



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

P.O. BOX 2120
RICHMOND 23218-2120

June 30, 2021

Ms. Cherise Imani
Executive Director
Military Interstate Children Compact Commission
1776 Avenue of the States
Lexington, Kentucky 40511

Dear Ms. Imani:

As coordinator of the Virginia Council on the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children, and in accordance with the reporting requirements outlined in Article VIII of the model compact language, *Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children*, I am pleased to submit the following annual report from the Commonwealth of Virginia.

The report provides information regarding the meetings of the Virginia Council, as well as other actions taken during 2020 to disseminate information regarding the Compact to school divisions, military families, and other affected entities.

I am grateful for the ongoing support offered by your office and I look forward to another successful year supporting military connected children.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Daniel L. Dunham".

Daniel L. Dunham
Military Student and Families Specialist
Office of Student Services

DLD/rge

Enclosure



Report on the Virginia Council on the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children

Presented to

National Office of the
Military Interstate Children's Compact
Commission

June 30, 2021

Virginia Council on the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children

COMMISSIONER

Dr. James F. Lane, Superintendent of Public Instruction,
Virginia Department of Education
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Telephone: (804) 225-2023

CHIEF STATE SCHOOL OFFICER

Dr. James F. Lane, Superintendent of Public Instruction
Virginia Department of Education (See above)

COMMISSIONER DESIGNEE, MILITARY FAMILY EDUCATION LIAISON

Daniel Dunham, Military Student and Families Specialist
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MILITARY/DOD REPRESENTATIVE

CAPT Joey Frantzen, Commanding Officer Joint Expeditionary
Base Little Creek-Fort Story
United States Navy

STATE COUNCIL MEMBERS

Dr. James F. Lane, Superintendent of Public Instruction
Virginia Department of Education

Ms. Mamie Locke, Senator
Virginia State Senate

Ms. Nancy Guy
Virginia House Delegate

Mr. Carlos Hopkins, Virginia Secretary of Defense and Veterans Affairs
(Governor's Designee)

Dr. Dede Bailer, Coordinator
School Psychology Services
Fairfax County Public Schools

Dr. Aaron C. Spence, Superintendent
Virginia Beach City Public Schools

Mr. Brad Williams, School Counseling Director
Tabb High School
York County Public Schools

CAPT Joey Frantzen, Commanding Officer Joint Expeditionary
Base Little Creek-Fort Story
United States Navy

Summary of Activities

The Virginia Council held two public meetings virtually in 2020. The meetings were attended by military school liaison officers, school representatives, students, parents, military officials, VDOE staff, and other members of the public. The meetings were streamed live on the Department's webpage and recorded for archival purposes. The meetings' agendas covered a number of issues related to the education of children of military families in the Commonwealth. Additional details about the meetings are included below.

- *October 9, 2020, Virginia Council Meeting
Richmond, Virginia*

During the October 9, 2020 meeting the Council the Council welcomed 7 new members. During the 2020 Virginia General Assembly session the Governor approved a bill that requires the Council to include a parent of a military connected student and a spouse of a military service member from members of the VDOE's Military Student Support Process Action Team (MSSPAT).

Dr. James Lane, Virginia Superintendent of Public Instruction and Mr. Dunham, Virginia Military Student and Families Specialist provided an overview of VDOE's responses to the COVID-19 global epidemic. Mr. Dunham spoke to the challenges related to the hold stop orders and the challenges of military families in securing child care. Dr. Lane highlighted the VDOE 3R guidance document, Restart, Recover, Redesign and spoke to VDOE's coordinated response to support schools and their reopening. He also shared how schools are working with the logistical challenges resulting in the need for social distancing between students.

Mr. Dunham went on to report Compact related cases providing information on those related to SEC. 501 Course placement, SEC. 4.101 Graduation and SEC. 3.101 Eligibility for Transfer and Enrollment. He also provided a review of notable interactions outside of Compact related to enrollment, childcare, Purple Star, homeschooling and Virginia Virtual Academy. He also provided updates on programs underdevelopment that support military connected children namely, Project Search at NAS Oceana, The Governor's Suicide Challenge, Virginia Signing Day, VDOE's Military Symposium for Military Parents of Students with Special needs and Virginia's Military Student Support Process Action Team (MSSPAT) participation in providing comment to the proposed VDOE redesign of the Virginia Mathematics Pathways. He wrapped up this update by supplying the Council with an out brief of key takeaways from the national business meeting of the Children Interstate Compact Commission (MIC3). Mr. Dunham highlighted the report from the workgroup forms to investigate the need for Compact eligibility to include National Guard and Reserve forces under Title 15 and Title 32 orders and shared comments folks in attendance made concerning Virginia's expertise in providing support to military families.

The Council approved the Purple Star Designation of 23 public and private schools across the Commonwealth.

- *Dec 17, 2020, Virginia Council Meeting
Richmond, Virginia*

During the December 17, 2020 Council meeting the Council voted to approve 3 additional schools for the Purple Star Designation on appeal. The Council also approved Dr. Lane's request that future approvals of Purple Star Designation appeals be approved by the Superintendent of Public Instruction thus eliminating the need for the Council to approve Purple Star Designation appeals received from schools. Additionally, the Council approved a request by the Council chair, Dr. Lane to meet twice in 2021 once in April and again in October.

All presentations and meeting materials are available online at www.doe.virginia.gov/support/student_family/military/va_council/.

Conclusion

The year 2020 proved to be unlike any other in history for the whole of America. The United States Department of Defense instituted hold stop orders around the world in an effort to protect service members and their families from the spread of COVID-19. This resulted in a delay for families poised to move during the spring and summer months. In addition, the closing of face to face instruction and move to virtual learning was not without challenges for military connected families. VDOE worked quickly to assist schools with these and other challenges. The VDOE Military Student and Families Specialist made sure that military families, military SLO's and military EFMP coordinators across the Commonwealth were provided specific guidance to help families navigate the changing educational landscape. This guidance paralleled guidance provided by the Department of Defense's Military One Source, VDOE and United States Department of Education. The VDOE Military Student and Families Specialist remained in close communication with other state Compact commissioners and other state educational agencies. This worked to reduce the impact that the hold stop order would have on the educational continuity of military connected students.

Throughout 2020, many schools demonstrated a continued interest in the Purple Star Designation program first launched in 2018. This interest continues to serve as a catalyst for the surge in professional development requests on the Compact and serving military-connected students and their families. It continues to strengthen the partnership between schools and military installation school liaison officers. There are now 214 schools, public and private, that hold the distinction of being Purple Star Designated schools. This is a testament to the willingness of schools and their divisions to insure these students and their families remain supported.

The Military Student Support Process Action Team continued to be a valuable resource in 2020. The body helped to review Purple Star applications and added additional suggestions for the program's improvement. This group will continue to serve in an advisory capacity to VDOE as it works to improve transitional support of military families.

In nearly every community in Virginia, there are children with parents or guardians on active duty with the armed forces. While their parents honorably serve our nation and our Commonwealth, we

should recognize the contributions of military-connect students and celebrate their spirit. The Virginia Council on the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children is proud to recognize the service of our military servicemen and women, their families, and their children.