

Utah State Council on Military Children
Meeting Minutes – January 15, 2021

I. Welcome and Introductions.

- Jennie Taylor, Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army
- Emily Harrison, Chapter Director – Blue Star Families of Utah
- Fred Allen, Utah State President AUSA
- Heidi Bauerle, Leadership Learning Academy
- Kim Taylor, Airman and Family Readiness Center - Hill Air Force Base
- Logan Toone, Davis School District
- Zuri Garcia, Youth Programs Specialist at Utah State University Extension
- Ben Rasmussen, Utah MIC3 Commissioner

II. Report on 2020 MIC3 ABM

- Ben Rasmussen reported to the group on the recent virtual ABM. The group reviewed the national commission's discussion of the National Guard and Reserve Taskforce recommendations and the way forward identified at the annual meeting. Utah will be watching for the follow up on this item with interest.

III. Upcoming Legislative Session

- Ben Rasmussen advised the group that the Utah State Board of Education is working with Senator Millner and the State Department of Military and Veterans Affairs to promote a bill that would assist military families with orders to transfer to Utah. Following recommendations coming from the Department of Defense, the bill would allow families to enroll students in local schools before arriving in the state, and would also allow students to enroll and participate in online offering before arriving in the state, as long as the family has received their transfer orders.
- R277-929 - updating the rule to establish the purple star schools program in Utah. This program recognizes exceptional schools that excel in facilitating transitions for military impacted students.
- The program has been established in at least 10 other states to great success.
<https://www.militarychild.org/purplestarschools>

IV. Purple Star Schools

- a) The State Board of Education has adopted amendments to Rule R277-929 establishing the purple star schools program in Utah. The purple star schools program has been

established in at least 10 other states with great success.

<https://www.militarychild.org/purplestarschools>

- b) Update on Implementation:
 - Purple Star school program is a growing nationwide initiative to recognize schools which take specific steps to ensure smooth transitions for students of military families.
 - List of schools that have the qualifications will be posted on the Utah State Board of Education (USBE) website.
 - Eligibility – any school throughout the state may qualify. The school will apply through USBE.
 - USBE staff is currently working on what the recognition process will look like; possibly a school assembly, a representative to go to the school and present certificate to the military students and recognize the school that is doing the work for these students.
 - Application process – need to implement a training program for the schools.
- c) Feedback on the Seal for the Purple Star Program:
 - The Committee discussed four seal options and voted the top two seals represented MIC3 and felt they were the best options to recognize Utah schools. (top right was the favorite)
 - It was recommended to create a brochure that can be handed out to schools and available on the USBE website for electronic download. It would be helpful if the brochure explained requirements and history of the program.
 - Would there be any advantage to pilot the program with the couple of schools that currently qualify for the program? Possibly work with Hill Air Force Base to identify what schools would be interested. USBE has had one charter school express interest already..

V. Open Discussion on Military Impacted Student Issues

- a) Any information going to the National Guard? Yes, through family programs.
- b) Any issues with school's following interstate compact requirements?
 - The Committee discussed some challenges with IEP's the way the Military Interstate Children Compact is written and maybe something that we can continue to work on.
 - Ben Rasmussen will be reaching out to the district principals and associations asking if he can present to their staff and educating them on the benefits of the Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission - MIC3.
- c) What unique challenges are military students facing in light of the current school closure?

VI. Adjournment