



MILITARY INTERSTATE
CHILDREN'S COMPACT
COMMISSION

Military Representative

GUIDE

Second Edition • October 2024

State Council of the Military Interstate Children's Compact

Questions regarding the Commission or this guide may be directed to the national office at
E: mic3info@csg.org | P: 859.244.8000

or

the Department of Defense Representative to the
Commission Dianna Ganote, Office of Children and
Youth Military Community and Family Policy
Department of Defense

E: dianna.m.ganote.civ@mail.mil

Table of Contents

Introduction	4
Military Interstate Children’s Compact Commission (MIC3)	5
State Coordination	6
Department of Defense Role	7
DoD Military Representative to the State Council	7
Military Representative Roles and Responsibilities	9
School Liaison Roles and Responsibilities	11
MIC3 Executive Committee	11
Five Things Commanders Need to Know about MIC3	12
MIC3 Resolution Process	14
References	15

Introduction to the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children

An interstate compact is a legal agreement between two or more states. The Military Interstate Children’s Compact provides uniform treatment of military children transferring between school districts and states.

It was developed by The Council of State Governments’ National Center for Interstate Compacts, the Department of Defense, national associations, federal and state officials, school administrators, and military families.

Since 2014, all 50 states and the District of Columbia have passed legislation supporting the Compact. The schools operated by the Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA), to the extent permissible by law, are also committed to ensure that school policies and procedures mirror those in the Compact’s guidelines and related rules.

The goal of the Compact is to establish a framework for States to develop policies and laws that mitigate issues for transitioning military students. These key educational transition issues include enrollment, placement, attendance, eligibility, and graduation.

Each state based their statute on the model compact language; however, the member state may have added other clauses or information to tailor it to their needs (e.g. appointment of Commissioners or state council composition). It is important to review the individual state statute to understand how the compact is administered and understand any differences in the language. The state statutes can be found at www.mic3.net/state-statutes.html.

The MIC3 website includes state profiles with detailed information. It can be found here: www.mic3.net/state-profiles.html. The Interstate Compact for the Education of Military Children is sometimes referred to as the “Compact.” It is not exhaustive in its coverage. It does provide guidance for schools on topics related to the categories listed in the graphic below.



VISIT US AT
mic3.net



VIEW OUR INTERACTIVE MAP AT
mic3.net/interactive-map

Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission (MIC3)

The Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission is the national governing body responsible for enacting rules to implement and oversee the Compact. The commission is comprised of appointed Commissioners from each member state who serve as representatives on behalf of their state. It is funded through an annual dues assessment of member states.

The Commission meets at least annually. The MIC3 national office is led by an Executive Director and staff members who provide guidance, support, and assistance with compliance.

ELIGIBILITY

Children of active duty members of the uniformed services, National Guard and Reserve on Title X orders, commissioned officers of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and the United States Public Health Service (USPHS) are eligible for assistance under the Compact when tied to a permanent change of station (PCS) between states. While not part of the compact, states have the option to include other members in their legislation, such as regular guard and reserve members or DoD civilians.

Additionally, members or veterans who retire or are medically discharged are eligible for assistance for the first year following their discharge date, as well as the families of service members who perish while on active duty.

APPLICABILITY

The Compact applies to public schools, not private, homeschool, parochial or international schools. It is for transitions across states (interstate) due to military orders.

To the extent permissible by law, DoDEA adjusts policies to implement the provisions of the Compact. The DoDEA Director addresses disputes between member states and DoDEA.

All member states are required to extend the provisions of the Compact to children entering from a school operated by DoDEA, in accordance with the DoDI 1342.29 and DoD Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

GOVERNANCE

The Compact provides for a governance structure at both the state and national levels for enforcement and compliance.

STATE COMPACT COMMISSIONER

Each member state appoints a Compact Commissioner to MIC3. The Compact Commissioner is the voting representative to the Commission and is responsible for their state's MIC3 member state council, appointed pursuant to Article VIII of the Compact.

Compact commissioners are responsible for overall Compact implementation within each state and oversight of the state council. The appointment authority and process is based on the requirements of their state legislation; however, in most states, the appointing authority is within the Executive Branch of the state government. Some state appointment authorities are the state board of education, department of public instruction or education. Appointment terms may vary.





