
NEW YORK STATE INTERSTATE COMPACT – MILITARY CHILDREN

June 30, 2026

To: MIC-3 Leadership

From: Dr. Debra Jackson, NYS Commissioner

Re: Summary Report on the New York State Interstate Council for Military Children as required by MIC-3 policy

Policy: By June 30 of each year, member States shall submit the following information regarding their State Council to the national office:

- a. contact information
- b. roster of active members and voting members*
- c. meeting schedule

Notable Activities

- d. cases and inquiries
- e. training and education
- f. distribution of compact related material
- g. statewide briefs, communications, and presentations
- h. compact related actions taken by the commissioner and state council

Contact Information

- a. The primary contact for the New York State Council is Dr. Debra Jackson, Compact Commissioner djackson2@me.com
- b. The secondary contact is Mr. Troy Decker, Superintendent Indian River School District, 32735B County Route 29, Philadelphia, NY 13673 troydecker@ircsd.org
- c. The NYS Interstate Council has an active roster of members as named below*. Representation includes: the New York State Education Department, New York State Higher Education Institutions, School District Leaders, Office of Veterans Affairs, New York State Public High School Athletic Association, New York State School Music Association, New York State Parent-Teacher Association, Military Installations, School Liaison Officers, the State Legislature, and the Governor's Office.

Meeting Schedule:

- a. The New York State Council met for the school year 2025/2026 on **September 17, 2025**, and on **March 23, 2026**. The September meeting was held at the New York State Museum, Cultural Education Center, 222 Madison Avenue, Albany, NY. The March Meeting was held at the NYS Education Building, 89 Washington Ave, Albany, NY 12234. Meetings are open to the public in compliance with open meeting law. Agendas and Minutes are posted on the MIC-3 website <https://mic3.net>.
- b. A calendar for the 2026-2027 New York State Interstate Compact Meetings has been established.

Notable Activities:

- a. April as the Month of the Military Child was highlighted on the NYSED website. School district personnel received access to information and resources thanks to the work of the NYSED. Participating districts highlighted local *Month of the Military Child* and *Purple Up! Day* celebrations by including stories and *Purple Up!* celebrations on their websites. A thank you is in order to Dr. Betty A. Rosa, Commissioner of Education who supported this effort in our state. Her support, on behalf of military children, is exceptional.
- b. The NYS Veterans' Division has offered events for families throughout the state. These opportunities are shared through the NYS MIC-3 website and their partners. Governor Hochul was instrumental in supporting Military Child Events.
- c. The NYS Compact website remains a working document. New updates were posted in the content and the Q/A section.

- d. Dr. Debra Jackson, in her role as NYS Compact Commissioner, serves on the MIC-3 Finance committee, the MIC-3 Leadership committee as vice chair, and as facilitator of the MIC-3 Tier 2 meetings.
- e. The Governor's appointment office has candidates under consideration "a representative appointed by the governor". The council is awaiting finalization of this appointment. This position has been open since 2019.
- f. Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins' office has an open position since 2024, The appointment is forthcoming.
- g. The West Point Garrison Commander is designated as the DoD Mil Rep for New York. This is a "by position" appointment and as such it will continue to be filled by the current Garrison Commander. COL Daniel Stuewe is a new member who has been active in our Council this year.
- h. Student placement/graduation requirements/enrollment matters continue to be resolved on a case-by-case examination. Resolutions are reviewed at the meetings as an after-action conversation. Between meetings, emails and phone conversations assist with student transitions as families enter and exit New York State public schools. Many inquiries by guidance counselors have been addressed and resolved, helping our transferring military students. Some cases are outside these typical supports. **This year**
 - 1) Students at West Point Middle school (6-8 DoDEA school) are now able to participate in the athletic programs in Section 9.
 - 2) Inquiry for assistance from a NYS School District to NYSED for assistance as a non-resident military parent requested a transfer to their district from an area school district. It was recommended that the parent work with their SLO regarding any requests, however since the family was not in transition but simply wished to change schools they did not qualify to transfer to the non resident school. Issue was resolved by NYSED with consultation to the Council on Compact regulations.
 - 3) A military family requested a waiver for their child to attend the Discovery Program in NYCDOE. Parent stated it is unfair that her child cannot attend because in her view military students are disadvantaged and should qualify. The Fort Hamilton CYS Director on behalf of the parent wrote: "The solution may be requesting (Military) being added to the definition of disadvantaged overall for all NYC department of education programs." This was discussed and the unanimous opinion was that this is not an action the Council would support. The Compact covers access to educationally opportunity when students transfer into a school. Voting members voted at the March meeting and were unanimous that we did not support the request regarding the Discovery Program as applicable which has a clear intent to support students

who are disadvantaged in their education due to being underprivileged. Discovery Program is for disadvantaged students, who must live and attend school in a high poverty area.

