

## Talking Points for MIC3 Commissioners on the Purple Star School Award Program

Issue: Over the past year, Compact Commissioners have reported being contacted by U.S. Department of Defense (USDOD) military and civilian personnel, as well as military-support organizations to initiate, advocate, legislate, or adopt a non-commission sponsored school award program, for oversight by the Compact Commissioner and the State Council.

***A request was received by the Executive Committee to 1) clarify if member states were mandated by the compact statute and commission to, and 2) to draft talking points for commissioners to respond to such requests.***

### MIC3 Purpose and Responsibilities

1. As members of the MIC3, the 50 states and the District of Columbia have specific obligations under the *Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children* statute.
2. The legal and statutory obligation for a Member State includes oversight of the implementation and administration of the Compact rules and regulations to support successful educational interstate transitions of military students attending public and DODEA schools.
3. The sole function of MIC3 State Councils is to oversee the implementation and administration of the Compact rules and regulations, not to create and implement an awards program. While a state may opt to implement a program, however the Commission cannot require a member state to implement such a program.

### Talking Points:

1. The Purple Star Award School program is not funded by, nor is it associated with the Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission (MIC3), also known as the *Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children*.
2. The Compact Commissioner and State Councils are not under the legal authority or obligation of the *Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children* to initiate, advocate, legislate, or adopt a Purple Star School Award Program.
3. The program is one of many examples of state or district programs and policies that support military children.
  - a. Compact Commissioners are advised to explain how your state, districts, and schools support military kids. You may consider suggesting a state agency or other organization as an alternative advocate.
4. Although the Commission and the Purple Star Award Program are both related to the military, the purposes and missions of the two are different.
  - a. One (MIC3) is to support students and families in their transition from state to state and the other (Purple Star) is to recognize and celebrate schools that are supporting students in the state.
  - b. Although it can be appropriate to have both in a state should the state decide to adopt the program, the program is outside of the scope of the compact.
5. Commissioners are very committed to the mission of MIC3. However, with a few exceptions, a majority of Commissioners have a full-time position outside of their MIC3 responsibilities.
6. With this in mind, administering a program like this would not be possible for most Commissioners.
7. Some state award programs require district and school personnel to receive training on the Compact. The Commission has provided in-person and virtual training on request by states, districts, and schools. This support is provided at no-cost to the state or the requestor.