State Coordination

Each member state shall, through the creation of a state council, provide coordination among its agencies of government, local education agencies and military installations related to the state's participation in, and compliance with, the Compact.

STATE COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

While each member state may determine the membership of its state council, at a minimum, its membership must include:

- State superintendent of education or designee (per state statute)
- Superintendent of a school district with a high concentration of military children
- One DoD Military Representative of the Military Department is assigned to support the state in accordance with DoDI 1342.29.
- One DoD Military Representative, of the Military Department assigned to support the state, in accordance with DoDI 1342.29. The individual is a military member or civilian employee of the DoD who interfaces directly with the state education system. Note: Departments of the Air Force and Navy require the representative to be a service member O-6 or above.
- One representative each from the legislative and executive branches of government. Other offices and stakeholder groups may also be included, such as legal representatives, athletics associations, or state board of education officials.

STATE COUNCIL MEETINGS

State Commissioners or their designees will hold meetings at least once per calendar year. The meetings may be conducted face-to-face or virtually. All MIC3 State Council meetings are public (per respective state law). Public meeting notification protocols should be adhered to and sent to state council members, invited guests (military or civilian), military installation representatives, and/or potential subject matter participants.

The purpose of state council meetings is to report on Compact or military-connected student education-related cases within the state, to provide updates on programs or initiatives of the state council, military-related legislation, and to discuss action items in the coming year. State council members are invited to report out on relevant Compact issues or trends.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE EDUCATION ACTIVITY COMMITTEE

DoDEA is required to establish a committee similar to the state council to review compliance with the provisions of the Compact and to address issues raised concerning the implementation of such provisions.



Department of Defense

Department of Defense Instruction (DoDI) 1342.29 “Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children,” (January 31, 2017) establishes policy, assigns responsibilities and provides procedure to implement the Compact within the DoD.

THE DOD SUPPORTS THE COMPACT BY:

- Designating an ex-officio member to the Military Interstate Children’s Compact Commission Designating a military representative and a School Liaison Subject Matter Expert (SME) to state councils of member states
- Ensuring DoDEA schools comply with the provisions of the Compact, as allowable by law, including establishing a committee similar to state councils and designating a military representative.

DOD EX-OFFICIO MEMBER

To ensure DoD remains in concert with Compact member states in making the Compact an effective vehicle for all military children, the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense Military Children and Family Policy (MC&FP) will designate a representative to act as an ex-officio member.

The DoD ex-officio member to the Commission is a civilian employee of the DoD who has a direct interface with the U.S. public education system and DoDEA as part of their official duties. The DoD ex-officio member attends meetings of MIC3, its Executive Committee, and other standing committees as requested by the Commission.

DOD MILITARY REPRESENTATIVE TO STATE COUNCIL

Representatives are military service members or civilian DoD employees who interface directly with the state education system. Note: The Departments of the Air Force and Navy require the representative to be a service member O-6 or above. DoDI 1342.29 outlines the areas of authority for nominating a military representative to serve on the state council. Term of appointment for military representative is at least two years.

SCHOOL LIAISONS

School Liaisons are experienced professionals who support, advise and build partnerships with the civilian and military community to help address common education challenges of military families and ensure the best possible education experience for military-connected students.

School Liaisons are DoD civilian employees and are subject matter experts on local K-12 education. They advocate for educational needs of military-connected students in a variety of educational settings and serve as the primary POC for the Compact within their local communities. The School Liaison assigned to the appointed DoD military representative's installation is considered the lead SME for the entire state.

School Liaisons are available on every active duty installation and support geographically separated service members in their region. To view DoD's School Liaisons page, visit <https://mic3.net/school-liaisons>.

