

Virginia End-of-Year Report 2025-2026

First Name: Daniel
Last Name: Dunham

I am the Compact
Commissioner for: Virginia

The membership of the state's MIC3 council consists of the following:: As of October 29, 2025 the following were members of the Virginia Council. The new administration is in the process of appointing and reappointing new Council members.

Ms. Emily Anne Gullickson, Compact Commissioner, Council Chairman, Virginia Superintendent of Public Instruction
Senator Mamie E. Locke, Hampton, 2nd District, Virginia Senator 2nd District, Senate Representative Delegate Ms. Jackie H. Glass, House of Delegates Representative, Delegate 89th District
Rear Admiral Stephen Barnett, USN, Commander, Navy Region Mid-Atlantic, (Military Installation Representative Member)
Mrs. Shawnee Edwards-Zollar, Customer Technical Service Specialist, Afton Chemical, (Citizen Member)
Mrs. Tian Olson, Military Spouse, Attorney, Education Advocate, (Parent of a Military Child Member)
Mrs. Michelle Norman, Executive Director and Founder, Partners in PROMISE, (Military Student Support Process Action Team Military Spouse Member)
Mr. Raul Vargas, President, VARCom Solutions; Founder, CEO, and Chairman, American Latino Veterans Association, (Citizen Member)

Two points of contact for issues related to the Compact in my state are::
Mr. Daniel L. Dunham, Virginia Department of Education Military Student and Families Specialist, Compact Commissioner Designee
Mrs. Jenna Conway, Virginia Superintendent of Public Instruction, Compact Commissioner

Provide the State Council meeting date(s) and documentation: The Council held one public meeting in 2025. This meeting was held on October 1, 2025, in person at Old City Hall, Richmond, Virginia. The meeting was only attended by council members and VDOE staff. Council meetings are streamed live on the Department's YouTube channel and recorded for archival purposes. The April meeting agenda covered several issues related to the education of children of military families in the Commonwealth. Additional details about the meeting are included below.

- October 1, 20225, Virginia Council Meeting, Richmond, Virginia
During the meeting, the Council was provided with an overview by Council member Mrs. Michelle Norman and her participation in the 2024 Association of Defense Communities Installations Innovation Forum. The report included information shared on learning how Council members stressed the importance of supporting military-connected students with disabilities, spouse participation in government, education, and other civic committees and councils, and on best practices such as Virginia's Purple Star program. Additionally, Mr. Ben King informed the Council of the Military Order of the Purple Hearts I.M.P.A.C.T. award for high school peer-to-peer program leaders. This award is the first of its kind, and this year, seven students across Virginia were selected for the award. The Council also voted and approved the selection of 288 Purple Star Awards for schools across Virginia. Of these, 118 were first-time recipients, 78 were second-time recipients, and 92 were third-time recipients. Lastly, Mr. Daniel Dunham, the Virginia Department of Education's Military Student and Families Specialist, provided an overview of his work on behalf of military students and their families. These included:

An update on Graduation Rules Amendment;
An update on VDOE's/GMU's Peer-to-Peer Module training;
Military Recruiter Student Record Collection Report; and
An overview of the School Liaison Officer's Meeting held on July 22, 2025.

Cases and
Inquiries:

Student Transfer during Senior Year from Virginia to California
Sec: 4.101 Transfers During Senior Year
Senior student's graduation with a California Diploma similar to the one he would have received in Virginia was facilitated on time with the help of the Virginia Commissioner Designee, school administrators, and school counselors.

Student Transfer from Virginia to DODEA school OCONUS
Not Compact Related
Student had a May PCS and was seeking to remain enrolled in a Virginia Virtual AP Comparative Government Course which DODEA did not offer. Student was permitted to complete the course requirements remotely and completed the course for Virginia H.S. credit.

The Virginia Military Student and Families Specialist field over 20 inquires related to PCS matters from military parents, 10 inquires regarding special education related matters and over 30 calls for technical assistance. Not all of these were related to the Compact.

Training and
Education:

The SLOs throughout Virginia frequently provide training on the Interstate Compact to educators in their respective ROI. VDOE, in partnership with George Mason University, has created and provides access to professional development training modules they are;

VDOE Modules:

Virginia Purple Star Educate the Educator Training Modules provides school staff online professional development on the Compact and on the unique needs of military-connected students and their families.

