



MILITARY INTERSTATE  
CHILDREN'S COMPACT  
COMMISSION

## Meeting Minutes

April 22, 2022

Utah State Council on Military Children

### I. Welcome and Introductions

- Reid Newey, Davis School District Superintendent
- Heidi Bauerle, Leadership Learning Academy Charter
- Col. Tom Ausherman, Hill Air Force Base, Commander of 75<sup>th</sup> Mission Support Group
- Karyn Webster, North Davis Preparatory Academy Charter
- Jon Oglesby, Utah High School Activities Association
- Gary Williams, Dugway Proving Ground School Liaison
- Brian Garrett, Deputy Director of the State Department of Veterans and Military Affairs
- Fred Allen, Utah State President AUSA
- Emily Harrison, Chapter Director – Blue Star Families of Utah
- Jennie Taylor, Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army
- Gary Harter, Director of the State Department of Veterans and Military Affairs
- Ben Rasmussen, Utah MIC3 Commissioner
- Kirin McInnis, Legal Assistant, Utah State Board of Education

### II. Report on 2021 MIC3 ABM

- Ben Rasmussen opened the discussion, reporting that at the last annual meeting there was an extensive discussion about issues related to the Compact covering the National Guard & Reserve. There will be new legal counsel available to review this issue at meetings with Commissioners in May of 2022.
- Fred Allen asked what the National office was doing as far as outreach efforts, in order to contact the agencies. Ben stated that the National office is comprised of several ex-officio members of the Compact or that have connections to the military.
- Gary Harter commented that the issues are not a matter of recognition but rather operational. The level of effort should serve military children at all times, not just when a parent is deployed.

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- Fred Allen commented that at a recent meeting he attended he asked whether others knew about MIC3, but many did not have any knowledge about it. As a result, he took the opportunity to provide them with some information.
  - Jennie Taylor commented that as a mother of National Guard children, there needs to be inclusion regardless of the military component. Military children have the same needs, whether they are enrolled in a DoD school or a public school.
  - Brian Garrett shared that he has participated in efforts to work with the state legislature, advocating for the National Guard & Reserve to be included in all Compact agreements.

### III. Report on 2022 Utah Legislative Session

- Ben Rasmussen reported that the Utah State Board of Education (USBE) worked with the Department of Veterans and Military Affairs and Senator Milner to pass Senate Bill 233, which provides open enrollment preference for military children, which would also include a school other than the student's boundary school.
- Brian Garrett commented that Davis School District received \$500,000 for a pilot project to hire approximately four military education specialist personnel. Currently, conversations are taking place with Superintendent Newey in order to create the scope of work.

### IV. Purple Star Schools

#### a) Review Applications for Second Cohort

- Ben Rasmussen presented a spreadsheet listing nine applicant schools, all of which were approved except for three. The reason that the three schools did not qualify was mostly due to the fact that they did not yet meet the Student Led Transition requirements.
  - Ben Rasmussen clarified that for approved schools, the Website requirements included the following; a point of contact at the school, as well as links to other resources that provide information for military families.
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b) Feedback on the Program

- Ben Rasmussen commented that last year's recognition of Purple Star Schools before the State Board of Education was a success. The schools were presented with a plaque. This recognition is important and will be continued in future years.
- Ben Rasmussen reported that the applications were shared with all Superintendents and Charter School Directors in the state and also that he specifically presented about the program to Charter School Directors.
- Heidi Bauerle and Jennie Taylor both offered support to reach out and share information with other charter schools, especially those located in Weber, Ogden, and Morgan Districts. Jennie also offered to be a 'champion' and continue support for children of the National Guard & Reserve.
- Ben Rasmussen said for last year's applicants that were not approved, he was surprised that many did not reapply. He will follow up to encourage future applications.

V. Open Discussion on Military Impacted Student Issues

a) Any issues with school's following interstate compact requirements?

- Heidi Bauerle asked for advice on how to handle requests received from military families who already ended the school year in a previous state and at the same time want to enroll in their new Utah school shortly before the school year ends. The families have asked for support to 'wrap up' any end of year academic needs and also to prepare for the next school year.
  - Ben Rasmussen commented that legislation provides support for students moving to another state, allowing them to enroll and receive instruction virtually. Brian Garrett added that this support applies to both students who are leaving a school in another state as well as students who are in the process of moving to Utah to enroll in school.
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- Heidi Bauerle followed up with a question as to whether a school's designation as virtual or in-person would be affected by military students who are enrolled virtually. Ben Rasmussen said that answer was 'no,' that the designation is dependent on the status of the entire student body.

b) How can the state council help promote military student needs?

- Fred Allen commented that during the enrollment process there is a question on the registration form that asks whether the student is a military dependent. Ben confirmed that there is a 'Military Student Identifier' field, that all schools are required to collect by Federal law. However, after previously researching this data, he identified several inconsistencies in the way the data was collected by schools, as well as issues concerning the overall accuracy of the data. Col. Ausherman also stated that there is a Federal Data Card that military families can present to schools upon enrollment, however most schools are not aware of this card and military families are not always forthcoming.
  - Jennie Taylor shared that she is part of an organization that is putting on an education experience related to September 11<sup>th</sup>. Events will include; field trips, an interactive museum, and staging of emergency personnel and vehicles. She is able to share more information with schools so that they can help encourage military families to attend.
  - Jon Oglesby commented on his organization's efforts to help support military children and their transition into school activities as quickly and efficiently as possible. Gary Harter commented that he has referred students to UHSAA whenever there are questions about activities and sports, especially when the sport season for an out-of-state school is not the same as the season for a Utah school. Jon stated that the intra/inter-state sport season rules do have an affect on military children since not all sports are in alignment with this rule. For this reason, information provided by military families, such as transfer orders, can be useful when granting approvals for children to participate in activities.
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- Fred Allen commented that most of AUSA's efforts are focused on high schools because of students need to meet graduation requirements. The council discussed that it is important to also consider the needs of students in Junior High and Elementary schools to the extent resources are available.
- Emily Harrison discussed and shared links to resources available on the Blue Star Family website:  
Blue Star Families Research:  
Racial Equity & Inclusion: <https://bluestarfam.org/racial-equity-initiative/research-and-advocacy/>  
Annual Military Lifestyle Survey: <https://bluestarfam.org/research/mfls-survey-results-2021/>

## VI. Adjournment