MILITARY SERVICE HEADQUARTERS SCHOOL LIAISON PROGRAM MANAGER

Military Service Headquarters School Liaison Program Managers execute and advise on DoD and Service military-connected student education policy and provide operational oversight of the School Liaison program. Program managers also coordinate with state, federal, DoDEA, host nation education officials, command leadership, parents, and other community stakeholders on preK-12 matters supporting service members and their families. Service School Liaison program managers support installation School Liaisons with policy implementation, interpretation, training, resourcing, and resolving or elevating educational issues. Headquarters School Liaison program managers collaborate across Services in the policy execution and advocate for the unique needs of military-connected students.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE EDUCATION ACTIVITY (DODEA)

Through DoDI 1342.29 and the DoD MOU, DoDEA is required to comply with the Compact provisions and school-level officials must inform student/parents of the benefits extended by receiving states under the Compact.



DoDI 1342.29



DoD MOU



Military Representative Roles and Responsibilities

ROLES

The Military Representative is vital to the Council’s understanding of educational transition issues facing children of service members. As the face of the Armed Forces across the state, the Council relies on the Military Representative for guidance and advice on matters involving military family relations and support.

Military Representatives and their School Liaisons will benefit from attending national, state, and local events that aim to draw attention and support for military families, with priority given to those focusing on education and educational policy.

Military representatives acting as an advisor shall:

Only represent DoD interests (not the interests of the state council) and, consequently, may not:

- Engage in management or control of the state council (therefore, may not vote or make decisions on daily administration of the council);
- Endorse or allow the appearance of DoD endorsement of the state council or its events, products, services, or enterprises;
- Represent the state council to third parties; or
- Represent the state council to the U.S. Government, as prohibited by federal criminal statutes.

Make clear to the state council that:

- The opinions expressed by the representative do not bind the DoD or any DoD components to any action.
- If included on state council websites, all references to the representative by name or title must indicate that they are the “DoD Military Representative” as opposed to a council member.
- Notify the chain of command of issues or concerns that require policy decisions or actions requested of the military community within the state and elevate the same information to the Service Headquarters School Liaison Program Manager.

When called upon to act as the spokesperson for more than one installation in the state:

- Obtain feedback from the designated points of contact at each military installation.
- Coordinate proposed input with the state council regarding the appropriate points of contact for each military installation.
- Act as a conduit for information between the state council and each military installation.
- Ensure designated School Liaison elevates emerging issues of concerns
- Provide direct feedback to the chain of command, other installations in the state, and Service Headquarters School Liaison Program Manager



MILITARY
REPRESENTATIVES



As a reminder, DoD Joint Ethics Standards of Conduct Regulations apply to the role of the State Military Representative to include:

- Represents DoD Interests (not the interests of the Council).
- Makes clear that opinions expressed do not bind DoD or a DoD component.
- Does not engage in management control, or endorsement of the state council, including voting or making decisions on the administration of the Council.
- If a name or title is included on the state council website, all references shall indicate that it is the role of the military representative rather than a council member.

RESPONSIBILITIES

The primary responsibility of the DoD Military Representative is to:

- Maintain direct and routine communication with their School Liaison to keep abreast of the successes and challenges facing military-connected students in their state.
- Connect with the regional Defense-State Liaison for their region to advocate for military families and support initiatives.
- Advocate at all levels to support military-connected students to ensure equal representation within the state.
- Maintain connections with the state commissioner on state initiatives involving military-connected students

It is imperative to maintain effective relationships with K-12 stakeholders to build and sustain educational awareness, strengthen community partnerships, and ensure military-connected students are provided quality education that maintains the readiness of our military forces.

School Liaison State SME Roles and Responsibilities

The primary roles and responsibilities of the School Liaison are:

- Serve as the SME for the installation and the DoD Military Representative
- Stay informed of statewide educational issues and identify trends
- Collaborate with other military service School Liaisons on pertinent issues
- Attend state council meetings as the SME for the installation
- Maintain direct and routine communication with the commander to keep him/her abreast of the successes and challenges facing military-connected students in their state
- Connect with the regional Defense-State Liaison to advocate for military families and support initiatives
- Advocate at all levels in support of military-connected students to ensure equal representation within the state
- Maintain connections with the state commissioner on state initiatives involving military-connected students
- Build partnerships and gather educational data with internal/external partners to enhance efforts to support military-connected students
- Communicate regularly with other DoD components in the state to share best practices concerns, and stay current on education-related topics
- Keep abreast of current legislation within the state that affect military-connected students



MIC3 Executive Committee

The executive committee is the governing board of the Commission.

