



## MEDIA RELEASE

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### MIC3 CELEBRATES MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD IN APRIL

LEXINGTON, KY - The Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission (MIC3) will **"Purple Up! For Military Kids"** on April 22, 2026. The Department of Defense reported that there are over 1.1 million military-connected children, a majority of whom are of school age. These children often attend more than six to eight schools, experiencing more than five moves, throughout their education journey.

Former U.S. Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger first designated April as the "Month of the Military Child" in 1986, acknowledging the significant role military-connected students have in our communities. In 2011, the University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension Military Youth and Family Program started the **"Purple Up! for Military Kids"** as a way for communities to support military children for their strength and sacrifice.

On a designated day during the Month of the Military Child, communities throughout each state join together and wear purple to honor military children. Purple is a combination of Army green, Marine Corps red, Coast Guard, Air Force, Space Force, and Navy blue; it is the appropriate color to represent military children from all branches.

"This month is an opportunity to celebrate the sacrifice that these military-connected students make to support their loved ones," said Daron Korte, MIC3 Chair and Minnesota Commissioner, "Our job as members of the Commission is to help ease educational transitions as military families move between states and into DoDEA schools overseas." He added, "We continue to be inspired by students who embrace their role as a member of a military family through the highs and the lows."

The *Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children* eases educational transitions of military children as they transfer between states in the areas of enrollment; placement and attendance; eligibility; and graduation. The Compact was developed by The Council of State Governments National Center for Interstate Compacts, the U.S. Department of Defense, national associations, federal and state officials, state departments of education, school administrators, and military families.

For more information, visit [www.mic3.net/motmc](http://www.mic3.net/motmc).

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#### ***About the Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission (MIC3)***

*Founded in 2008, the Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission (MIC3) is the governing body of the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children or ICEOMC. Commission members include the 50 states, District of Columbia, and seven ex-officio representatives – which include the US Department of Defense (USDOD). In addition to the USDOD, the Compact supports uniformed members of the federal Departments of Commerce, Homeland and Health and Human Services. The collaborative's mission: ease the educational transitions of school-aged, military and uniform-connected students attending public schools, to include Department of Defense Education Activity schools worldwide, and also promulgate and enforce Compact Rules.*

[www.mic3.net](http://www.mic3.net) | 859-244-8000 | 1776 Avenue of the States, Lexington, KY 40511