



For Immediate Release
November 30, 2023
Lexington, KY

Contact:
Cherise Imai
Executive Director
cimai@csg.org
(859) 244-8000

Interstate Compact Celebrates Military Children and Families



Ernise Singleton (LA) Daron Korte (MN) Greg Lynch (WA) Laura Anastasio (CT)

The Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission convened its Annual Business Meeting on November 8 and 9 in Richmond, Virginia. Hosted by Virginia Commissioner Designee, Daniel Dunham, and the Virginia Department of Education, attendees included state compact commissioners, ex-officio members, and special guests.

Developed in 2006 by the U.S. Department of Defense and the Council of State Governments, by 2015 it was adopted by all 50 states and the District of Columbia. The Compact eases educational challenges that military-connected students encounter and supports easing transfers between public school districts and U.S. Department of Defense schools. Issues covered by the compact include enrollment, placement and attendance, and graduation.

Keynote speakers included Dr. Lisa Coons, State Superintendent of Education, and retired Army Major General Craig Crenshaw, Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs who underscored the importance of taking care of our military servicemen, women, and their families. Business items included business reports and briefs from the U.S. Departments of Defense and Education. In addition, Blue Star Families was approved as an advisory member. Military school district superintendents from Kansas and New Jersey spoke to the challenges students encounter in a post-pandemic environment, and how their schools provide innovative mental health and academic support. A panel highlighted Project SEARCH, which connects high school students with intellectual and developmental disabilities to internships and on-the-job training at Naval Air Station (NAS) Oceana in Virginia Beach.

Newly elected officers include Louisiana Commissioner Ernise Singleton as chair after serving two terms as vice chair; Minnesota Commissioner, Daron Korte, as vice chair; and Washington Commissioner, Greg Lynch, as treasurer. The Executive Committee also includes Connecticut Commissioner, Laura Anastasio, as past chair and one non-voting member, Dianna Ganote, from the Office of the Secretary of Defense, Military Community and Family Policy, Office of Children and Youth

The following commissioners were appointed by Chair Singleton to the Executive Committee:

- Communication and Outreach Committee – Chad Delbridge, Wyoming Commissioner
- Compliance Committee Chair – Steven Bullard, Kentucky Commissioner
- Rules Committee – Mary Gable, Maryland Commissioner
- Training Committee Chair – Shelly Ramos, Texas Commissioner

“Our 51 member states feel ensuring military-connected students have successful education transitions when they move duty stations with their families is worthwhile,” Singleton said, “however, our biggest challenge is building awareness and we’ve focused on developing resources to educate parents and schools.” Available resources include free guides and brochures; monthly Compact 101 training; webinars in Spanish and American sign language; and training on request. The commission also launched a free online, on-demand training portal at mic3training.net. “It’s my hope that our progress will continue to help kids stay on grade level and graduate on time,” Singleton emphasized, “they are counting on us to be there – and that is what matters most.”

For more information on the compact please visit www.mic3.net.