

West Virginia End-of-Year Report 2025-2026

First Name: Nick
 Last Name: Lambruno
 I am the Compact Commissioner for: West Virginia
 The membership of the state's MIC3 council consists of the following::
 Mr. Nickolas Lambruno, West Virginia National Guard
 Mrs. Michele Blatt, State Superintendent, West Virginia Department of Education
 Dr. Ryan Saxe, Superintendent, Berkeley County Schools
 Mr. Ryan Weld, West Virginia Senate
 Mr. Bill Anderson, West Virginia House of Delegates
 Mr. Robert P. Mellace III, Coordinator, West Virginia Department of Education
 Vacancy - An individual representing a military installation in this state, appointed by the Governor
 Vacancy – An executive branch representative, appointed by the Governor

Two points of contact for issues related to the Compact in my state are::
 Nickolas Lambruno
 State Director West Virginia Mountaineer Challenge Program
 WVNG Adjutant General Office
 Joint Force Headquarters-WV
 1703 Coonskin Drive
 Charleston, WV 25311
 Mobile: 304-680-5821
nickolas.w.lambruno@wv.gov

AND

Military Family Education Liaison
 Mr. Robert P. Mellace III
 West Virginia Department of Education
 Office of Educator Development
 Coordinator and Military Family Education Liaison
 1-304-558-3119
rmellace@k12.wv.us

Provide the State Council meeting date(s) and documentation:
 West Virginia Council for the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for

Military Children

Meeting Minutes
 Thursday, January 15, 2026

Attendees:
 Robert Mellace, State Council Member
 Nickolas Lambruno, State Council Member
 Ryan Saxe, State Council Member
 Clinton Burch, WVDE Associate Superintendent (designee on behalf of the State Superintendent of Schools, Michele Blatt, a State Council Member)

Marcella Atwood, DOD Representative
Council Members Not Attending:
Ryan Weld, State Council Member
Bill Anderson, State Council Member
Welcome, Roll Call and Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 1:00pm.
Robert Mellace completed a roll call with introductions (see attendance above).

Approval of Agenda/Minutes and Remarks from the State Compact Commissioner

Ryan Saxe moved for approval of last year's meeting minutes (FY 2025).

Clinton Burch seconded the motion.

The motion was approved.

Nickolas Lambruno moved for approval of the agenda.

Ryan Saxe seconded the motion.

The motion was approved.

Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission (MIC3) Overview

Robert Mellace gave a detailed overview of the MIC3 Compact and highlighted events from the past year.

Robert Mellace gave an overview of the West Virginia Cases.

Requests for questions opened by Robert Mellace.

The group had no questions.

Common Ground Partnership Overview

Robert Mellace gave a detailed overview of the Common Ground Partnership and highlighted events from the past year.

Nickolas Lambruno made comments regarding the Mountaineer Challenge Academy and explained the program.

Nickolas Lambruno made a few comments regarding the Future Leaders Program.

Roundtable Discussion on MIC3 and the Common Ground Partnership

Robert Mellace opened the discussion.

The group had no additional comments or questions.

Robert Mellace adjourned the meeting.

Cases and Inquiries:

Zero for 2025

Training and Education:

A video on MIC3 is used as part of the required training for military family points of contact seeking the Purple Star Award and it may be accessed by all educators at

[https://wvde.us/academics/awards-recognition/purple-star-award/military-family-point-](https://wvde.us/academics/awards-recognition/purple-star-award/military-family-point-contact-training)

[contact-training and https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7jUc5q4tz5s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7jUc5q4tz5s).

West Virginia is home to 319 Purple Star Schools and 18 Purple Star Districts, which all have trained military family

points of contact familiar with MIC3. Purple Star Awards are

announced near the end of April,

and award recipients may be reviewed on the Common Ground Partnership website. At the

Student Success Summit, in Charleston, WV on July 23, 2025, a

session on the Common Ground

Partnership to approximately 25 educators, administrators and

school counselors included information about MIC3. However, the video is used as part of required training for Purple Star Award military-family points of contact, which are completed by hundreds of educators.

Distribution of Compact-related Information:

An information table with Common Ground Partnership and MIC3 brochure information was set up at Veterans Visibility Day at the State Capitol on March 13, 2026, Military Retiree Appreciation Day at Camp Dawson on May 2, 2026, and at the Student Success Summit in Charleston, WV, on July 23, 2025. Additionally, West Virginia's MIC3 homepage is hosted on the Common Ground Partnership's website. MIC3 information is also included in the WVDE's Military-Connected Student Data Collection and Identification Guidance.

State-level Briefs, Communications, and Presentations:

Information about the Common Ground Partnership and MIC3 was provided at the annual state council meeting on January 15, 2026. The agenda, minutes, and a PowerPoint may be viewed on West Virginia's MIC3 homepage and the MIC3.net website. MIC3 was mentioned as part of the Purple Star Award Summary Document, which was distributed to County Superintendents and a variety of statewide stakeholders in October of 2025.

Compact-related Actions :

The Common Ground Partnership has welcomed the Compact Commissioner and state council members to provide guidance and feedback on their efforts to support the success of all students and ensure school systems have access to and are encouraged to stay informed about provisions of MIC3. Information about the Common Ground Partnership, its activities, and goals may be accessed at <https://wvde.us/academics/common-ground-partnership/about-common-ground-partnership>. A partnership summary document may also be accessed at this link mentioning a focus of meeting the needs of military-connected children and their families. The

partnership encourages all schools in the state to participate in Purple Up Day and Spirit Week during April, the month of the military child, by offering resources within a Purple Up Month Toolkit, including the governor's proclamation recognizing April as the month of the military child.