It:

- Is comprised of 3 elected commissioners (chair, vice chair, and treasurer).
- Includes additional members as determined in the bylaws.
 - Committee chairs are appointed by the chair.
 - The Military Representative is determined by the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Military Community and Family Policy and is an ex-officio, non-voting committee member.
- Acts on behalf of the Commission, with the exception of rulemaking during periods when the Commission is not in session.
- Oversees the day-to-day activities and administration, including enforcement and compliance with the Compact.

FIVE THINGS

Commanders Need to Know about MIC3

1

An interstate compact is a legal contractual agreement between two or more states. *The Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children:*

- Provides uniform treatment of military children transferring between school districts and states.
- Since 2014, all 50 states and the District of Columbia have passed legislation supporting the Compact. Additionally, DoDEA schools are required to adhere to Compact guidelines as applicable by law.
- Addresses key educational transition issues including enrollment, placement, attendance, eligibility, and graduation.

The Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission, or MIC3, is the governing body for the Compact. It is a national commission led by an Executive Committee and Executive Director who provide guidance, support, and assist with compliance.

2

The DoD Military Representative to the state council is a military member or civilian employee of DoD who interfaces with the state education system.

Only one lead military representative shall represent DoD interests on the state council. This individual is designated by the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Military Community and Family Policy.

However, states may appoint additional military representative but only one is designated the state lead.

Note: The Department of the Air Force and Department of the Navy requires a military service member (O-6) from a military service designated installation.



3

DoD Military Representative's responsibilities: • Keep direct and routine communication with their School Liaison to keep abreast of the successes and challenges facing military-connected students

- Connect with the regional Defense-State Liaison to advocate for military families and support initiatives.
- Advocate at all levels to support military-connected students to ensure equal representation within the state.
- Maintain connections with the state commissioner and support state initiatives involving military-connected students.

The DoD State Military Representative champions effective relationships with K-12 stakeholders to build and sustain educational awareness, strengthen community partnerships, and ensure military-connected students are provided quality education to maintain the readiness of our military forces.

4

DoD Military Representatives must follow DoD ethical standards of conduct and regulations, to include:

