

West Virginia End of Year Summary (FY 2024)

State Council Membership Roster:

Compact Commissioner

Mr. Phillip Cantrell, West Virginia National Guard

Chief State School Officer

Mrs. Michele Blatt, State Superintendent, West Virginia Department of Education

Military Family Education Liaison

Mr. Robert P. Mellace III, Coordinator, West Virginia Department of Education

State Council Members

- Mr. Phillip Cantrell, West Virginia National Guard
- Mrs. Michele Blatt, State Superintendent, West Virginia Department of Education
- Mr. Ryan Saxe, Superintendent, Cabell County Schools
- Mr. Ryan Weld, West Virginia Senate
- Mr. Bill Anderson, West Virginia House of Delegates
- Mr. Edward Diaz, Cabinet Secretary of the West Virginia Department of Veterans Assistance
- CPT Brittany Watson, State Family Programs Director, West Virginia National Guard
- Mr. Robert P. Mellace III, Coordinator, West Virginia Department of Education

Military/DOD Representative:

Mr. Chris Hendrix, NRMA Regional School Liaison

Notified on 3/7/2024 that Dr. Jeffrey McGee will be covering for Mr. Chris Hendrix who is transitioning out of his position as NRMA Regional School Liaison

The FY 2024 meeting of the State Council occurred on 1/12/2024 and included the following participants:

Phillip Cantrell (State Council Member)
Michele Blatt (State Council Member)
Brittany Watson (State Council Member)
Ryan Saxe (State Council Member)– via TEAMS
Chris Hendrix (DOD Representative)– via TEAMS
Ryan Weld (State Council Member)
Robert Mellace (State Council Member)
Electa Crowder (not a State Council Member)
Steven Queen (not a State Council Member)

Identify and/or confirm at least two points of contact for the member state:

Compact Commissioner

Phillip R. Cantrell

State Director West Virginia Mountaineer Challenge Program

Intergovernmental and External Affairs Liaison

WVNG Adjutant General Office

Joint Force Headquarters-WV

1703 Coonskin Drive

Charleston, WV 25311

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pcantrell07@gmail.com

AND

Military Family Education Liaison

Mr. Robert P. Mellace III

West Virginia Department of Education

Office of Educator Development and Support Services

Coordinator and Military Family Education Liaison

1-304-558-3119

rmellace@k12.wv.us

Summary of accomplishments, activities and presentations from this year:

An in-person meeting was held on 1/12/2024 with a few virtual attendees via Microsoft Teams. State Commissioner Mr. Phillip Cantrell participated, providing information about the Compact at the meeting. State Superintendent of Schools, Mrs. Michele Blatt, participated voicing support for efforts to assist military-connected students. A meeting agenda and PowerPoint presentation is now available for review on the WVDE's MIC3 website at <https://wvde.us/certification/military-partnerships-common->

[ground/military-interstate-childrens-compact-commission-mic3/](https://www.wvde.us/commonground/military-interstate-childrens-compact-commission-mic3/). Meeting minutes may be requested by e-mail and were submitted to Mrs. Cherise Imai following the event.

West Virginia specific MIC3 Professional Development was included as part of required trainings for schools applying to become Purple Star Award recipients. Last year the number of Purple Star Schools increased from 200 to 270 and schools have until April 26, 2024, to apply for the award this year. The number of Purple Star Districts rose last year from 9 to 14 and districts may also apply until the April 26th deadline. Training is made available for free on the Military Family Point of Contact Training section of the Purple Star Award's website at <https://wvde.us/commonground/purplestaraward/#tab-275236dbfd540a3ebc7>. While the WVDE has annually sent either e-mail messages or held informative presentations with information about MIC3 for County Superintendents during fiscal years 2015 – 2024, this year's County Superintendents were engaged directly on the supports of MIC3 and the West Virginia Common Ground Partnership at an in-person meeting of the West Virginia Association of School Administrators in Charleston, WV on February 10, 2024.

Information about MIC3 is included on the [Common Ground Partnership's website](#) and has become an integral part of the group's activities. This year, the Common Ground Partnership promoted the Speaker Series, Spirit Week (including Purple Up Day), the Purple Star Award, Military Signing Week, Care Packages for Educators at Elementary Schools focused on assisting military-connected children experiencing deployments (which include a brochure for MIC3), military-based STEM programs and the ASVAB mentor request system. All these strategies have led to educators, students and military families becoming better informed about supportive resources. To learn more about MIC3 related activities in West Virginia, please contact Mr. Robert P. Mellace III at rmellace@k12.wv.us.