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## Seeking Stability and Educational Opportunity: How Military Students Navigate PCS Transitions

PCSing should not determine a student's ability to access and pursue educational opportunities.

Having attended 13 different schools throughout my life, I have experienced firsthand the limitations that PCSing brings to a student's education. I was often placed in classes I never wanted or enjoyed, taking theater for three years in a row simply because there were no other options. I also struggled to join clubs, programs, and other opportunities because I always arrived after the deadline had passed. Additionally, differences in the curriculum between each school caused gaps in my education, causing me to miss important lessons and making every transition more difficult. This caused me to eventually stop trying altogether, knowing that even if I became involved or tried to pursue interests, another move would force me to give it up.

For many children, school is where we spend the majority of our lives until adulthood. It is where we develop academically, socially, and personally, and where our interests and goals begin to take shape. Because of this, the school environment plays a significant role in shaping a student's decisions, passions, and habits. However, PCSing repeatedly disrupts this environment. Changing duty stations, and therefore schools, creates challenges that don't only include adjusting to the environment but also continuing education.

Each state has its own requirements, each district has its own curriculum, and each school offers varying courses and extracurriculars. As a result, many military kids have to repeatedly adjust or restart our educational pathways each time we PCS. These changes can drastically change a student's ability to pursue both academic and extracurricular interests. Constantly having to make up tests, repeat or skip courses, and even giving up passions due to limited availability.

The effects of previous schools can continue to impact us as we transition into new ones. Schools without extracurriculars or that do not allow mid-year participation may discourage students from joining similar activities in the future. Limited course availability will restrict academic exploration going forward. Differences in course requirements can limit our ability to grow with our peers.

As someone who was unable to take requested classes, as someone who was unable to join extracurriculars, and as someone who was unable to consistently participate in educational opportunities due to PCSing, I believe military children should have the ability to grow within their school environment, no matter the state, district, or school they attend.

Throughout my education, I often felt that my academic interests and goals were always overlooked and never met. Looking back, I wish more educators had encouraged me to pursue opportunities despite the uncertainty of another PCS. Having support can make the difference between a student pursuing a passion and abandoning it. Therefore, educators can recognize that even small actions, such as flexibility with enrollment, encouragement to participate, and awareness of PCS difficulties, can have a meaningful impact on whether a

PCS becomes an opportunity to grow or becomes another barrier in our educational pathway.

Overall, students wish educators and the public understood that PCSing is not just a change in location, but a disruption to educational continuity. However, despite this, educators can ensure military students like me maintain a source of stability in our education.

**-Kloe C  
Bloom, A Program of NMFA**



## Commission Welcomes



**William Niemeyer**  
**MIC3 Rhode Island Commissioner**

William Niemeyer serves as the Rhode Island Commissioner for the Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission and is the Superintendent of Schools in Middletown, Rhode Island. In his role, he represents a number of districts that serve families connected to Naval Station Newport, advocating for policies and practices that support the unique needs of military-connected students.

Known throughout the community as "Billy," Mr. Niemeyer is recognized for his collaborative leadership style, strong academic focus, and commitment to student-centered decision-making. His selection as superintendent reflected the district's desire for a leader who values teamwork, understands the needs of



**Michael Essien**  
**MIC3 Oregon Commissioner**

Michael Essien is an educational leader with more than three decades of experience expanding opportunity and transforming public education. His commitment to ensuring every child has access to the resources and support needed to thrive is rooted in his upbringing in Los Angeles, where community leaders—including his mother, Tennie Avington—organized to bring hospitals, youth programs, and neighborhood solutions that embody what we now call integrated supports and restorative practices. These early experiences shaped his belief in "paying it forward" and guided his career in education.

Michael began his career as a mathematics and special education teacher in Oakland, where he also

Middletown's diverse and military-connected community, and can guide the district toward continued academic growth and innovation.

[Read More](#)

taught in UC Berkeley's Mathematics, Engineering, and Science Achievement (MESA) program to expand college access for African American and Latino students.

[Read More](#)

## Commission Farewells

Over the last few months, the Commission has said farewell to three Commissioners whose outstanding leadership has left a lasting impact.

We extend our sincere gratitude for their steadfast work to support *Successful Educational Transitions* and wish them all the best in their future endeavors.



**John Price**  
Illinois



**Tenneal Wetherell**  
Oregon



**Laura Cyr**  
Maine

## America at 250: Celebrating the States

MIC3 is an affiliate of the Council of State Governments (CSG). In celebration of America's 250th Birthday, CSG is celebrating the states and state leaders who continue to shape the future of the nation. Below you will find a link to a video from CSG Executive Director David Adkins and CSG's State Spotlights for America 250.



