

North Carolina State Council – Military Interstate Children’s Compact Commission

End of Year Report: FY 2020 – 2021

June 30, 2021

To: MIC3

From: Nick Sojka, North Carolina Compact Commissioner

Greetings:

The following is respectfully submitted to MIC3. Requests for additional information or follow-up questions may be addressed to the undersigned.

Membership of North Carolina State Council:

- Ms. Catherine Truitt, State Superintendent of Public Instruction (Dr. Angie Mullennix, State Superintendent’s Designee)
- Mr. Nick Sojka, Commissioner (Governor’s Appointment)
- Mr. Donnie Loftis, Chairman (N.C. Senate Appointment)
- Rep. John Szoka (N.C. House of Representatives Appointment)
- Ms. Jamie Livengood, Military Liaison Counselor – Wayne County Schools

Other education leaders who regularly attend State Council meetings and provide ongoing support to the State Council are:

- Mrs. Shevelle Godwin and Mrs. Iris Pierce, Fort Bragg School Liaison Office
- Mrs. Julie Fulton and Mrs. Donna Grady, Camp Lejeune School Liaison Office
- Mrs. Leafa Palmer, MCAS Cherry Point, School Liaison Office
- Mr. Howard Lattimore, Cumberland County Schools, Military Family and Youth Liaison

- Mrs. Brittany Norman, Onslow County Schools, Military Liaison Counselor
- Mrs. Valarie Nasser, Craven County Schools, Military Liaison Counselor
- Mrs. Rollie Sampson, Moore County Schools, Military Liaison Counselor
- Mrs. Alice Dean, North Carolina National Guard Child Programs
- Mrs. Kelly Jackson, Family Coordinator, North Carolina Department of Military & Veterans Affairs

For more information, go to:

<https://www.dpi.nc.gov/students-families/student-support/nc-supports-military-children>

Points of Contact for Compact – related Issues in North Carolina:

1. Mr. Nick Sojka, North Carolina Compact Commissioner, Board Attorney, Cumberland County Schools, Fayetteville, North Carolina, nickolassojka@ccs.k12.nc.us
2. Dr. Angie Mullennix, State Superintendent’s Military Compact State Council Designee and Director, K-12 Academics and Innovation, North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, angie.mullennix@dpi.nc.gov, (Interim Point of Contact for Compact-related issues as of July 1, 2021)

Summary of FY 2020-2021 North Carolina State Council Accomplishments

1. Circulated, publicized, and provided briefings on N.C. State Board of Education legal opinion which allows advance enrolled military-connected children to participate in North Carolina public school virtual instruction prior to physical relocation to North Carolina.
2. Supported largest ever North Carolina participation in Purple Star Award program with 288 schools receiving Purple Star recognition. In addition, there were eight Purple Star Districts in which all constituent schools qualified, including DODEA Camp Lejeune Schools, Cumberland County Schools (serving Fort Bragg and Pope Army Airfield) and Wayne County Public Schools (serving Seymour Johnson Air Force Base).
3. Supported passage of and provided briefings upon North Carolina House Bill 53, landmark state legislation which clarifies and streamlines enrollment

opportunities for military-connected students in North Carolina public schools and provides continuing access to affordable state tuition in North Carolina public universities for military-connected students even if their parents subsequently are PCS-ed out-of-state.

4. Approved and submitted to the North Carolina School Boards Association (NCSBA) model dispute resolution language for incorporation in the statewide school board policy for military-connected students. NCSBA has thus far reacted favorably to the proposed language and it may be included in the statewide school board policy update in the fall.

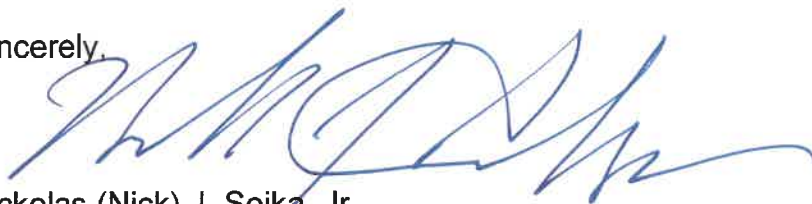
Summary of FY 2020-2021 North Carolina State Council Activities:

1. North Carolina State Council Meetings were held on September 15, 2020 and April 26, 2021.
2. North Carolina State Council members attended the North Carolina Department of Military & Veterans Affairs Quality of Life Meeting on January 26, 2021.
3. The North Carolina Compact Commissioner attended the MIC3 Annual Business Meeting October 1-2, 2020 and served on the MIC3 Compliance Committee.
4. Members of the State Council supported and participated in Month of the Military Child activities around the state.

Conclusion:

Thank you for your consideration. Our State Council sincerely appreciates the opportunity to serve the military-connected students of our state.

Sincerely,



Nickolas (Nick) J. Sojka, Jr.
North Carolina Compact Commissioner
nickolassojka@ccs.k12.nc.us
(910) 678-2304

CC: Mr. Donnie Loftis, Chairman, North Carolina State Council