

TEXAS End-of-Year Report 2025-2026

The 2025-2026 membership of the Texas State Advisory Council on Educational Opportunity for Military Children consisted of the following:

First Name: Jessica
Last Name: Snyder

I am the Compact
Commissioner for: Texas

The membership
of the State's MIC3
council consists of
the following:

Anne Caldwell, Highly Mobile and At-Risk Student Programs Unit, TEA
CAPT Beau Hufstetler, Military Representative, Navy
Simone Hendricks, Military Representative, Army
Col. Peter Joo, Military Representative, Air Force and Space Force
TSgt Nolan Zepeda, Ex Officio Representative for Reserves Component of the U.S. Armed Forces
Madison Yandell, Governor Greg Abbott, Designee
Brenda Howard, Chair of House of Representatives Committee on Public Education, Designee
Dr. John Craft, Superintendent, Northside ISD
Jessica Garza, School Counselor Representative, Fort Sam Houston ISD
Dr. Gary Bates, Superintendent Representative, Military School District, Fort Sam Houston ISD

Point of contact
regarding issues
related to the

Compact in Texas is: Jessica Snyder, Senior Division Director, Curriculum Standards & Student Support
MIC3 Commissioner Designee, Texas Education Agency
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Member	Role
Jessica Snyder	Texas Commissioner Designee - Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission; Senior Division Director, Curriculum Standards and Student Support, TEA
Anne Caldwell	Highly Mobile and At-Risk Student Programs Unit, TEA
CAPT Beau Hufstetler	Military Representative, Navy
Simone Hendricks	Military Representative, Army
Col. Peter Joo	Military Representative, Air Force and Space Force
TSgt Nolan Zepeda	Ex Officio Representative for Reserves Component of the U.S. Armed Forces
Madison Yandell	Governor Greg Abbott, Designee
Brenda Howard	Chair of House of Representatives Committee on Public Education, Designee
Dr. John Craft	Superintendent, Northside ISD
Jessica Garza	School Counselor Representative, Fort Sam Houston ISD
Dr. Gary Bates	Superintendent Representative, Military School District, Fort Sam Houston ISD
Vacant	Chair of Senate Committee on Education, Designee
Vacant	District Administrator Representative
Vacant	Parent Representative

Accomplishments:

1. The State Advisory Council met four times in 2025-2026.
2. On September 23, 2025, Dr. Ann Lê and the High Mobile and At-Risk Student Programs Unit released a new resource [TEA's November is National Veterans and Military Family Appreciation Month Toolkit](#).
2. On October 13, 2025: Dr. Ann Lê and the High Mobile and At-Risk Student Programs Unit released new resources - four-part micro-video Series for families and educators
 1. Military Culture and Lifestyle - [Family](#) and [Educator](#)
 2. Military Families Relocating to Texas - [Family](#) and [Educator](#)
 3. Military Connected Students with Exceptional and Special Needs - [Family](#) and [Educator](#)
 4. Supporting Military Families - [Family](#) and [Educator](#)
3. On October 27, 2025, members of the State Advisory Council completed the MIC3 Compact 101 training. TEA staff attended MIC3 Compact 101 training.
4. On October 27, 2025, the State Advisory Council on Educational Opportunity for Military Children selected Brenda Howard to serve as Chair of House of Representatives Committee on Public Education.
5. On February 2, 2026, Designee the State Advisory Council on Educational Opportunity for Military Children selected Col. Peter Joo to serve as the Military Representative, Air Force and Space Force.
6. On March 9, 2026, Dr. Ann Lê and the High Mobile and At-Risk Student Programs Unit released the April is Month of Military Child (MOMC) [Brave Hearts, Bright Futures: Texas Month of the Military Child Toolkit](#).
7. The State Advisory Council on Educational Opportunity for Military Children selected TSgt Nolan Zepeda to serve as the Ex Officio Representative for Reserves Component of the U.S. Armed Forces.
8. The State Advisory Council on Educational Opportunity for Military Children selected Dr. Gary Bates to serve as Superintendent Representative, Military School District.
9. The State Advisory Council maintain it website, <https://tea.texas.gov/about-tea/other-services/state-advisory-council-on-educational-opportunity-for-military-children>

