

EX-OFFICIO REPORT

Daron Korte (MN), Commission Vice Chair

Ex-officio representatives are non-voting representatives who are members of interested organizations, including but not limited to military-oriented, military family, education oriented, and parent and teacher organizations. — Article IX of the model compact language and Article II, Section 3 of the Commission Bylaws.

Throughout 2025, the Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission (MIC3) has continued to benefit from the enduring commitment and collaboration of its valued partner organizations. These partnerships have helped expand the Commission's outreach, education, and awareness efforts in support of military-connected students and their families. The following highlights key contributions made by national partners over the past year.

In its second year as an ex-officio organization to the Commission, Blue Star Families (BSF) continued to provide legislative updates that inform MIC3's policy awareness and strategic planning. Representative Brooke Blaaid continued to keep the Commission abreast of developments from Capitol Hill and report on the progress of BSF's Military Family Lifestyle Survey. Although the 2025 survey did not include questions specific to the Compact, Ms. Blaaid's ongoing engagement ensures that the 2026 survey will address the Compact. This crucial data will allow MIC3 to gather meaningful feedback from military families and guide future strategic planning.

Since the Compact's inception, the Department of Defense (DoD) has played a pivotal role in its success. In 2025, Dianna Ganote, the DoD's representative to the Commission, continued to drive engagement through education and policy collaboration. Ms. Ganote actively contributed as a member of the Executive Committee, ensuring leadership was informed on legislative issues affecting military families. She provided vital briefings on topics including the Defense-State Liaison Office initiatives, the National Defense Authorization Act, the Assuring Navigation of Compact Help for Ongoing Relocation (ANCHOR) project, and the Penn State SPEAK Military Children Project. These briefings have enriched the Commission's strategic insight, enabling better-informed decisions that support educational continuity for military-connected students.

Through the leadership of Representative Kyle Wood, the Military Child Education Coalition (MCEC) has been instrumental in advancing training and educational outreach on behalf of the Commission. In 2025, MCEC provided platforms for MIC3 to inform school districts and families about Compact protections, partnered on the creation of digital media, including podcasts and written articles, and included Compact-related content during its flagship Global Training Summit. These efforts have amplified the Commission's visibility across education sectors and strengthened stakeholder understanding of the Compact's significance.

The Military Impacted Schools Association (MISA) continues to be a steadfast supporter of MIC3's mission to educate school district personnel on the Compact. In 2025, Representative Kyle Fairbairn, in collaboration with North Carolina Commissioner Nickolas Sojka, Jr., led a successful training initiative in the Fayetteville area. More than 180 school district administrators received both Compact 101 and 201 training, ensuring greater awareness of Compact provisions among educators and smoother transitions for families stationed at Seymour Johnson Air Force Base and Fort Bragg. MISA also maintained its financial support of the

Commission's Annual Business Meeting (ABM), hosting the reception event and continuing to be a vital contributor to the Commission's annual success.

The National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) has been an essential partner in expanding MIC3's impact in the athletics and extracurricular space. As an ex-officio member of the Finance Committee, NFHS representative Davis Whitfield plays a crucial role by offering valuable insights. His understanding of the financial landscape and external factors affecting the Commission contributed to NFHS's commitment to host the ABM at the National Collegiate Athletic Association headquarters in October 2025. His continued engagement has strengthened relationships between state athletic associations and MIC3 state councils. These connections have fostered a broader understanding of the importance of extracurricular access for military students, directly supporting MIC3's mission to ensure continuity of opportunity during school transitions.

The National Military Family Association (NMFA) has remained a strong partner of the Commission, continuing collaborative efforts to support military families through a range of impactful initiatives. Notably, NMFA's Operation Purple Camp and the State of the Military Family Summit provided critical programming and awareness that align with MIC3's mission. Since 2022, NMFA—through representative Eileen Huck—has connected the Commission with BLOOM: Empowering the Military Teen, a platform that elevates the voices and experiences of military-connected youth. This partnership has strengthened the Commission's ability to promote awareness of the Compact within military communities, highlight the educational challenges faced by military children, and advance the vision of MIC3.

The Commission extends its sincere appreciation to all partner organizations for their continued dedication and collaboration throughout 2025. These strategic relationships amplify MIC3's reach and deepen its impact on behalf of military families nationwide. The Commission looks forward to building on this momentum in 2026 as we work collectively to ensure ***Successful Educational Transitions*** for every military child.