

Ex-officio Meeting Notes
Thursday, March 5, 2026
11:00 AM – 12:00 PM ET

PRESENT	Mary Gable	Maryland Commissioner	Commission Vice Chair
	Brooke Blaalid	Military Child Education Coalition	Ex-officio Rep.
	Kyle Fairbairn	Military Impacted Schools Association	Ex-officio Rep.
	Dianna Ganote	Department of War	Ex-officio Rep.
	Eileen Huck	National Military Family Association	Ex-officio Rep.
	José Muñoz	Education Commission of the States	Ex-officio Rep.
	Davis Whitfield	National Federation of State High School Associations	Ex-officio Rep.
STAFF	Lindsey Dablow	Interim Executive Director	
	Trevin Stevens	Communications Associate	
	Allie Thomas	Operations Coordinator	
GUEST	Kaitlynn Yancy	Blue Star Families	

ITEM 1 – CALL TO ORDER

1. Vice Chair Mary Gable (MD) called the meeting to order at 11:04 AM ET.

ITEM 2 – ROLL CALL

2. Interim Executive Director Lindsey Dablow conducted the roll call. Ms. Brooke Blaalid was introduced as the Representative for the Military Child Education Coalition (MCEC), and Mr. José Muñoz was introduced as the Representative for the Education Commission of the States (ECS). Ms. Kaitlynn Yancy was welcomed as a guest representing Blue Star Families (BSF) on behalf of Representative Tom Porter.

ITEM 3 – AGENDA

3. The meeting agenda was accepted without amendments.

ITEM 4 – REPORTS

4. **Executive Committee (EXCOM)** – Vice Chair Gable reported that the EXCOM continues to meet monthly to discuss items, including the 2026-2028 Strategic Plan, the 2025 Annual Report, a memo from general counsel in response to proposed legislation from the American Legislative Exchange Council, upcoming webinars, and the release of the monthly newsletter and Commission Chair message.
5. **National Office** – Ms. Dablow provided an overview of the National Office activities, the facilitation of multiple high-impact training sessions, and attendance at the Council of State Governments quarterly affiliates meeting. She noted that the 2025 Annual Report was released to the Commission and encouraged the representatives to submit their Code of Conduct and Conflict of Interest forms by the June 30, 2026, deadline.

ITEM 5 – BUSINESS

6. **Strategic Plan Guidance for Ex-officios** – Vice Chair Gable reviewed the goals outlined in the 2026-2028 Strategic Plan, along with the feedback from the 2025 Annual Business Meeting, pertaining to the ex-officio organizations. The Representatives were asked if any initiatives or opportunities for engagement could benefit the Commission and their organizations. Department of War (DoW) Representative Dianna Ganote shared information on a Military OneSource initiative where military families could contribute blog posts and

noted that she would facilitate interactions between the National Office and the program coordinator. Mr. Muñoz announced that ECS was working with the states on developing listening stations, which would include student voices and a playbook, and welcomed the Representatives to attend the ECS National Forum on Education Policy.

7. The Representatives discussed the development of a Memorandum of Understanding to formalize the relationship between the organizations and the Commission. To ensure the Representatives had ample time to consider the strategies outlined in the 20206-2028 Strategic Plan, questions related to ex-officio engagement were prepared and sent to the Representatives to gather their feedback.

8. **Ex-officio Organization Updates: Department of War** – Ms. Ganote reported that the DoW was working on providing resources to support parents and children facing deployment, focusing on provisions of the Compact and resources that local education agencies could access from School Liaisons. She noted that the joint service summit for School Liaisons was postponed until further notice. The DoW had two National Defense Authorization Act priorities that they were focusing on for 2026, including Impact Aid verification and Compact-related items related to relocation.

9. **Education Commission of the States (ECS)** – Mr. Munoz announced that the ECS National Forum on Education Policy would be held on July 8-10, 2026, in Washington, D.C. Registration and more information would be released by the end of March.

10. **Military Child Education Coalition (MCEC)** – Representative Brooke Blaaid announced that MCEC was working toward releasing its upcoming policy priorities and that the Global Training Summit would be held on June 24, 2026, in San Antonio, Texas.

11. **Military Impacted Schools Association (MISA)** – Representative Kyle Fairbairn reported that the organization was engaging with Congress to advocate for Impact Aid funding. He noted the addition of an education program to train MISA school districts, with two in-person sessions that would be held in Denver and Nashville. MISA would also hold a breakfast meeting at the National Association of Federally Impacted Schools Spring Conference, which would be attended by several commissioners, along with Commission Chair Daron Korte and Ms. Dablow.

12. **National Military Family Association (NMFA)** – Representative Eileen Huck reported that the organization was working on advocacy for the upcoming NDAA priorities, along with resources to assist families of Coast Guard and US Public Health Service members affected by the government shutdown. She noted that the application for Operation Purple Camp was closing soon, which would allow 1,200 military children to attend summer camps at eight different locations.

ITEM 6 – ANNOUNCEMENTS

13. **Items for the EXCOM** – No feedback or comments were provided for the EXCOM.

14. **Compact 101 Training** – Vice Chair Gable shared the upcoming 2025 Compact 101 Training sessions. She encouraged the ex-officio members to share the training schedule with their stakeholders and other interested organizations or parties.

ITEM 7 – ADJOURNMENT

15. Vice Chair Gable adjourned the meeting at 12:01 PM ET.