Cases and Inquires:

- 9/1/2025: provided reciprocal agreement guidance for senior transitioning between OK and TX **(requested guidance provided)**
- 9/10/2025: request for assistance related to varsity sports denial for student relocating with father ahead of mother's PCS. Although the Compact ultimately did not apply, in coordination with the state interscholastic league, the student was approved to participate. **(resolved and closed)**
- 11/10/2025: provided reciprocal agreement guidance for senior transitioning between DODEA (Germany) and TX **(requested guidance provided)**
4. 1/13/2016: award of credit for student transferring to Georgia from Texas school. The student will be responsible for taking missing course work that was not successfully completed in the sending state. **(closed)**
5. 2/20/2026: provided request for reciprocal agreement guidance for senior transitioning to TX (sending state not identified) **(requested guidance provided)**

6. 3/24/2026: provided guidance related to Safe Haven for student entering Texas school without documentation; student was successfully enrolled (**resolved and closed**)
7. 3/19/2026: provided resource and support related to Texas Education Freedom Account (TEFA) and special education services funding for family relocating to Texas from UK DODEA experiencing difficulty with submitting the application outside of the country; application was successfully submitted manually in coordination with the responsible state agency (Texas Comptroller's office) (**resolved and closed**)
8. 3/26/2026: provided guidance related to cheerleading tryouts for student who would not be in the state and was being denied an opportunity to try out. The student was able to tryout once he arrived after providing guidance to the Texas LEA. (**resolved and closed**)
9. 4/15/2026: request with assistance related to residency requirements (retired veteran, no longer eligible for Compact protections) (**closed**)
10. 4/7/2026: provided guidance related to charter school lottery and waitlist requirements, MIC3 did not apply (**closed**)

Activities:

1. September 25, 2025: Professional Development and Capacity Building Event for Texas's Military Cohort (All 20 Regional Education Service Centers Military Champions from across Texas); Cohort created the [ESC Military Champion Student Support Framework](#), a new resource to support stakeholders in understanding how ESC Military Champions can support their school systems. (*Released to public January 2026*)
2. September 26, 2025: Texas hosted a Professional Development and Capacity Building Event - MCEC Global Training Summit Regional (Austin, Texas) with Commissioner Mike Morath providing keynote speech
3. Military compact commissioner designee, Jessica Snyder, attended the MIC3 Annual Business Meeting in Indianapolis, Indiana October 23-24, 2025.
4. The State Advisory Council on Educational Opportunity for Military Children met four times:
 - a. October 27, 2025
 - b. February 2, 2026
 - c. April 20, 2026
 - d. July 20, 2026

Presentations:

1. August 27, 2025, Professional Development #1: Supporting Military Children Through School Transitions: Foundations
2. September 17, 2025, Professional Learning Community #1: Purple Star Campus Designation: What's Next?
3. October 22, 2025, Professional Learning Community #2: Identifying Military-Connected Students
4. Commissioner Snyder presented an overview of the military compact at the Military School Liaison Meeting on October 27, 2025.
5. Commissioner Snyder presented on the Military Compact at the Texas School Counselors Association, Annual Professional School Counselors Conference on November 3, 2025.

6. November 5, 2025, Professional Development #2: College Bound-Financial Aid & College Preparations for Military Families.
7. November 19, 2025, Professional Learning Community #3: Developing a Purple Star Advisory Committee.
8. January 29, 2026: Texas Education Agency: Summit Presentation. 3 sessions were offered:
 1. Session 1: Serving Military-Connected Students
 2. Session 2: MIC3 Compact-Engage, Learn, Apply
 3. Session 3: Leveraging Resources for Student Success
9. January 21, 2026, Professional Learning Community #4: Activities & Event Planning
10. February 18, 2026, Professional Learning Community #5: Preparing for Redesignation
11. February 4, 2026, Professional Development #3: We Serve, Too- National Guard and Reserve Children
12. March 25, 2026, Professional Development #4: When Military Service Ends: Supporting the Children of Veterans
13. November 4, 2025, Commissioner Snyder presented the Interstate Compact to 400+ military-connected students and stakeholders across the state. The presentation was conducted as part of the Highly Mobile and At-Risk Student Programs Division military-connected students quarterly webinar series.

