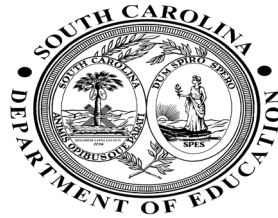


STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Ellen Weaver

STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION



2022 -23 Report on South Carolina Council on the
Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children

Pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 59-46-40

June 30, 2023

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Purpose

The purpose of the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children (S.C. Code Ann. § 59-46-40) is to remove barriers to educational success imposed on children of military families because of frequent moves and deployment of their parents by:

- A. Facilitating the timely enrollment of children of military families and ensuring that they are not placed at a disadvantage due to difficulty in the transfer of education records from the previous school districts or variations in entrance/age requirements.
- B. Facilitating the student placement process through which children of military families are not disadvantaged by variations in attendance requirements, scheduling, sequencing, grading, course content, or assessment.
- C. Facilitating the qualification and eligibility for enrollment, educational programs, and participation in extracurricular academic, athletic, and social activities. D. Facilitating the on-time graduation of children of military families.
- E. Providing for the promulgation and enforcement of administrative rules implementing the provisions of this compact.
- F. Providing for the uniform collection and sharing of information between and among member states, schools, and military families under this compact.
- G. Promoting coordination between this compact and other compacts affecting military children.
- H. Promoting flexibility and cooperation between the educational system, parents, and the student in order to achieve educational success for the student.

SC Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission (MIC3) Council Members

- Ms. Ellen Weaver, State Superintendent of Education
- Mr. Felix J. Childs, Governor Designee
- Representative Joseph F. Daning, Berkeley District 92
- Representative Shedron D. Williams, Hampton District 122
- Senator Ronnie W. Cromer, Newberry District 18
- Senator J. Thomas McElveen, Sumter District 35
- Dr. Tremekia K. Priester, SC MIC 3 Council Chair, State Superintendent's Commissioner Designee
- Mrs. Beth Shwedo, Military Family Member
- Mrs. Sara Arnett, Military Family Member
- Dr. David O'Shields, State Board of SC Chair, Ex-Officio Member
- Hon. Rita Allison, State Board of SC- Chair Elect, Ex-Officio Member

SC MIC3 Council Summary

- South Carolina State Council Meetings was held June 20, 2024. This meeting was held virtually due to the transition of the SC Dept. of Education to a new location.
- The purpose was to inform council members of possible courses of actions for input/vote by the commissioner, and bring awareness to members on the business of the commission, as well as discuss the council's plan to develop a training and awareness campaign for SC. The goal is to increase the awareness of the compact throughout the state of SC. The goal also includes providing compact trainings near/on military installations for the military connected community and schools/districts.
- During the June 2, 2024 meeting, Dr. Priester provided updates to the council members from the MIC3 Annual Business meeting held in November 2023 in Alexandria VA. Dr. Priester also provided an update on the social and academic supports being provided to military families in collaboration with district military liaisons. Dr. Priester announced that currently SC has 13 Purple Star designated districts, and 2 public charter schools. It is understood that Purple Star is not an entity of MIC3 on the national level, SC utilizes the training of the compact as a requirement for becoming a Purple Star designated district in SC.
- The South Carolina Department of Education sponsored the *2024 Military Honor Cord Ceremony* for high school seniors who had enlisted into the uniformed services. The ceremony was held in-person on May 14, 2024 at the Koger Center for the Arts. Students were provided red, white, and blue military cords to wear during their respective high school graduation ceremonies.
- On March 26, 2024 Governor Henry McMaster proclaimed April as South Carolina's Month of the Military Child. After the proclamation, Dr. Kim Priester identified a total of 13 Purple Star districts in South Carolina: Charleston County School District, Berkeley County School District, Beaufort County School District, Richland County School District One, Edgefield County School District, Richland County School District 2, Anderson 1 School District, Sumter County School District, Aiken County Public School District, and Kershaw County School District, and Dorchester County School District 2, Horry County, and Lexington School District 1.
- Dr. Priester then provided an overview and 2023-24 updates of Veterans Affairs Education Benefits for veteran survivors and informed the Council that the SC Commission on Higher Education was notified about requests for assistance from students from military families who were planning to attend college. To assist families further, the Council agreed that a presentation related to educational benefits and resources available for students from military families should be developed in collaboration with the Veterans Affairs Education Department.
- Various council members, district military liaisons, military school officers, military families and students, and other individuals participated in Month of the Military Child and Purple UP Day celebrations. Each district designated a day for Purple UP Day, during which several appreciation activities were held for students and families.

- Dr. Priester is the state contact for districts seeking information and training on how to achieve the Purple Star designation.
- Dr. Priester, in collaboration with the base installation student liaison officers and district military liaisons, and MIC3 national team will be planning fall and spring trainings for 101 and 201 sessions on installations for soldiers and military families.
- SC council will be working to create a state MIC3 brochure for use along with the information the national MIC3 office provides.

Areas of Focus for the State Council

- Continue to increase awareness of SC's newly passed and signed bill H3797 Military Temporary Enrollment <https://scdva.sc.gov/news/2023-06/military-families-now-benefitting-remoteschool-enrollment-law-signed-governor>
- Increase the awareness of the military compact through providing on-going trainings on the compact rules for the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children in collaboration with district military liaisons/school officers. The purpose of the continuous training is to ensure that policies related to transitioning military students in the state's public school system are clearly understood and implemented effectively in all school districts statewide. The goal is to host training sessions near/on military installations in collaboration with student liaison officers and military liaisons.
- Raise awareness of the Month of the Military Child proclamation and *Purple Up Day* in districts and schools statewide.
- Continue to increase the designation of Purple Star programs in district statewide for the purpose of increasing and highlighting military connectedness and support for military student and families in South Carolina.