

Tier Group Guidance Purpose & Plan of Action

Background

In 2006, the U.S. Department of Defense contracted the Council of State Governments (CSG) to develop an interstate compact to address the dependent education transition concerns of military families. The MIC3 organizational structure and model compact statute was based on two similar compact commissions headquartered in Kentucky - the *Interstate Compact on Juveniles* and the *Interstate Compact on Adult Offenders*. Like MIC3, both commissions were CSG affiliates and their national offices were located in the CSG Headquarters located in Lexington, KY.

The Tier Group mechanism was clearly intended to be part of the organizational structure and is referenced in both the **Rule Book and Promulgation of Rules Guide**, under Sec. 2.101 - Adoption of Rules; Amendment as *“any regional group of States as may be subsequently recognized by the Commission may propose rules or rules amendments by a majority vote of members of that region;”*.

Originally, Tier Groups convened based on regional groups of states (north, south, east and west) as it was assumed regions would encounter similar compact implementation issues due to proximity. As additional states signed and adopted the Compact, it was apparent that lower impacted states (or states with fewer military dependents) faced different challenges implementing the Compact in comparison with more highly impacted states. In 2017, the Commission reorganized the Tier Group based on the number of military students residing in states. The shift did not require a change to each state's Compact statute nor the Commission's By-laws. However, the approach to best utilize the Tier Groups has eluded the Commission.

Throughout 2018-2019, the Executive Committee (EXCOM) held periodic discussions on the purpose and utilization of Tier Groups, which resulted in the inclusion in the 2020 Strategic Plan. In addition, the 2018 and 2019 Annual Business Meetings (ABM) post-event survey results indicated Members were interested in meeting in Tier Groups if an objective and outcomes were identified. This document seeks to address Goal 2 of the *2020-2022 Strategic Plan* and provide a purpose and plan of action for the way ahead.

Overview

1. Value and Purpose
 - a. Provide the opportunity for military dependent impacted member states to discuss compact related issues, concerns, and develop solutions.
2. Tier Group Facilitator
 - a. Four (4) Tier Group Facilitators are appointed by the Chair of the Commission for a one-year term.
3. Oversight
 - a. The Tier Group Facilitator shall provide required documentation to the Executive Committee (EXCOM) as specified in this document and on request.

4. Meeting Frequency
 - a. Ensure meetings are purposeful and valuable. Be mindful of Commissioner time. The Commissioner position is a part-time position and a majority have other professional and personal obligations.
 - b. Each Tier Group shall meet annually at the ABM.
 - c. One additional mid-year meeting may be scheduled in April as agreed by a majority of the Tier Group Members.

5. Meeting Agenda and Minutes
 - a. The EXCOM, National Office and Facilitator will develop the agenda and include other items identified for feedback.
 - b. Specific trending topics would be discussed. The Commission tracks trending Compact related topics from cases and inquiries received both at the national level and encountered by member states. Some examples include: excused absences, deciphering transcripts, and early withdrawal from schools.
 - i. Are Members encountering similar issues?
 - ii. How are they addressing or resolving the issue?
 - iii. What solutions can be duplicated and shared?
 - iv. If Compact related, does it require a rules clarification or change? The Rules Promulgation allows for regional groups to submit a rules change to the Commission.
 - c. The Facilitator or a designated member of the Tier Group will draft the meeting minutes and forward to the National Office for the archive.
 - d. The draft minutes will be approved by the Tier Group at the next scheduled meeting. A copy of the draft minutes will be provided to the National Office for record keeping.
 - e. The final, approved minutes will be provided to the National Office for record keeping.

6. Reporting
 - a. Region report. The Facilitator will submit a report to the EXCOM to identify Compact related areas that may require further Commission action or study.
 - b. EXCOM action. The EXCOM will determine next steps and inform the Facilitator.
 - c. End-of-Year report. The Facilitator will submit an end-of-year report for publication.

Facilitator Role and Responsibilities

1. Serve as the lead for the Tier Group
2. Provides input on the agenda with the EXCOM and National Office. Agenda items are Compact related.
3. In conjunction with the National Office; schedules meetings, performs roll call, and takes meeting minutes. (If necessary, the Facilitator may also designate a member of the Tier Group to prepare the meeting minutes)
4. Procedures - Meetings are governed by Robert's Rules
5. Submits meeting minutes to the National Office

6. Submits a End-of-Year report to the National Office

Tier Group Role and Responsibilities

Commissioners may determine their level of participation in the Tier Group meetings. These meetings are not mandatory, and no Commission voting will take place during the meetings.

However, if a Tier Group is proposing a Rules Change, their meeting would require a quorum of a majority of its Members present and vote as referenced in *Sec 2.102 Adoption of Rules; Amendment*.

Instead this is an opportunity for a Commissioner to voice their individual opinion in a safe space and share feedback in an open forum among colleagues.

1. Diligently consider the meeting topic and provide feedback, relevant to, but not inclusive of:
 - a. Local Education Authority
 - b. State Department of Education
 - c. Personal observations and background
 - d. Future implications for the Compact and Commission
2. Report follow-up questions or takeaways from the meeting.

The meeting minutes will serve as a tool for the Commission to identify topics that require no further action at that time; items that do require further review by one of the Commission's standing committees; or compel a legal advisory. For example, the EXCOM could recommend the Rules Committee develop a Rule or amend an existing Rule; request standing committees review new or current practices; or determine the viability of sub-committees or task force to study a topic.

The process for proposing, developing and submitting new Rules or amending existing Rules, as outlined in the Commission Rules *Chapter 200 – GENERAL PROVISIONS, SEC. 2.101 Adoption of Rules; Amendment*, and the *Promulgation of Rules*, will continue to be the practice of the Commission.

Each Tier Group, through the Facilitator, will submit an end-of-year report for publication. This report will reflect the membership of each Tier Group; meeting dates and attendance; the topics discussed; and feedback, conclusions, or results from the Tier Group.

Executive Committee (EXCOM) Role and Responsibilities

1. Shall review minutes to discuss or take action on relevant items.
2. Shall communicate outcomes or solutions to the Facilitator who will inform Members.
3. Shall evaluate the program at the conclusion of its initial implementation year and annually thereafter.

Conclusion

This proposal supports Member engagement and provides a purposeful mechanism to obtain evidence and feedback on compact topics and issues, as well as solutions and outcomes. The annual frequency allows Members to explore topics that may not otherwise be addressed in a one-hour standing committee meeting or during the annual business meeting. By engaging the full Commission through Tier Groups, the EXCOM is addressing tactics outlined in the Strategic Plan and obtaining feedback on the implementation of the Compact in Member states to determine the best use of Commission resources.

Tier Group End-of-Year Report
(template)

Tier Group #:

Members (list states):

Meeting Dates:

Topics Discussed:

Feedback, Conclusions, Results:

Other Comments:

Submitted by: (Name)