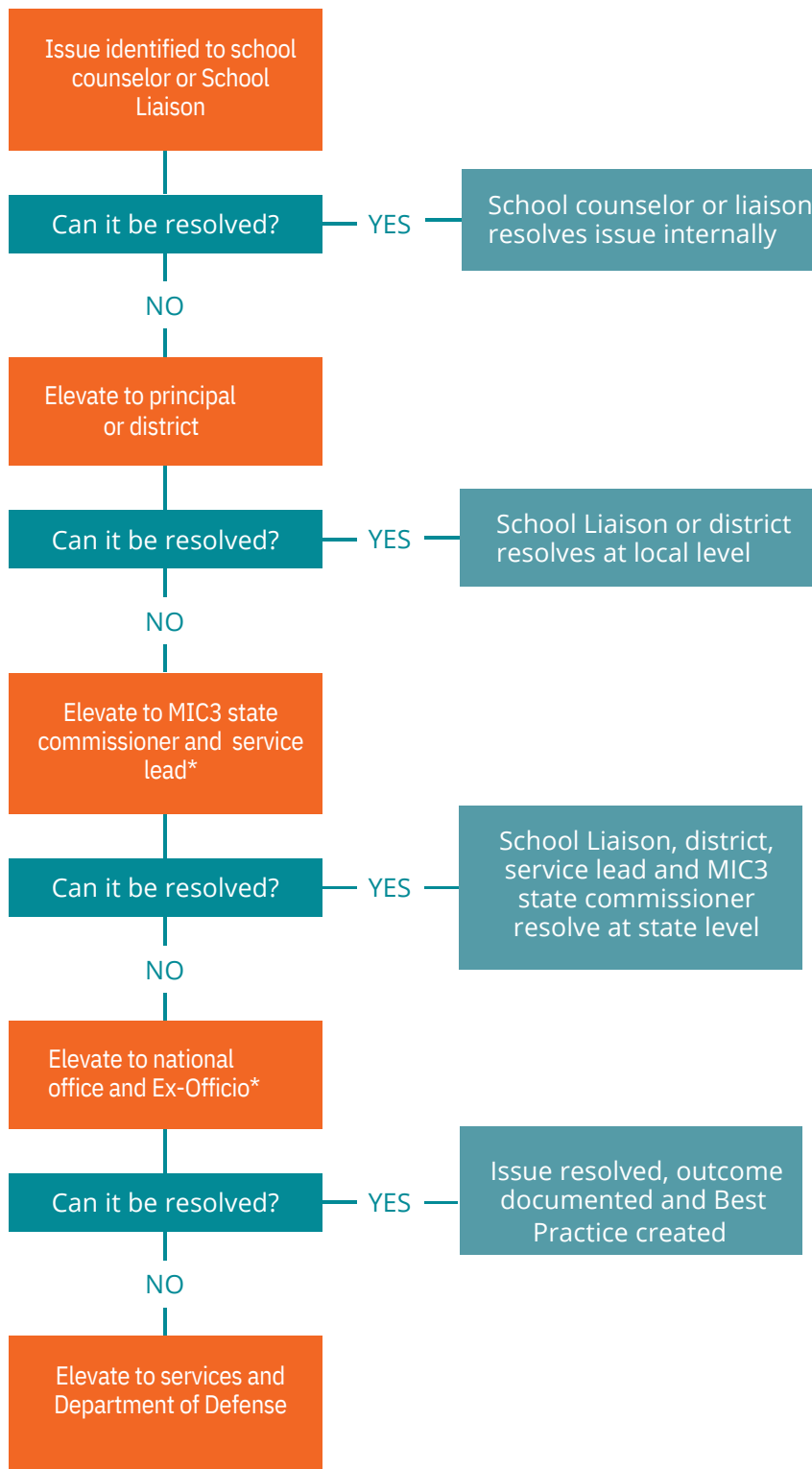
- Representing DoD interests (not the interests of the Council)
- Explaining that opinions expressed do not bind DoD or a DoD component
- Not engaging in management, control, or endorsement of the state council

5

School Liaisons are experienced professionals who support, advise and build partnerships with the civilian and military community to help address common education challenges of military families and ensure the best possible education experience for military-connected students.

- Familiar with local, state, and federal educational issues
- Routinely identify education trends
- Support the state military representative by attending state council meetings as the SME
- Communicates regularly with their commander
- Connects with state commissioner
- Supports state initiatives impacting military-connected students
- Build partnerships with internal and external stakeholders
- Share best practices and concerns, and stay current on education topics
- Stay informed on current legislation within the state

MIC3 Resolution Process



COMMENTS & OTHER ACTIONS

- Process implements DODI 1342.29
- School Liaisons identify trends with School Counselor (MIC3 & Non-MIC3)
- Challenges & best practices shared to the Service/DoD/MIC3 (Annually)
- School Liaisons ensure MIC3 training is provided to local military leaders, LEAs and parents
- School Liaison with the DoD Representative participate in MIC3 State Commissioner meetings

* Service Lead: Designated State School Liaison and HQ School Liaison Program Operations Manager

*Ex-Officio: DoD Representative appointed to MIC3 Commission

References

MIC3: mic3.net

DoD Instruction 1342.29 Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children:
mic3.net/assets/compact-dodi.134229_dodi_2017.pdf

DoD MOU: mic3.net/assets/mou-mic3-dod_20110506.pdf

Compact Rules: mic3.net/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/MIC3-Rules-Book-WEB.pdf

Rules Promulgation: mic3.net/assets/promulgation-of-rules-final-2019.09.12.pdf

Legal Advisories: www.mic3.net/advisory-opinions

Guide for Parents and Schools: indd.adobe.com/view/cee14c43-f325-4ca6-80c1-4013ccc11f00

Interactive Map: www.mic3.net/interactive-map

Military Representative: mic3.net/commr-resource/military-representative

MILITARY INTERSTATE CHILDREN'S COMPACT COMMISSION
1776 Avenue of the States Lexington, Kentucky 40511
