

2024 Annual Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission Report

New Hampshire

Dear Executive Director Cherise Imai,

On behalf of New Hampshire's MIC3 State Council, I am pleased to submit the 2024 annual report documenting the activities to support students whose parents are on active duty or serving the National Guard and Reserves in the State of New Hampshire.

The NH state council remains active in their support of the Compact under Title VIII as defined in New Hampshire's Revised Statutes Annotated (RSA's).

Given the small size of the state, many folks inquire about who the council truly represents. We are honored to represent the men and women on active duty at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard and residing in nearby New Hampshire towns. We are also honored to serve the United States Air Force, 64th Air Refueling Squadron which recently returned to Active Duty at Pease Air National Guard Base as well as the NH Air National Guard 157th Air Refueling Wing. Along our shore you will find the United States Coast Guard with families in many surrounding communities. Other small units, recruiting offices and individual service members of all branches are scattered about the 10 counties that make up our great state. Surprising to many, are the men and women who serve NOAA and are working at the observatory atop Mount Washington the highest peak in the Northeast at 6,288.2 feet.

The small Tier IV state of New Hampshire serves roughly 700 children of active-duty service members while also supporting thousands of students whose families serve in the NH National Guard. In the past year the NH National Guard has deployed troops from local, national and global support.

The NH MIC3 Council meets annually to address the needs of our students and families. The council includes the DOD Military Representative from the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, representatives from the Pease Air National Guard, Superintendents of Schools, NHIAA Executive Director, Special Education Administrators Executive Director, NH Department of Education, military parent and students and invited guests are often at the table to ensure a well-rounded conversation. We acknowledge that the Council has several vacancies that need to be filled in the next few months. Our Council is also supported by the School Liaison who serves as the MIC3/Education subject expert who provides boots of the ground insight and training across the state.

The Council is very aware of the "New Hampshire Advantage". Including

- ✓ The size of the state
- ✓ Quick and immediate access to resources



MILITARY INTERSTATE
CHILDREN'S COMPACT
COMMISSION

- ✓ Flexibility of Public-School Officials
- ✓ The state's commitment to the military families residing in NH.
- ✓ The value of strong relationships in seeking solutions

The Council is also very cognizant of the challenges that face military families.

- ✓ The availability of affordable housing
- ✓ Reliability of the student identifier data
- ✓ The ability to reach out to the private sector to support children.
- ✓ The need for available childcare services across the state

The Council recognizes that families and school districts may be unfamiliar with the basic tenets of the Interstate Compact and is working on an ongoing plan to increase that communication and education. Some items include providing the School Liaison a platform to speak to organizational leaders about MIC3. This includes, school Superintendents, Principals, School Counselors, Athletic Directors and more. Also included in this plan is increased information and awareness on the DOE Website for Military Families. The School Liaison is routinely working to educate military families and commands about MIC3 through various means.

The impact of the NH MIC3 Council reaches beyond the support provided in state. As Commissioner, I have been an active member of the National Commission's Training Committee. The committee is essential to providing updated information for educators as well as families in transition. The development of resources in various languages, and to easily share on internet and social media platforms is critical in getting the word out to families, educators and administrators. The training videos, webinars and printable materials are also a valuable resource to new Commissioners, council members and the community at large. New Hampshire continues to be a proud voice at the national level supporting not only active-duty military but those in the Guard and Reserves.

This year there were two proposed pieces of legislation that impact the compact language and ultimately students in transition. House Bill 1019 sought a language correction in the Compact found in the Title VIII legislation. The correction proposed and subsequently approved edited the wording of "section" to "chapter". The council is grateful to Representative Hope Damon for sponsoring the bill on behalf of the council. The second bill introduced HB 1382 was a bill focusing on special education hearings and the responsibility of the department of education to support witness fees incurred by families when faced with a special education hearing. This bill also passed and signed by the Governor.

On May 30, the Council held a state meeting focusing on the status of Education in NH, updates to the DSLO Priorities and legislation, improving the military identifier data, and training needs for parents and schools through MIC3 toolkits and resources provided by the School Liaison. The council also received exciting updates about the partnership between the Department of Defense and AmeriCorps VISTA, placing the Military Youth and Family Support VISTA with our School Liaison to develop resources for local and global military families. The first of these is a comprehensive Joint Services Military Dependent

"Successful Educational Transitions"



MILITARY INTERSTATE
CHILDREN'S COMPACT
COMMISSION

Scholarship Database. This is an impressive resource to say the least and one I, as Commissioner, feel should be highlighted at the 2024 MIC3 Annual Business Meeting.

The committee set goals and priorities for the next school year 2024-25.

- ✓ Support increased housing for military families.
- ✓ Fill vacancies on the State Council
- ✓ Establish an annual gathering of small Northeastern states (VT & ME)

In New Hampshire we are fortunate to have close-knit educational communities resulting in immediate attention to the needs of students and families in transition.

The work in New Hampshire is responsive to our families in large part due to the commitment of our Military School Liaison Officer, Kristen Ferullo. Kristen has been in her role for almost 10 years, bringing her experiences and knowledge of the needs of military families. She is a tremendous resource to educational leaders across the state and is often called upon at the national level for advice and guidance. Anyone speaking with Kristen will immediately realize that she always keeps the needs of students a priority.

I continued to be honored to serve as the NH Commissioner for the Military Interstate Children's Compact. The families have sacrificed for the citizens of New Hampshire, and it is our responsibility to provide for the children.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Kathleen A. Murphy'.

Kathleen A. Murphy

NH MIC3 Commissioner

“Successful Educational Transitions”