

MIC 3 Council Meeting Notes- May 25, 2025  
Dr. Priester SCDOE MIC 3 SC Chair

Meeting was called to order at 11am it was held on May 25, 2023 at the SC DOE Rutledge Building Rm 806 from 11am until 12:30pm

In Attendance:

**Dr. Tremekia Priester**

**Sara Arnett**

**Kelsie Carter**

**Col Kevin Shwedo**

**Beth Shwedo**

**Fred Henely**

**Sandy Claypool**

**Jason Fowler**

**Chris Gerry**

**Kimberly Wiley**

**Chris Gerry**

**Kevin Shwedo**

**Felix Childs**

**\*\*Supt. Weaver, SC State Supt. of Education came in for a briefing of the council and for a meet and greet. The council was happy to have her.**

Virtual Attendees:

**Sondra Thomas**

Welcome introductions were given and updates shared using the attached agenda outline:

(Attach the agenda Dr. Priester disseminated)

[Report from the National MIC 3 Council was shared](#)

[NGR update on the national commission business meeting...I did not take notes of this as I was in route driving\) Sarah may be able to add to this piece.](#)

Dr. Priester shared that she would continue to share links about compact 101 and 201 training offerings. That she was well aware that parents are watching these videos and referencing information from the compact when making inquiries to the SCDOE. She also indicated that the training would be offered in other languages to support the needs of our diverse families. In addition, these trainings should be family and kid-friendly and provided via district websites for Military families to access.

Dr. Priester shared update on MIC3 ABM information from Nov. 2022 to include National Guard and Reserve support and the concern with collecting military data from state agencies, schools/districts to include tracking students who are enlisting. Smaller state committee information was shared with the council.

Dr. Priester shared the newly passed SC Bill H3797 (signed by Gov. McMaster on May 16, 2023)-Military Temporary Enrollment. Council members were asked to send this information out via their various communication outlets. Dr. Priester shared that the passing of this bill is a major win for SC as a compact state, and for our military connected families. SC Dept. of Education and the SC Office of Veteran's Affairs worked collaboratively. <https://scdva.sc.gov/news/2023-06/military-families-now-benefitting-remote-school-enrollment-law-signed-governor>

The conversation shifted to Purple Star designation information and follow up.

There are currently 11 Purple Star Districts in SC with 3 districts on the horizon including Lexington, Greenville and Horry County. Dr. Priester has already spoken with representatives in these counties and they are ready to come aboard.

Dr. Priester shared a heartfelt story about her father who passed away last April and his deep connection and support of the National Guard unit in her hometown and their presence in her childhood. She shared how they impacted her and the community she grew up in. They did their road marches and parades right through her neighborhood and how the kids loved seeing this. As a result, she will be connecting with her former school district to ensure that they become a Purple Star District as well.

Dr. Priester expressed a concern for counties with open MCL positions to fill those positions immediately. She expressed SCDOE not having the authority to tell districts how to compensate their employees as the DOE does not want to assume the responsibility of districts seeking them for funding to pay these individuals. Some districts have opted to make it a full time FTE others connect this position with current positions such as Kershaw County. The question was asked when did the MCL position at Kershaw County post and Mr. Henley was able to respond (March 29th). He reached out to the current POC Deputy Superintendent there the day prior.

Dr. Priester added that there is a push to include Higher Education Institutions as Purple Star Designations and the name *Jared Evans* came up as Col. Shwedo stated that he is the “perfect example” on how it is done” and that he would be a great resource at USC.

SLO Kim Wiley added that she feels it should be a full time position at least in Beaufort County.

It was put on the table for those present to share feedback on the MCL job responsibilities in this role. Kim added also that there should be some kind of accountability for districts to adhere to Purple Star requirements at which point Mr. Henley shared a comprehensive checklist that he created that outlines the requirements for districts to follow. There was also a conversation and questions proposed about DoDEA schools having Purple Star designations. Mr. Henley shared that to his knowledge that he did not know of DoDEA schools that are purple star designated Col Shwedo added that it would behoove schools both DODEA and Charters to become purple star in order to attract more students.

Dr. Priester and Sarah will be working on systems to create standard operating procedures for all school districts regarding the purple star accountability efforts. And asked if others present could provide feedback and input in this effort.

The discussion about pre-K and students being included in the MIC 3 verbiage was mentioned that it was always a concerned issue in Beaufort per Kim Wiley’s comment. Dr. Priester shared that if a child was in kindergarten or Pre-K prior to moving that they should be able to resume

that same education level when they move without penalty or age requirements.

She also stated that we need to revisit the verbiage in the compact to make sure it was clear in this regard. It was reverberated that Private schools are not included in the compact.

Col. Shwedo made a suggestion to add more meeting times/dates to the council and it was stated by Dr. Preister that we would not change nor add more dates moving forward.

Ms. Carter shared at the end of the meeting that the Purple Star round table (Ohio sponsored) will take place on August 2 virtually at which point Dr. Priester mentioned that she shared that correspondence but would circle back to resend as a reminder.

Sara Arnett asked who would be attending the GTS (Global Training Summit sponsored by MCEC) in DC this July. Sandy Claypool said they would be sending Mr. Jason Fowler Ms. Carter stated that she would be attending. Dr. Priester mentioned that she has maxed out her out of town conference attendance per the State guidelines. But mentioned how productive and beneficial it is to attend.

Sandy Claypool talked about the new law that would allow Military-connected students to enroll and register electronically before they arrived at their new duty stations.

(I would attach the new bill here) Dr. Priester and others agreed that this is excellent and would be a nice supportive means for registration and enrollment for new transitioning Military families.

End of meeting-

Adjourned

12:15pm