

Kansas Military Children Education Council (KMCEC) Membership:

- Col. Todd Sunday Garrison Commander, Ft. Leavenworth
- LTG (Ret) Perry L. Wiggins Governors Military Council
- Senator Usha Reddi Legislative Appointee, Manhattan
- Ashley Parsons School Liaison Officer, Fort Leavenworth **Attended the Meeting**
- Shelby Amancio School Liaison Officer, Fort Riley
- Greg Martin School Liaison Officer, McConnell AFB
- Keith Mispagel Superintendent USD 207, Fort Leavenworth
- Matt Hoover for Reginald Eggleston, Superintendent USD 475, Geary County – Ft. Riley
- Heather Bohaty Superintendent USD 260, Derby – McConnel AFB (*cannot attend*)
- Dale Brungardt MIC3 Commissioner, KSDE School Finance Director

Join the Teams Meeting by clicking the link in your Calendar Request or Click here: [KMCEC Meeting](#)

MINUTES: KMCEC Meeting

February 18, 2026 @ 09:00

MIC3 Business: The KMCEC Teams meeting was called to order at 9:00.

1. 1 of 6 Compacts adopted by all 50 states (Kansas was 1st; 9 Apr 2008)
2. [2025 Annual Business](#) Meeting Briefs and Documents on National website.

The ABM was held in Indianapolis during the federal govt shutdown resulting in less federal attendees.

Four high school student guest speakers Representing Bloom, from Hawaii, Seattle, Spain, unknown, spoke to the ABM. They represent military students with real life experiences who live all around the world. Click the link to learn more.

[Bloom | Empowering the Military Teen](#)

3. Kansas Dues for FY27 are estimated to be \$16,625. 2026 were \$11,105. Dues in 2025 were \$11,487. 2024 were \$11,487 as well.
Dues increase was discussed. Dues will be \$1.77 per student next year (\$1.09 per student previously), there will be an annual dues increase of 4% for several years and then it will be reviewed. The amount of increase may be lowered at some point. A viewpoint shared by the members of the Council is that belonging to the military compact strengthens our ability to serve military students.
4. Kansas had no student issues reported to National Office in FY25 and thus far in FY26.
District administration usually handles student issues internally at the local level, and issues have not needed to rise to the National level to be addressed. Members shared that, indeed, most issues are handled at the local level. Issues surrounding special education, both disability and gifted. Additionally, there was a comment that a district even has international military students, but they are treated like any other military students and try to apply the rules to them as much as possible.
5. April - Month of Military Child
 - a. Governor Kelly Proclamation – application is submitted
 - b. **April 15th** is Purple Up Kansas Day!

KMCEC Business:

1. Purple Up Kansas 2026 – **Wednesday April 15th**
 - a. Suggestions for other days:
 - i. M – red, white, & blue
 - ii. Tu – favorite military branch color
 - iii. W – Purple Up Kansas Day!
 - iv. Th – camouflage
 - v. F – RED for Remember Everyone Deployed
 - vi. Other suggestions

Schools shared their current plans to recognize the Month of the Military Child as well as Purple Up Day.

- USD 207 Fort Leavenworth (Leavenworth) organizes "Kindness week" for military and youth
 - Hometown pride day
 - Silly sock day
 - Purple up day
 - Mismatch day –
 - Pajama day – our dreams tell our story

- Matt – USD 475 Geary County (Junction City, Fort Riley) promotes a "Lunch on the Lawn" event at individual school buildings for military families to visit the school and eat lunch with their children. You can really see the impact of how many students have parents in the military. Many parents are currently deployed. Other military families will sometimes join and "adopt a kid" because they know a child's parent is deployed. Families rallied around a mom to support her family.

USD 475 will have activities all month long in April. Military families are invited to walk a parade route when the school holds a parade on April 3 (Good Friday)

- Greg - McConnell AFB (Wichita) – They have a CYP parade also – also a base wide Family Festival of Fun - invite families and others April 1, will have a Purple Up Friday. Each Purple Star district follows the base format and have a "spirit week" in April.

2. KMCEC membership and distribution of information to our growing network of schools

An annual discussion on how the Council and members could continue to grow the KMCEC and Purple Star network. USD 259 Wichita was brought up due to its proximity to McConnell AFB. Greg mentioned that it is not likely that the District would have a need to be a Purple Star District, but individual schools of USD 259 Wichita could apply. It was agreed by all that, "yes" they could apply individually, but would still need to meet the requirements set forth in the application, relating to the professional development and board resolution requirements.

