



# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

P.O. BOX 2120

RICHMOND 23218-2120

June 30, 2022

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 2021 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 black ink that reads "Daniel L. Dunham".

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

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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, 2022**

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

## **COMMISSIONER/CHIEF STATE SCHOOL OFFICER**

Ms. Jillian Balow, Superintendent of Public Instruction  
Virginia Department of Education  
Email: [jillian.balow@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:jillian.balow@doe.virginia.gov)  
Telephone: (804) 225-2023

## **FORMER COMMISSIONER/CHIEF STATE SCHOOL OFFICER**

Dr. James F. Lane, (Former) Superintendent of Public Instruction  
Virginia Department of Education  
Email: [James.Lane@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:James.Lane@doe.virginia.gov)  
Telephone: (804) 225-2023

## **COMMISSIONER DESIGNEE**

### **MILITARY FAMILY EDUCATION LIAISON**

Daniel Dunham, Military Student and Families Specialist  
Virginia Department of Education  
Email: [Dan.Dunham@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:Dan.Dunham@doe.virginia.gov)  
Telephone: (804) 225-2157

## **MILITARY/DOD REPRESENTATIVE**

Vice Admiral Charles Rock, Commander  
Navy Region Mid-Atlantic  
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, Delegate  
Virginia House Delegates

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

Dr. Dede Bailer, Former Coordinator  
School Psychology Services, Retired  
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

Dr. Barry Brown, Principal  
Deep Creek Elementary  
Chesapeake City Public Schools

Dr. Martha Jallim-Hall, Professor  
Hampton University  
Spouse of Military Veteran

Ms. Trish Schnabel, Owner / Board Certified Behavior Analyst  
The Learning Ladder ABA  
Military Spouse Representative

Mr. Mychael Willon, Retired School Superintendent  
Military Spouse of Active Duty Service Member  
Military Parent Representative, Virginia Department of Education  
Military Students Support Process Action Team (MSSPAT)

## Summary of Activities

The Virginia Council held two public meetings in 2021. The meeting in April 2021 was held virtually and the meeting held in November was held in person. The meetings were attended by military school liaison officers, school representatives, students, parents, military officials, Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) staff members, and other members of the public. The meetings were streamed live on VDOE's YouTube channel 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.

- April 20, 2021, Virginia Council Virtual Meeting  
Richmond, Virginia

During the April 20, 2021, meeting the Council heard from Ms. Elaine Haislip, School Counselor and Military Family Point of Contact for Petsworth Elementary School. Also in attendance were Mr. Brendon Sellers and Mr. Brodi Sanford, both Petsworth Elementary School students. These individuals shared their personal experiences of being military-connected and or supporting military-connected students during their transitions.

Mr. Dunham provided an update on actions by the Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission (MIC3) concerning actions to expand Compact eligibility to include students whose parents serve in the National Guard and Reserves while on Title 33 orders, or by order of the Governor. Mr. Dunham explained that VDOE would, should actions be taken by MIC3 Commissioners to require it, add this item to its legislative requests that are forwarded to the Office of the Governor. This would include any action to expand eligibility outside of the language of the Compact.

Mr. Dunham presented on Compact-related engagements with schools, families, partners, and Virginia governmental agencies. He informed the Council of newly appointed school liaison officers and of the appointment of a Navy Region Mid-Atlantic Regional Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP) Liaison. Mr. Dunham provided membership an overview of engagements, trainings, and events received and conducted by his office.

- November 12, 2021, Virginia Council Meeting  
Richmond, Virginia

During the November 12, 2021, meeting the Council heard from Ms. Adrienne Wood, School Counselor for W.T. Woodson High School. Also in attendance were Ms. Abby Hammond and Ms. Elysa McMillan, both students at W.T. Woodson High School. Ms. Wood provided a general overview of how the school works to support military-connected students and others new to the school. Ms. Hammond and Ms. McMillan both shared their individual experience in supporting the transitions of military-connected students. Both students provided detailed examples of the work going on at W.T.

Woodson by the Woodson's Student Ambassador Club, the Operation Patriot Club, and other student-led bodies.

Mr. Dunham presented the Council with the list of 92 schools nominated to receive the School Year 2021-2022 Purple Star Designation by the Military Students Support Process Action Team MSSPAT reviewers. Council then approved the designation of 92 schools, 45 of which received the award for the second time.

Dr. Lane introduced to the Council the need to consider a policy that would afford Council members the opportunity to attend future Council meetings virtually when they are unable to attend the meetings in person. The Council voted in favor of the adoption of the policy.

Mr. Dunham presented on Compact-related engagements with schools, families, partners, and Virginia governmental agencies. He went on to inform Council of newly appointed school liaison officers serving in military commands in Virginia. Mr. Dunham provided Council with an update on the proceeding of the Annual Business Meeting (ABM) of the Military Children's Compact Commission. Mr. Dunham shared that the Chair of the Commission recommended that the vote that was to occur regarding the expansion of Compact eligibility to students of National Guard and Reserve Forces on State activated orders, and those on Title 32 orders, be tabled until the next ABM. Mr. Dunham concluded his presentation by providing the Council with an overview of how Virtual Virginia has worked with newly arriving military-connected students by permitting their enrollment in full-time programs and enrolling in courses that may not be available at their zoned schools.

All presentations and meeting materials are available online at [Virginia Council on the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children](#) webpage.

## **Conclusion**

The year 2021 once again saw challenges as a result of the Nation's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Military families who experienced a permanent change of station during this time were wrestling with the academic gaps and social-emotional issues their students were exhibiting as a result of not being able to attend face-to-face instruction. As the summer commenced, schools across the State moved quickly to develop strategic plans to address many of the concerns parents had with the effects the past year has had on their students. The Virginia Military Families Specialist continued to provide support and technical assistance to both individual families and schools during these challenging times.

The MSSPAT continued to be a valuable resource in 2021. 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. Members of this team provided a webinar presentation at the 2021 Virginia School Counseling Association Conference on how to best support 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-connected 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.