CT)
- 2:00 PM Mountain Time (MT)

STATE COUNCIL MEMBERS

STATE COMMISSIONER		
Ann Pettit	Executive Director, Douglas School District	ann.pettit@k12.sd.us
MILITARY POINT OF CONTACT		
JoAnne Mulholland	School Liaison Officer Air Force CYES	joanne.mulholland@us.af.mil
STATE COUNCIL MEMBERS		
Dr. Joseph Graves	Secretary of Education, SDOE	joseph.graves@state.sd.us
Col Paul Koecher, USAF	Commander, 28th Mission Support Group	paul.koecher@us.af.mil
Representative Becky J. Drury	District 32, House of Representatives	Becky.Drury@sdlegislature.gov
Representative Tony Randolph	District 35, House of Representatives	Tony.Randolph@sdlegislature.gov
Jonathan Nesladek	Army National Guard Veteran, Parent Representative, 2 school aged children	jonathan.nesladek@state.sd.us
Daniel Swartos	Executive Director, South Dakota High School Activities Association	daniel.swartos@sdhsaa.com
ADDITIONAL		
Rebecca Wylie	Administrative Assistant - Douglas School District	rebecca.wylie@k12.sd.us

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ACTIVITIES OF THE STATE COUNCIL

The School Liaison Officer (SLO) continued to provide regular training and orientation sessions for newly enrolled and currently enrolled military-connected families, ensuring successful school transitions and ongoing family engagement.

The South Dakota State Council actively supported and promoted the Governor's Proclamation recognizing **April as the Month of the Military Child**, encouraging school districts and communities across the state to celebrate and recognize military-connected students.

The South Dakota Council developed and distributed a comprehensive **"Purple Up! Day" Toolkit** to school districts statewide, providing resources and ideas to promote awareness and celebrate military-connected students throughout the Month of the Military Child.

The Council partnered with the **City of Box Elder**, Ellsworth Air Force Base, and community organizations to support Purple Up! events, including community parades, welcome wagon activities for newly arriving military families, and other outreach efforts recognizing the service and sacrifices of military-connected students and their families.

South Dakota continued to recognize and support **Purple Star Schools**, encouraging schools throughout the state to pursue the Purple Star designation and strengthen services for military-connected students and families.

Commissioner Ann Pettit represented South Dakota at the **2025 Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission (MIC3) Annual Business Meeting (ABM)** in **Indianapolis, Indiana**, collaborating with commissioners from across the nation on policies and best practices that support military-connected students.

The South Dakota Council continued to strengthen partnerships among the Department of Education, Ellsworth Air Force Base School Liaison Office, local school districts, and community stakeholders to ensure military-connected students receive consistent educational support and successful transitions throughout the state.

STATE TRAINING ACTIVITIES

The State Commissioner and the Ellsworth Air Force Base School Liaison Officer (SLO) continued to collaborate throughout the year to provide guidance and support for military-connected students and their families. Regular meetings were held to address student transition issues, discuss Compact implementation, and strengthen partnerships between the military installation and local school districts.

The South Dakota MIC3 State Council convened **quarterly collaborative meetings** with key partners, including representatives from the South Dakota National Guard, Reserve components, tribal schools, the Ellsworth Air Force Base School Liaison Office, and surrounding school districts.

Commissioner Pettit provided MIC3 training and outreach to K–12 school leaders through regional superintendent, principal, and school counselor meetings. Training topics included:

- An overview of the Military Interstate Children's Compact (MIC3)
- Key Compact provisions and implementation requirements
- Enrollment, placement, attendance, graduation, and extracurricular eligibility requirements
- Best practices for supporting military-connected students during school transitions
- Resources available to schools and families through the South Dakota MIC3 State Council and the Ellsworth Air Force Base School Liaison Office

The South Dakota MIC3 State Council continued to provide technical assistance to school districts throughout the year by responding to questions regarding Compact implementation and supporting schools in resolving issues affecting military-connected students.