## *Did you know?*

**Is your family welcoming a service member home from deployment and concerned about school attendance requirements for your child during visitation?**

***Compact Rule, SEC. 5.105 Absence as Related to Deployment Activities***

(a) A student whose parent or legal guardian is an active-duty member of the uniformed services, as defined by the Compact, and has been called to duty for, is on leave from, or immediately returned from deployment to a combat zone or combat support posting, shall be granted additional excused absences at the discretion of an LEA superintendent or head of school to visit with his or her parent or legal guardian relative to such leave or deployment of the parent or guardian. Notwithstanding the above, an LEA superintendent or head of school may provide a maximum number of additional excused absences.

[Rules Book](#)

## June Training Roundup

Over the last few weeks, the Commission has provided Compact-related information at multiple events.

**June 2: Compact 101 HQ Training (Virtual)**

MIC3 Trainer Susan Haberstroh provided the monthly Compact 101 Training to school liaisons and school personnel.

**June 4: Montgomery County, Alabama**

MIC3 Executive Director Lindsey Dablow and Maxwell Air Force Base School Liaison Katheryn Ganster provided a Compact 101 Training for educators and school administrators in Montgomery County and Pike Road Schools.

**June 11: Military Connected School Administrators Summit (MCSAS) in Denver, Colorado**

MIC3 Executive Director Lindsey Dablow provided a Compact 201 Training as part of MCSAS.

**June 17: Lumpkin County, Georgia**

MIC3 Trainer Susan Haberstroh and Fort Benning School Liaison Sarah West provided a Compact 101 Training for central office staff and administrators in Lumpkin County School System (LCSS). This training was supported by LCSS Assistant Superintendent Kerri Whitmire.

**June 18: Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri**

MIC3 Executive Director Lindsey Dablow and Fort Leonard Wood School Liaison Christy Wachtler provided a Compact 101 Training on behalf of the Student Transition Response Team at Fort Leonard Wood.

**June 24: MCEC Global Training Summit in San Antonio, Texas**

MIC3 Trainer Susan Haberstroh provided a Compact 201 Training at MCEC's Global Training Summit in San Antonio, Texas.



## Ex-Officio Corner

### MCEC

#### *MCEC Upcoming Webinars:*

##### ***July 21st: Supporting Emotional Well-Being in Young Military Children***

Military life can bring big changes for young children, from new routines and frequent moves to time apart from a parent. Attendees will learn how emotional well-being can show up in young children, what their behavior may be communicating, and practical ways to support your child through everyday ups and downs.

##### ***July 22nd: Building Community and Belonging for Military Children***

This webinar explores research-based strategies to help military-connected children build meaningful social connections and a genuine sense of belonging, with practical guidance organized by developmental stage (elementary, middle school, and high school) so parents and caregivers can support their child in ways that match where that child is right now.

##### ***July 28th: Helping Your Child Build Friendships After a Move***

This webinar brings together current research on friendship development, social adjustment, and military family transitions to give families practical, age-appropriate strategies they can use before, during, and after a move to help their child build lasting connections.

### DoW

#### *OneOp Upcoming Webinars:*

##### ***July 9th: Launching Teens for Life After High School***

This session will equip military families and professionals with practical tools and strategies to support youth with disabilities as they prepare for post-school life.

##### ***July 21st: Partnering for Impact Through Food is Medicine***

This webinar will explore a successful partnership between Ho'ola Farms, a nonprofit working to strengthen the local Hawaiian food system, and Kaiser Permanente. Attendees will learn how this collaboration strengthens the community and works to address social determinants of health, improve patient outcomes and reduce healthcare costs.

##### ***July 23th: Navigating Grief: Strategies for Service Providers After Client Loss***

Designed for service providers working with military-connected populations, this session explores how clinicians, chaplains, advocates, and case managers can navigate grief in ways that honor their humanity and uphold their professional integrity. The session will examine post-crisis growth, peer support, supervision, and organizational resources that foster resilience and recovery.

***July 29th: Supporting School Attendance for Military-Connected Students***

Military families handle everything — but chronic absenteeism? Let's tackle that too. Real tools, no jargon. Your kid can thrive. (We know.)