Military Student Identifier (MSI) Resources and Data

1. **Military-Connected Student Identifier (MSI) Infographics Resource**: This one-pager provides guidance for schools on collecting military-connected student information (MSI) for PEIMS. and includes updated data regarding the number of military-connected students in Texas (2024-25 PEIMS data).
2. **Statewide (Texas) Military Student Identifier Data Report (2026)**: This one-pager reflects PEIMS Fall Snapshot Data (C197) as an opportunity for state and regional partners to gain an understanding of statewide and regional data trends regarding Military-Connected Student and Purple Star Campus Designation.
3. **Regional Military Student Identifier (MSI) Data Report (2026)**
Similar to the statewide MSI data report, this resource breaks down the data at the regional level in efforts to support local and regional efforts in supporting military-connected students, programs, and stakeholders. This resource offers (a) regional trends in military-connected student enrollment; (b) MSI type breakdowns; and regional PSCD insights. The report serves as a strategic tool for regional partners to inform planning, advocacy, and program development.
4. **Expanded Data Dashboard & Reports**: Additional reports (truancy, mobility, absenteeism, CTE) developed to support ESC-level strategic decision-making.
5. In 2025–2026, the HMAR Unit launched the **ESC Liaison and Champions Directory**, featuring designated Military Champions from all 20 Education Service Centers. This centralized resource enhances statewide coordination, streamlines communication, and strengthens regional implementation of the Purple Star Campus Designation. Through quarterly convenings and shared best practices, the directory promotes consistent, equitable support for military-connected students across Texas. **Military-Connected Student Champion**.
6. **8 Micro-Videos (Educator & Family Series)**: Achieved 2,500–4,000+ views per campaign cycle via social media promotion.
 - **Military Culture and Lifestyle - Family and Educator**
Provides an overview of military culture and lifestyle to build awareness and strengthen connections between schools and military families. Participants will explore military structure, terminology, and the unique experiences of service members and their families, while gaining practical insights to foster understanding, communication, and supportive school environments.
 - **Military Families Relocating to Texas - Family and Educator**
Focuses on the transition experiences of military families relocating to Texas. Participants will learn about enrollment processes, state-specific policies, and available supports to ensure smooth transitions. Emphasis is placed on helping families and educators navigate systems, reduce stress during moves, and promote continuity in students' academic progress.
 - **Military Connected Students with Exceptional and Special Needs - Family and Educator**
Highlights the unique challenges faced by military-connected students

with exceptionalities and special needs. Participants will explore considerations related to eligibility, continuity of services, and collaboration across states, while identifying strategies to ensure equitable access to appropriate support and services during transitions.

- Supporting Military Families - Family and Educator
Provides practical strategies for supporting the overall well-being of military families. Participants will examine common challenges such as deployment, reintegration, and mobility, and learn approaches for building strong school-family partnerships, connecting families to resources, and fostering inclusive, supportive school communities.

7. **Military Appreciation and Recognition Tools:** A comprehensive suite of statewide engagement resources was developed to support campuses in honoring and recognizing military-connected students and families. These tools include ready-to-use social media messaging, posters, and promotional materials designed to increase awareness and participation in key observances. Resources were created to ensure consistent, meaningful recognition efforts across Texas schools.

- TEA's November is National Veterans and Military Family Appreciation Month Toolkit. This toolkit provides campuses with curated resources to recognize and celebrate the service and contributions of veterans and military families. Materials include communication templates, activity ideas, and promotional assets to support campus- and district-wide engagement throughout the month.
- April is Month of Military Child (MOMC) Brave Hearts, Bright Futures: Texas Month of the Military Child Toolkit. This toolkit supports statewide recognition of military-connected students during April. It includes themed materials, activity guides, social media content, and promotional resources to help campuses celebrate student resilience, build awareness, and foster a culture of appreciation and support.

