



Tier Group 3 Meeting Notes
Wednesday, July 15, 2026
3:00 – 4:00 PM ET

PRESENT	Teresa Ferenczhalmay	New Mexico Commissioner	Tier Group 3 Facilitator
	Ryan Foor	Nebraska Commissioner	
	Felicia Gonzales	Nevada Commissioner	
	John "Don" Kaminar	Arkansas Commissioner	
	J. Clarke Orzalli	Massachusetts Commissioner	
	Michael Price	Michigan Commissioner	
	Ben Rasmussen	Utah Commissioner	
	Brooke Blaalid	Military Child Education Coalition	Ex-officio Representative
	Kathryn Lynch-Morin	Education Commission of the States	Ex-officio Representative
EXCUSED	Laura Anastasio	Connecticut Commissioner	
	Carrie Anderson	Pennsylvania Commissioner	
	Jeff Havers	New Jersey Commissioner	
	Brooke Huntington	Indiana Commissioner	
	Mark Vollmer	North Dakota Commissioner	
	Kristen Windham	Mississippi Commissioner	
STAFF	Lindsey Dablow	Executive Director	
	Trevin Stevens	Communications Associate	
	Allie Thomas	Operations Coordinator	

ITEM 1 – CALL TO ORDER

1. The meeting was called to order at 3:00 PM ET by Tier Group 3 Facilitator and New Mexico Commissioner Teresa Ferenczhalmay.

ITEM 2 – ROLL CALL

2. Operations Coordinator Allie Thomas conducted roll call. Per Robert's Rules, a quorum was not necessary as the tier groups are not formal voting committees of the Commission. The meeting was attended by seven Compact Commissioners and two ex-officio representatives.

ITEM 3 – AGENDA

3. Commissioner Ferenczhalmay reviewed the agenda with the group.

ITEM 4 – COMMISSION INFORMATION

4. Executive Director Lindsey Dablow provided information on the Commission, including the announcement of Tier Group 2 as the winner of the Race to the Finish after successfully completing all compliance items by the deadline, an overview of the 2026 State Compliance and Coordination graphic and outstanding compliance items, and reminders regarding registration and hotel reservations for the 2026 Annual Business Meeting (ABM).

ITEM 5 – NEW BUSINESS

5. **Proposed Rule Amendments to SEC 1.101 and 4.103** – Commissioner Ferenczhalmay provided an overview of the Rules amendments proposed by the state of Virginia regarding graduation requirements and diplomas of “equivalent stature.” No questions or further comments were received from the Tier 3 states.
6. **Highlighting State Best Practices** – Commissioner Ferenczhalmay reviewed updates made to the *Highlighting State Best Practices* document, formerly known as the *Good, Better, Best: State Best Practices on Implementing the Compact*, clarifying that the purpose of the document was not to evaluate commissioners and their state councils but to serve as guidance. Commissioner Don Kaminar (AR) noted that he agreed with the suggested section titles “Foundational, Expanded, and Enhanced” to replace the current “Good, Better, and Best.” Commissioner Clarke Orzalli (MA) stated that every state is different in the way that they implement the Compact and cautioned that using superlatives would only set states apart instead of gathering useful information. The Tier 3 states emphasized making the compliance requirements clear and limiting the additional recommendations to avoid confusion of the document’s purpose.
7. **Case: Course Credit** – Ms. Dablow provided an overview of a case regarding course credit when transitioning between a 4x4 block schedule and a semester schedule and its applicability to *Article V Course Placement and Attendance*. The members were asked whether the Compact addressed awarding credits based on “mastery of the subject or content.” Commissioner Felicia Gonzales (NV) stated *Article V Course Placement and Attendance* did not address transcripts and noted that Nevada was moving towards discussions around mastery of content. Commissioner Ben Rasmussen (UT) stated *Article VII Graduation* addressed waiving graduation requirements for seniors but indicated that it would not apply in this case due to the student’s ability to complete the courses without delaying graduation. Commissioner Gonzales shared that she had never seen full credit awarded for a course when only the second semester was completed.
8. The Tier 3 states were asked if their state’s Department of Education had a formal appeals process that families could access. Commissioner Gonzales stated that Nevada did not have a formal appeals process, and Commissioner Ferenczhalmay noted that New Mexico did not either. Commissioner Rasmussen shared that Utah pushed for local resolution with state involvement being the last step in the escalation process.
9. **Commissioner Role and Responsibilities Guidance for Appointing Authorities** – Commissioner Ferenczhalmay reviewed the *Commissioner Role and Responsibilities Guidance for Appointing Authorities* document, highlighting the Commissioner Role and Responsibilities and the Commissioner Responsibilities Checklist. The Tier 3 states discussed their duty as commissioners to “ensure cooperation of all necessary state agencies in the enforcement of the Compact” as listed in the third role, noting their struggles to engage with state agencies. Ms. Dablow clarified how the document was developed using verbiage directly from the Compact statute. Commissioner Orzalli noted that the guidance document was a powerful tool for the states to utilize, and it would be beneficial for his appointing authorities to review his role as the commissioner.
10. **Tier-Focused Discussion** – Commissioner Ferenczhalmay opened the floor for discussion on topics related to the Tier 3 states. Commissioner Michael Price (MI) noted the challenges experienced during the previous furlough that included the School Liaisons. He encouraged states to speak to their Congressional delegates regarding the value of the School Liaison Program in implementing the Compact. Commissioner Ferenczhalmay highlighted the shift in permanent change of station (PCS) moves due to current deployments, emphasizing the possibility of more students transitioning throughout the school year rather than PCSing over summer and winter breaks.
11. Ms. Dablow noted that the National Office was receiving more questions regarding transitions from homeschool to public school. Commissioner Gonzales shared that Nevada was working to bring homeschoolers back into public school with the addition of a public K-12 online program. Ms. Dablow also



reported that families previously located in Bahrain that returned stateside during the evacuation in March may establish permanent residence stateside and enroll their children at their new locations.

ITEM 6 – OTHER BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

12. Commissioner Ferenczhalmy reminded the members that the June 30, 2026, deadline to submit state compliance requirements had passed and encouraged states with any outstanding items to request extensions if they had not already done so.

ITEM 7 – ADJOURNMENT

13. The meeting was adjourned at 3:59 PM ET.

Respectfully submitted by,
Lindsey Dablow
Secretary