- 4) Inquiries on whether Homeschool Students can participate in school district JROTC Programs. The law states, Homeschool Students can participate in a school's JROTC Programs.
- 5) Inquiries have been received on Special Education; While the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children allows states to collaborate, problem solve, and provide consistency for students in transition due to military status, certain education related areas, such as Special Education, are guided by federal law that mandates requirements to meet the needs of students with disabilities. Reference question 22 of the [Interstate Compact FAQ](#) which confirms that New York State schools are required to comply with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and Part 200 of Regulations of the Commissioner of Education. Additional questions related to IDEA and Part 200 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education may be directed to our [Office of Special Education](#) by emailing speced@nysed.gov.
- 6) Inquiries continue regarding students who reside at West Point who may not be eligible to enroll in the DoDEA schools. When they seek attendance in a local NYS public school they are informed they are required to pay tuition. DoDEA administration and the NYS congressional representatives continue to address alternatives for these students.

Of continuing note, the New York State Council has again clarified options regarding end-of-course completion when a student exits prior to the Regents exam yet the student completes the course work. Districts are working with the Council in a timely manner as it affects military students who transfer in late May or early June and need course credit in their receiving high school.

- i. Also of note the Council members amended the current template for transfers to NYS who need end of course certification. The template now reflects alternative measures of proficiency/mastery.
- j. The Council members are continuing to monitor any upcoming shifts that may occur with the NYS Inspires Commencement Measures. We believe this initiative will help military transfer students as there are exemptions from Regents based on "Major Life Experiences" which can be a tool to help transferring students meet course requirements. The New York State Portrait of a Graduate was approved by the Board of Regents in July. The Portrait is available on the [Grad Measures](#) webpage.

- k. The NYS Council has new members who have replaced retiring or transitional former members. This shift has been successful with efforts to support the new members adapt to their roles. Stephen Todd, Wendy O’Sullivan, Melissa Montague, were honored for their dedicated service.
- l. The Executive Director of the NYS PTA is working closely with the Council to create an additional avenue for military parents to be supported within NYS and as they transfer.
- m. Dues to the national organization have been paid in full and payments have been timely. The NYSED offices are thanked for this support.
- n. Voting members appointed to the council are updated in JCOPE as New York State policymakers. These members are required to complete yearly financial reporting requirements. The previously mandatory ethics training was reviewed for the NYS council members and JCOPE is no longer requiring yearly ethics training for these voting members.

Future scheduled meeting dates+

September 16, 2026
 April 7, 2027

Roster of Members* (* indicates policy voting appointment)

CHIEF STATE SCHOOL OFFICER

Dr. Betty Rosa, Commissioner of Education, New York State Education Department

MILITARY FAMILY EDUCATION LIAISON

Carin Mogavero, School Liaison Officer, West Point, United States Army
 Robin Banks, School Liaison Officer, Fort Drum, United States Army

MILITARY/DOD REPRESENTATIVE

COL Daniel Stuewe, Commander, US Army Garrison, West Point, United States Army

NEW YORK STATE COMMISSIONER

Dr. Debra Jackson*, Interstate Compact Commissioner

STATE COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Robin Banks, School Liaison Officer, Fort Drum, United States Army

Lisa Beatha*, University Director of Veteran Affairs, City University of New York

Kyle Belokopitsky, Executive Director at NYS Congress of Parents and Teachers (PTA)

Sonia Draught*, Director, Plans, Analysis, and Integration Fort Drum, United States Army

Troy Decker*, Superintendent of Schools, Indian River CSD, NY

Christopher DiFulvio,* District Superintendent, Jefferson-Lewis-Hamilton-Herkimer-Oneida Board of Cooperative Educational Services, Philadelphia, NY

Heather Evangelista*, Parent, West Point, NY

Joel Evans*, Director Division of Veterans Services, Albany, NY

Kevin Getnick*, Designated Representative of the Adjutant General

Betsy Gilland, West Point Parent Advocate, United States Army

Kristen Suatoni Jadin, Assistant Director, New York State Public High School Athletic Association

Michael McElduff, Superintendent Highland Falls - Fort Montgomery CSD, Highland Falls, NY

Carin Mogavero, School Liaison Officer, West Point, United States Army

Todd Nelson, Assistant Director New York State Public High School Athletic Association

Brittany Phillips*, New York State Education Department, Associate in Instructional Services, Albany, NY

Diana Pasterchick, Coordinator of Veterans and Military Affairs, State University of New York Albany

Major General Raymond F. Shields, Jr., Adjutant General of New York

Morgan Woodson, Special Assistant for Outreach Activities for NYS Veterans' Services, Buffalo NY

Dr. Robert Zayas, Director, New York State Public High School Athletic Association