



Colorado State Council Meeting MINUTES – FFC8 Administration Board Room
Wednesday, October 8, 2025 (9:30 - 10:30 a.m.)

WELCOME

Dr. Keith Owen, Colorado MIC3 Commissioner

INTRODUCTIONS

Attendees introduced themselves.

COMPACT SUMMARY OF ISSUES - 2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR

Dr. Montina Romero, FFC8 Deputy Superintendent

- There were a few issues in Colorado that were not related to MIC3 although presented as MIC3 concerns (e.g., charter or private school acceptance).
- More work to be done helping schools to understand what MIC3 covers. This is a great opportunity for registrars, counselors, and administrators to get involved in building the relationship with schools so that they can facilitate resolutions for military families.
- Purple Star Schools program has helped in raising awareness about MIC3.
- There are challenges with enrollment deadlines and deployments as they do not align and military families miss enrollment windows. Also, school district enrollment is dictated by Board policy many times and there is no resolution or exceptions currently built into policies.

NATIONAL UPDATE

Lindsay Dablow, MIC3 Interim Executive Director

- The Education of the States Ex-officio membership application was approved.
- Working on training resource booklet
- New program for commissioner mentoring has been implemented as a resource for new MIC3 commissioners.
- Military families seem to have a new increased awareness of legislation. However, they are confusing state legislation with MIC3 guidelines. Need to educate on what the Compact covers and does not cover.
- Seeing a lot of requests from families wanting to see high school credits earned in middle school on high school transcripts.
- Military student transfers in the senior year of high school remain as an area of concern.
- Still quite a few questions around the topics of school choice and athletics.
- MIC3 recently completed the two-year review of MIC3 finances (available on [MIC3.net](https://www.mic3.net)), budget, and created a financial forecasting policy that will cover the next five fiscal years. Bottom line - MIC3 is financially stable.

- MIC3 is preparing for the Annual Business Meeting to be held October 23-24, 2025, in Indianapolis, Indiana.

ABRAMS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL RIBBON CUTTING

Christy McGee, FFC8 Communications Director

- FFC8 invites members to the Abrams Elementary School Ribbon Cutting to be held on December 4, 2025 at 3:00 p.m. (4450 Chiles Avenue, Fort Carson, Colorado). Abrams is located on Fort Carson Army Base. It has taken more than 11 years to build the new school, demonstrating the complexity of building a new school on a military installation and FFC8 would like to have others share in the excitement.

UPDATES FROM SCHOOL LIAISON OFFICERS (SLOs)

- Thank you to the Department of Education for including SLOs in the development process for Purple Star Schools.
- Receiving more calls from school counselors—which means more school personnel are being educated regarding MIC3.
- In the future will update groups at military installation meetings to spread the word about MIC3 and the resources it provides for military families.
- Clarification needs to be provided to families on what classifies a student as a military student. Some may not know they are military-connected.

UPDATES FROM EDUCATION COMMISSION OF THE STATES

Mark Honnen, Chief of Staff - Lieutenant Governor Primavera's Office

- Education Commission of the States appreciates the partnership with school districts, CDE, and SLOs and is excited for the continued opportunities to serve military families.
- Need to use other means to communicate with military staff who may not have access to email (possibly utilize social media more).

UPDATES FROM THE COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (CDE)

Christina Monaco, CDE Executive Director of Field Services

- Worked with SLOs monthly to develop Purple Star Schools program. This was an amazing experience because the SLOs provided a wealth of information and knowledge.
- Purple Star Schools application opened on October 6, 2025 and will close on December 17, 2025.
- Schools will need to complete an Intent to Apply.
- An application webinar will take place on Thursday, October 9, 2025. The application is available on the [CDE website](#).
- Applications will be reviewed in January 2026 and recipients notified in March 2026.

ADJOURNMENT