

Note from the Commission Chair

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Dear State Commissioners and Ex-officio Members,

What a year it's been! The COVID-19 pandemic has brought unprecedented challenges for our nation in so many ways. However, with the new available vaccines, perhaps we will soon begin to return to some semblance of pre-COVID normalcy.

As discussed at October's Annual Business Meeting, we've made significant progress on our Strategic Plan. In 2021, we have much to accomplish in the second year, which includes



determining the next steps on the Commission's National Guard and Reserve Task Force recommendation. The Executive Committee (EXCOM) is developing guidance to assist with state council discussions which will be released this month.

A highlight this month is a new West Coast initiative between Commissioners Greg Lynch (WA), Cindy Hunt (OR), Khi Jackson (CA) and the National Atmospheric Oceanic Administration (NOAA) to build relationships and compact awareness.

In preparation for the upcoming *Month of the Military Child* in April, the Communications and Outreach Committee recently approved the **PurpleUp!**Toolkit (https://mic3.net/motmc/) which includes:

- Letter from the Commission Chair
- Letter template from the state superintendent or commissioner
- Letter template from the commissioner to the state council
- Celebration ideas
- Purple Up! poster
- Proclamation samples for the <u>executive office</u> and <u>state departments of education</u>

Don't forget to tag #MIC3Compact and #purpleup4militarykids when posting on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc. for resharing, and/or email information, pictures, and event highlights to mic3info@csg.org.

I am deeply grateful for your steadfast service during uncertain times. It isn't easy to stay the course when so many things around us are changing so rapidly, but we've done it thanks to a great team and national office staff. While it's a challenge to quantify how many students have benefitted from the Compact – we know it has made a difference.

I wish you all a very Happy New Year! Stay safe, take care of yourselves, and let's keep pressing forward with our work for military kids.

Highlight your support for military kids

As we continue to address COVID-19, it is important for the Commission to capture the unique cases and best practices being established by states during this time. Numerous education related topics are under discussion, from student health and safety, in-person versus non-traditional instruction, virtual learning, and athletics. It is important to capture the unique cases you are handling as schools reopen and the military PCS.

A <u>form</u> and <u>database</u> were developed by the Rules Committee to highlight your best practices and resolutions under the Compact. Cases that have been submitted by Commissioners are available on the Commissioner Portal under Cases. (password = mic3commissioner)

Please take a few minutes to complete the form and share a case or two to showcase how your state has made accommodations for military students.

Thank you for your support!

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