3. Purple Star Selection Process and Renewal of Purple Star status

The Council had a short discussion concerning the processes for selection and renewal. All agreed that the processes seem appropriate and works. Changes could be considered for renewal, but it is a positive experience for districts to look back and see how they are serving military families and students. Additionally, we discussed if three years is the appropriate length for having to renew. Keith mentioned the three years is suggested at the federal level and therefore seemed appropriate for Kansas.

4. Review Purple Star applications for approval –

- a. New Applications – USD 266 Maize, St. Francis Xavier School – Junction City (private school)
- b. Renewals – Ft. Leavenworth, Derby, Geary County, Mulvane
- c. Renewals for 2026-27 – Leavenworth
- d. Purple Star Applicants present and approval at the March 10th at 2:10 pm KSBE mtg
will be on consent but will invite the new Purple Star schools to attend.

5. Terri Shippen, WSU Tech – requested to be a Purple Star School

- a. Currently K-12 Schools
what are your thoughts? do other states extend this to higher ed? If your parents are in the military, you are 18 – do they benefit by being a PSS?

The committee agreed by consensus that we would not consider higher education schools for Purple Star status. Although Purple Star Schools do not directly relate to the Compact, it was felt that they quickly could be viewed as such and the compact is K-12 in design. Concerns centered on if issues arise, who handles those as they are not really part of the Compact. Additionally, the Kansas State Dept of Education pays dues and this could be easily misinterpreted to include higher ed. WSU is closely connected already with the

military through nearby schools as well as the CTE programs they share. Their relationship with districts could possibly be leveraged by WSU if the districts are willing.

6. Extend KMCEC membership to a Kansas State High School Activities Association (KSHSAA) Representative.

The Council discussed if the KMCEC should invite the KSHSAA to have a representative on the Council. After consideration the Council agreed that Dale should extend an invitation to the KSHSAA. Additional note: Dale reached out to the KSHSAA and Bill Faflick, Executive Director, and he graciously agreed to serve on the KMCEC.

7. Best Practices or items of interest.
 8. Other business
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Review and Approve NEW Purple Star School applications for 2026

USD 266 Maize – After reviewing the application and meeting all requirements a motion was made to approve USD 266 Maize as a Purple Star School.

Motion:

It was moved by Keith to approve USD 266 Maize and all attendance centers to receive the designation of Kansas Purple Star School for the next three school years. Seconded by Ashley. **Passed unanimously**

St. Francis Xavier – Junction City – X0030 Salina Catholic Diocese – After reviewing the application, it was determined that the Council was concerned that adequate evidence of staff professional development was provided. Discussion of the path moving forward was to grant a provisional at this time and have Dale follow-up with the school. If additional information is provided an email approval process could occur.

Motion:

It was moved by Shelby to act on the application as **“provisionally approved”** for the designation of Kansas Purple Star School for the next three school years to St Francis Xavier School in Junction City. (Provisional PSS designation is pending submission of additional detailed information and evidence of staff training being provided to staff.) Shelby moved to approve. Matt seconded the motion, **Passed unanimously**

Per email correspondence additional professional development information was provided by St. Francis Xavier that met the professional development requirements. This information was shared with the Council, and the resulting email vote was to **fully approve** the school for Purple Star designation.

Renewals of Purple Star School status: USD 207, 260, 263, 475 – The four district’s applications were reviewed and meeting all the requirements a motion was made to approve the four USDs as Purple Star Districts and Schools. They will hold this designation of Kansas Purple Star School for school years: 2026-2027, 2027-28, and 2028-29.

- USD 207 Fort Leavenworth
- USD 260 Derby
- USD 263 Mulvane
- USD 475 Geary County

Motion:

It was moved by Ashley to approve and recertify the designation of Kansas Purple Star School for the next three school years to the following school districts:

- USD 207 Fort Leavenworth
- USD 260 Derby
- USD 263 Mulvane
- USD 475 Geary County

It was seconded by Greg. **Passed Unanimously**

Point of Clarification came up during the review of these district's renewals:

Districts do not need to have their school board adopt another resolution to renew Purple Star School status. But it would be a good reminder to mention it to the board when this designation is approved and renewed.

With no other business to conduct the meeting was adjourned.

KANSAS PURPLE STAR SCHOOLS

- **Derby** USD 260
- **Emporia** USD 253
- **Fort Leavenworth** USD 207
- **Geary County** USD 475
- **Leavenworth** USD 453
- **Mulvane** USD 263
- **Piper** USD 203
- **Rose Hill** USD 394
- **Spring Hill** USD 230
- **Maize** USD 266
- **St. Francis Xavier** Junction City

Map locations: Fort Leavenworth, Leavenworth, Geary County, Piper, Spring Hill, Emporia, Maize, Derby, Rose Hill, Mulvane, St. Francis Xavier.

