



MILITARY INTERSTATE  
CHILDREN'S COMPACT  
COMMISSION

## Meeting Minutes

April 19, 2024

Utah State Council on Military Children

### I. Welcome and Introductions

- Daniel Linford, Davis School District Superintendent
- Heidi Bauerle, Academica West
- Colonel Khalim Taha, Hill Air Force Base
- Ammon Campbell, North Davis Preparatory Academy
- Brian Garrett, Deputy Director, Department of Veterans and Military Affairs
- Jennie Taylor, Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army
- Gary Harter, Director, Department of Veterans and Military Affairs
- Travis Cook, Summit Academy Schools
- Vicki Perkins, Blue Star Families
- Jamie Ellis, Weber School District
- Meg Kruger, Wilderness Inquiry
- Molly Libra, Wilderness Inquiry
- Carly Rhodes, Wilderness Inquiry
- Matt Mason, Hill Air Force Base
- Francesca Suarez, Davis School District Military Support Team
- Ben Rasmussen, Utah MIC3 Commissioner
- Kirin McInnis, Legal Assistant, Utah State Board of Education

### II. Report on 2023 MIC3 ABM

- Ben Rasmussen reported to the group on the Annual Business Meeting held November 2023 in Richmond, Virginia. At the meeting, there were the following issues presented:
  - Added Space Force by rule to be covered by the compact
  - Added Blue Star Families as an Ex-Officio Member of the commission
  - Expanding Compact Training Opportunities
  - Commission Budget Issues



### III. Report on 2024 Utah Legislative Session

- Gary Harter, Director, Department of Veterans and Military Affairs, discussed progress made for programs during the 2024 Utah legislative session, including program expansion to include additional schools and support for both DoD military and civilian families, and funding support by both the Governor's budget as well as the legislature. There was also support from higher education institutions, granting immediate in-state tuition status to high school students enrolling in Utah universities.

### IV. Purple Star Schools


#### a) Review of Applications for Fourth Cohort

- Ben Rasmussen reported that staff has recently finished accepting applications for Utah's fourth cohort of Purple Star Schools. Appreciation was given to the review committee members. A total of 50 applications were received, 43 of which were qualified as Purple Star Schools. Of the 43 schools there were 12 that were renewals. There will be follow-up with the remaining 7 schools that did not qualify, for next year's application window.

#### b) Review Board rule changes

- Ben Rasmussen reported that Administrative Rule R277-929, State Council on Military Children, updates will be presented for final approval at the May 2 full Board meeting. Based on feedback from participant schools and stakeholders, staff recommended updates to program requirements outlined in rule. The amendments to the rule specifically add a requirement that Purple Star Schools must submit an annual report on a form provided by the Superintendent by March 31 annually. Furthermore, the Superintendent may rescind a school's purple star designation if the school fails to file an annual report or is found to be out of compliance.

#### c) Discussion of recognition ceremony – June 13, 2024 – Farmington High School

- Francesca Suarez, Davis School District Military Support Team, announced that there will be a recognition ceremony held at Farmington High School on June 13, 2024, in the afternoon. In appreciation, the Veterans Administration will be presenting plaques to schools.
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d) Feedback on the Program

- Matt Mason, Hill Air Force Base, asked about the possibility of shifting the application timeline earlier in the year.

**V. Open Discussion on Military Impacted Student Issues**

a) Presentation from Vicky Perkins, Blue Star Families

- Vicky Perkins, Blue Star Families, introduced a new partnership with Wilderness Inquiry. Representatives from Wilderness Inquiry discussed opportunities for military families to experience a variety of outdoor activities and make connections with others in their community. One outdoor activity highlighted was a day long canoe trip that is supplemented with interactive instruction on the natural environment. Molly Libra, Wilderness Inquiry, asked if it would be possible to obtain an listing of contact persons for Utah's Purple schools.

b) Other announcements and introductions

- Brian Garrett, Deputy Director, Department of Veterans and Military Affairs, reported on National activities and meetings with high level Department of Defense officials. He mentioned that the Davis School District program has been highlighted as one of the most successful in the nation.

c) Any Issues with school's following interstate compact requirements?

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

**VI. Adjournment**