8. **Transition Resource Suite (New Family Support Tool)** = “New School, New Beginning”

- This Transition Resource was developed to support military-connected students and families during school moves, providing practical, easy-to-use tools to promote smooth transitions.
- The guide includes checklists, Student 2 Student (S2S) resources, and planning tools to help families navigate enrollment, adjust to new school environments, and maintain continuity in learning and support services.
- Designed for both families and educators, this resource emphasizes proactive planning, student-centered transitions, and strong school-family partnerships.
- The suite has been formally endorsed and signed by Commissioner Morath, reinforcing its statewide importance and alignment with Texas initiatives supporting highly mobile students.
- *Link coming soon.*

Outreach and Engagement Expansion (2025–2026)

This year, the Military Connected Students Program significantly increased its outreach footprint and strengthened engagement with stakeholders across Texas through a multi-pronged strategy that included digital communications, in-person visits, and strategic marketing.

Expanded Communication Channels

- Strategic Communication Cadence: Implemented a multi-touch communication strategy featuring up to five targeted announcements per event, significantly increasing participation rates, awareness, and stakeholder engagement across initiatives.
- Collaboration with TEA Marketing and Communications: Established a strong partnership to amplify outreach through coordinated social media campaigns, elevating visibility of Purple Star Campus Designation (PSCD) milestones, Month of the Military Child (MOMC), and key program resources statewide.
- Digital Engagement Growth: Leveraged military-focused micro-video campaigns to drive rapid engagement, achieving 2,000–4,000+ views within days of release and expanding audience reach.
- Social Media Amplification: Enhanced promotion of toolkits, PSCD efforts, and military observances through consistent, strategic social media messaging, increasing resource utilization and public awareness.
- Web and Access Improvements: Led a comprehensive redesign and streamlining of the Military Families webpage to improve user experience. [Military Families Webpage](#)
 - Simplified navigation for faster access to critical resources
 - Enhanced accessibility and usability for families and educators
 - Centralized key information to support highly mobile populations

Strategic Partnerships and Grant Impact

- Sustained Strategic Partnership: Maintained a strong, ongoing collaboration with the Military Child Education Coalition (MCEC) to align statewide efforts, expand expertise, and enhance support for military-connected students and families.
- Grant Implementation Success: Effectively executed a an implementation grant (2024–2026), resulting in measurable expansion of programs, resources, and statewide capacity to serve highly mobile and military-connected students.
- Secured Continuation Funding: Successfully obtained additional continuation funding (2026–2028), ensuring program sustainability and continued growth of statewide initiatives.

Key outcomes:

- Statewide Infrastructure Development: Established and strengthened systems, frameworks, and partnerships to support military-connected students across Texas.
- Expansion of Professional Learning and Resources: Significantly increased access to high-quality training, tools, and technical assistance for educators, school

leaders, and stakeholders.

- Strengthened Cross-Agency Coordination: Enhanced collaboration across state agencies, education partners, and community organizations to improve alignment of services and maximize impact.

Overall Impact Summary:

The 2025–2026 school year marked a significant expansion and maturation of Texas's Military-Connected Students Program, characterized by intentional system-building, strategic alignment, and increased statewide reach. Key accomplishments include:

- Statewide System-Building: Strengthened infrastructure through the Education Service Center (ESC) network, enhanced data tools, and continued expansion of the Purple Star Campus Designation (PSCD) program, ensuring more consistent implementation across regions.
- High-Impact Professional Learning: Delivered comprehensive professional development through the PLC series, TEA Learn course, and the inaugural statewide summit—building educator capacity and deepening knowledge of military-connected student supports.
- Robust Resource Development: Developed and disseminated high-quality toolkits, micro-videos, and transition resources to equip schools and families with practical, accessible supports.
- Strategic Communication Growth: Expanded communication channels through targeted listservs, coordinated social media campaigns, and webinars, significantly increasing awareness, engagement, and resource utilization.
- Strong Statewide Engagement: Fostered active collaboration and participation across all 20 ESC regions, strengthening partnerships and ensuring broad, equitable access to supports.

Collective Impact: Together, these efforts have strengthened Texas's position as a national leader in supporting military-connected students by building sustainable systems, increasing access to high-quality resources, and promoting consistent, equitable supports for military families statewide.