Building Awareness of the Social Emotional Impacts of Military Family Transitions provides school staff online professional development on the stressors that military families face routinely and provides clarity on how best to support these families during periods of heightened stress

Well over 1,500 school staff take this training annually as required for Purple Star designation of their schools. Additionally, the following resources, specifically designed for military families, were added in 2023 to the VDOE Special Education for Families webpage. We do not have the matrix of how many clicks to these resource webpages were made in 2025.

- Military Families of Students Receiving Special Education Services: Things to Know When Moving to Virginia School Systems.
- Military Families of Exceptional Family Members – Birth to 5 Years: Things to Know When Moving to Virginia.
- Are You a Military Family Relocating to Virginia with a Child Who Has a Disability? Check Out These Helpful Hints and Resources.
- Mental Wellness and Trauma-Informed Practices in Military Families (Video).

During the Spring and Fall of 2025 Virginia school social workers, school counselors and school psychologist participated in monthly ECHO sessions focused on military connected students. the VDOE Military Student and Families specialist presented twice during this period on, the Compact, peer-to-peer support and on his role as Compact Commissioner designee. There were approximately 25 attendees

On February 25, 2025, the Virginia Military Student and Families Specialist, provided an overview of his role as Compact Commissioner Designee and provided an overview of the Compact to Loudoun County Public Schools school counselors. There were approximately 50 counselors from across the division in attendance.

On May 29, 2025, the Virginia Military Student and Families Specialist, was a panelist for the Hampton Roads Salute to the Military Spouse Empower Hour Panel and provided an overview of the Compact and his role as Compact commissioner designee. There were twenty spouses in attendance.

On June 13, 2025, the Virginia Military Student and Families Specialist, Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) Family Engagement Specialist, and George Mason University (GMU) held its third training for peer-to-peer student teams and their sponsors. This same training was also held for the first time in Prince William County Public Schools (PWPCS) on November 4, 2025. Attendance for the FCPS

Ambassador convening was 125 students and school staff. There were 115 students and staff attending the PWCPS convening.

On July 9, 2025, the Virginia Military Student and Families Specialist provided a Compact Overview and Commissioner role overview to FCPS Counselors during a virtual training. There were 20 Counselors attending the training.

On July 22, 2025, the Virginia Military Student and Families Specialist provided an overview of new Virginia laws pertaining to education and Compact related matters with Virginia Military School Liaison Officers. There were 12 school liaisons in attendance.

On August 1, 2025, the Military Student and Families Specialist presented on peer-to-peer training on his roles at the Prince William County Chamber of Commerce meeting. There were 24 members in attendance.

On September 26, 2025, the Virginia Military Student and Families Specialist served as a conference presenter and panelist at the Military Child Education Coalition's (MCEC) Global Summit in Austin, Texas, focusing on peer-to-peer practices occurring in Purple Star Schools. There were approximately 300 school and military partners in attendance.

Distribution of Compact-related Information: Over 1500 school personnel took the Virginia Modules. On February 25, 2025, 50 MIC3 brochures and Parent, and School administrator MIC3 guides were distributed to Loudoun County school counselors.

On May 29, 2025, 20 Parent, and School administrator MIC3 guides were distributed to 20 military parents and sponsors.

On June 9, 2025, FCPS School Counselors were provided a digital copy of the Parent, and School administrator MIC3 guide to 20 school counselors.

On August 1, 2025, Prince William County Chamber of Commerce members were provided copies of the MIC3 brochure. There were 24 members in attendance.

On August 25-28, VDOE Connect for Success Conference for school-based parent resource center personnel, special education leaders and VDOE staff, and military school liaison officers there were approximately 230 attendees. The Military Student and Families Specialist set up a table and distributed over 300 MIC3 brochures and Parent and School Administrator guides.

State-level Briefs, Communications, and Presentations: There were no state-level briefs, communications and or presentations focused on matters related to the Compact conducted by the Commissioner designee or Council during 2025.

Compact-related Actions : Council approved the partnership with the Virginia Military Order of the Purple Heart and their I.M.P.A.C.T. award. VMOPH created the I.M.P.A.C.T. Leadership Award for high school students attending Virginia's Purple Star Schools who embody the values that carry our communities forward.

I.M.P.A.C.T. reflects Initiative, Motivation, Preparation, Accountability, Character, and Teamwork.

These students reflect the same qualities that is honored in our nation's oldest symbol of service, the Purple Heart: honor, sacrifice, and service. As veterans who have worn that medal, the VMOPH felt drawn towards and privileged to recognize and celebrate today's young leaders, especially those building belonging and resilience across Virginia Purple Star schools.