



Idaho Department  
of Education



# MIC3 Idaho State Council Meeting

Wednesday April 16, 2025

## Physical Location:

Mountain Home School District Office  
470 North 3rd East, Mountain Home, Idaho

## Zoom Link

<https://idahosde.zoom.us/j/96597330311>

## Attendees

Domineek Haag, School Liaison Officer, Mountain Home School District

James Gilbert, Superintendent, Mountain Home School District

Jolene Lincoln, Administrator of Student Programs, Boise School District

Tommy Rutherford, Lt Col USAF ACC 366 MSG/CD

Spencer Barzee, Deputy Superintendent, Idaho Department of Education, Idaho Commissioner, MIC3

### 1. Accomplishments from the Prior Year

- a. [Supporting Military Families](#) website developed and added to the homepage of the Idaho Department of Education website. Dr. Barzee's colleagues were instrumental in efficiently creating and maintaining the site. . Additionally, MIC3 Idaho State Council members dedicated significant time and effort to researching resources and guidance for military-connected families and students.
- b. [Application](#) for the Purple Star Schools program was completed, and LEAs were invited to apply. Idaho is the 43<sup>rd</sup> state to adopt this much-needed and prestigious designation.
- c. [Stephensen Elementary](#) on the Mountain Home Air Force Base was recently approved as the first school in Idaho to receive the Purple Star designation, a significant milestone. The Mountain Home School District isled by Superintendent Gilbert, and much of the credit goes to Principal Robynn Schipani and her dedicated team who were already fulfilling the majority of the program's

**Debbie Critchfield, Superintendent of Public Instruction**

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*requirements. Their commitment to implementing the Purple Star Schools program with fidelity is commendable. Special thanks also go to Domineek Haag, School Liaison Program Manager for the 366th Force Support Squadron, for her outstanding coordination and organization of the recognition event. The event was well-attended and organized. Idaho Superintendent of Public Instruction Debbie Critchfield was in attendance and spoke at the event.*

2. Purple Star Schools

a. Stephensen Elementary update

i. *Please see above.*

b. Promotion of the program

i. *Superintendent Gilbert noted that promoting the Purple Star designation presents a unique challenge in Idaho where most communities lack a significant military presence. As a result, many schools are hesitant to invest the time and effort required to earn the designation since it directly impacts only a small portion of their student body. In fact, fewer than 100 schools in Idaho have student bodies with more than 2 percent military-connected students, and only about 15 schools exceed 10 percent, which reinforces Superintendent Gilbert's earlier point about the limited reach of the program across the state. Dr. Barzee will share the school list by number and percentages with the group, and the council will begin educating schools with the highest percentage of military-connected students about the Purple Star Schools program.*

3. Military Identifier

a. Current number of students by LEA

i. FY 2024 – 3,101

ii. FY 2025 – 4,046

b. Is there a need for a reminder to be sent from the SDE?

i. *The increase in the number of military-connected students reported in Idaho is largely due to the efforts of the MIC3 Idaho State Council in encouraging LEAs to properly code these students in their systems. Dr. Barzee will coordinate with Idaho Department of Education Chief of Staff Greg Wilson to resend the communication to all LEAs, outlining the correct process for identifying and coding military-connected students within each district's demographic system.*

4. MIC3 Status of Education presentation

a. *Domineek shared with the council her annual remarks for her presentation. The council provided her feedback on the material.*

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