To register for upcoming webinars, [click here!](#)

***July 28th: Transitions, Connections, and Young Adult Well-Being***

This session explores how professionals and families can support mental health during the transition, particularly when a military move prompts the decision to relocate with family or stay behind to pursue career or educational goals. Participants will learn strategies for building resilience, staying connected from a distance, and helping young adults create supportive peer and mentor networks in new or existing communities.

***August 5th: Partnerships that Strengthen Military Families***

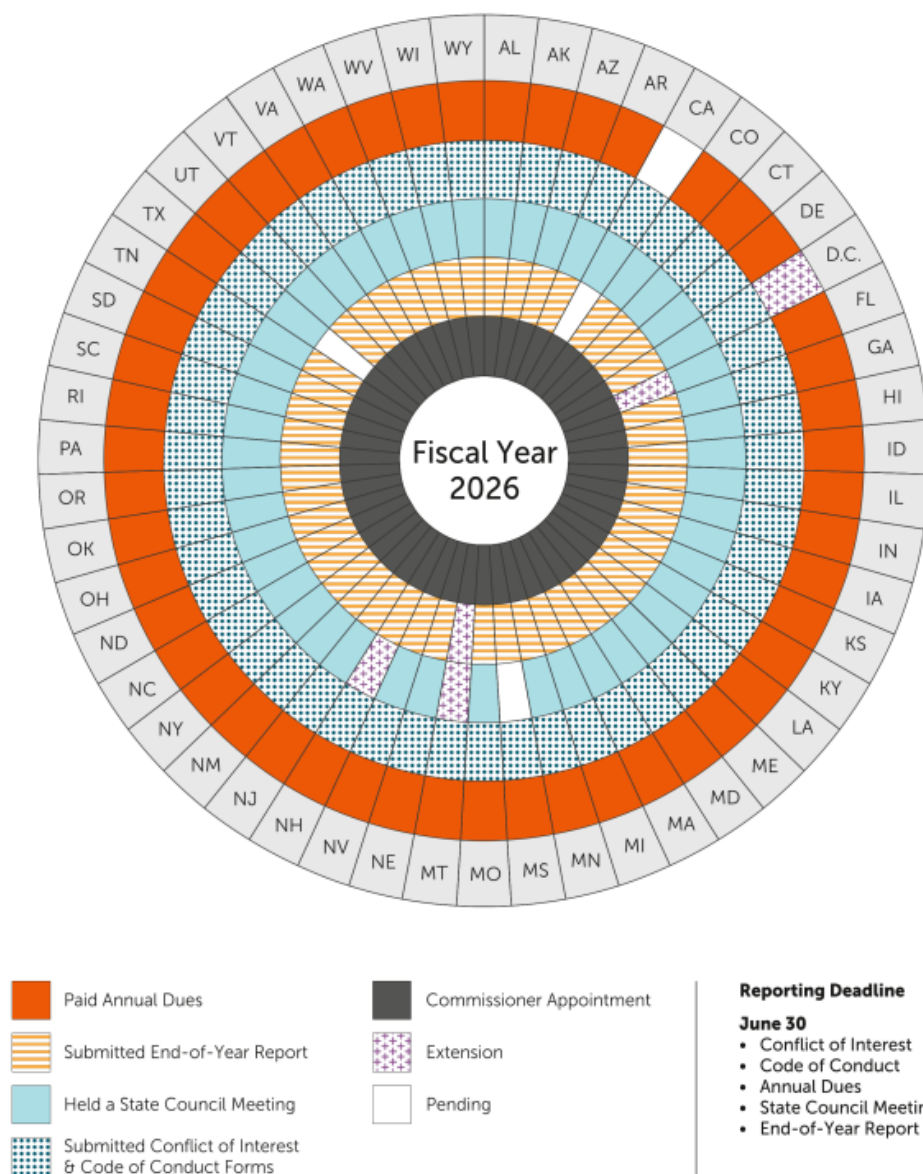
This webinar explores community capacity from both theoretical and empirical perspectives, examining how individual concern and collective behavior drive meaningful progress and lasting improvement.

For more information and to register for upcoming webinars, [click here!](#)

## State Compliance and Coordination

# STATE COMPLIANCE AND COORDINATION

Current as of July 8, 2026



## Upcoming Events

### Committee Meetings

Compliance — July 14  
EXCOM — July 16  
LNC — July 20  
Rules — July 21  
Finance — July 22

### Compact 101 Training

August 9 at 9:00 AM ET

### Annual Business Meeting — October 14-15 in Indianapolis, IN

Registration is now open, click [here](#) to register!



Visit our Website



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