



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF **Public Instruction**

Wisconsin State Council of the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunities for Military Children (MIC3)

Commissioner **Shelley Joan Weiss** 608.698.2409

Minutes

AUG 18, 2026, 2:00 pm Online

- The Council follows [Roberts Rules of Order](#) for conduct of meetings.
- This [simplified version of procedures for Roberts Rules of Order](#) may be beneficial.

1) Call to Order - Shelley Joan Weiss, Wisconsin Commissioner

2) Roll Call

a) Will be taken through online participation attendance.

3) Approval of the Agenda

a) Motion made by Erica Christensen , Seconded by Andrea Donnegan. b) Approved

4) Approval of the [FEB 17, 2026. minutes](#)

a) Motion made by Stacy Eslick, Seconded by Kyle Olsen
b) Approved

5) Welcome from Dr. Jill Underly, WI State Superintendent

a) Dr. Underly welcomed members of the Interstate Compact Council and guests in attendance. She shared that with a new school year coming up, we are gathering around issues that are important to students and families. This time of year normally brings a sense of renewal, and this year is a little different with many communities experiencing weather related difficulties. For military connected families, the start of the school year carries more uncertainty and challenges and schools can provide stability

AUG 18, 2026, Minutes, WI State Council for the Interstate Compact 1 and a sense of belonging. Dr. Underly thanked Shelley and everyone involved in the meeting for the work they do, and the empathy shown for students as they navigate transitions and challenges.

6) Welcome to our newest [members](#) and guests

a) Please join me in thanking Col Sheyla Baez-Ramirez for her service to the Council and our military children. We wish Col Baez-Ramirez the best in her new assignment at the Pentagon.

b) Welcome to our newest members and Guests:

i) Col Sarah Fratucelli, Garrison Commander, Fort McCoy, Wisconsin

ii) Christine Hamele, School Counselor, East Troy Community School District, East Troy, Wisconsin

iii) Ben Gebhart, Chief of Staff for Senator Melissa Ratcliff

iv) Samuel Carney, Staff Representative Andrew Hysell

v) Dr. Frank Redmon, Superintendent in Tomah School District

7) Sharing the [2026-27 WI State Council Member Listing](#)

a) Guests are welcome to join us for online meetings. Contact beforehand would be appreciated.

b) Members and Guests who desire to share information should contact [Shelley Joan Weiss](#) two weeks prior to meetings.

c) If you are aware of others who desire to attend our meetings, please let Shelley Joan Weiss know. Thank you.

8) Congratulations to Council Member and lead Wisconsin National Guard Child and Youth Program Coordinator JD Engelhardt on the implementation of his successful Child and Youth Programs.

a) [2026 Badger Camp Video](#)

9) Update on Commissioner Shelley Joan Weiss Activities

a) All required documentation for 2026 has been completed and submitted to MIC3. I continue to share information with MIC3 and ensure that any requirements are fulfilled.

b) Responded to all inquiries. No complaints were filed. Getting information into the hands of principals and superintendents is challenging. If anyone has ideas of how to get the word out, please share.

c) [Purple Star School designation](#) was awarded to [17 Wisconsin](#)

[Schools](#). i) Thank you to WI State Superintendent, Dr. Jill Underly, for

presenting the Purple Star School Awards at the annual statewide

AUG 18, 2026, Minutes, WI State Council for the Interstate Compact 2 celebration hosted by the Tomah and Sparta School Districts in Tomah on April 27, 2026.

d) The Purple Star School designation recognizes schools that demonstrate a strong commitment to meeting the unique needs of military-connected students and their families with intentional support and programming to ensure educational access, opportunities, and connections. Resources include the [Overview](#) of the Wisconsin Purple Star School program and a one pager of [Wisconsin Purple Star information](#).

i) Thank you to Deputy State Superintendent Thomas McCarthy for his efforts to update the WI DPI website that includes information on where schools may apply for the Purple Star School designation.

e) Shelley continues to share information on WI Purple Star Schools with individuals, districts, and organizations throughout the state. i) Thank you to:

(1) DPI ConnectEd for sharing.

(2) Andrea Donegan for sharing with folks on her newsletter and email lists.

(3) Stacy Eslick shared with the members of the Wisconsin School Counselor Association ([WSCA](#)). Stacy shared an opportunity to offer a joint online learning session for school counselors, school administrative assistants, and secretaries on the law.

(4) Steve Schroeder and Jim Lynch for sharing with the members of the [Association of Wisconsin School Administrators](#)

(AWSA) and the Wisconsin Association of School District Administrators ([WASDA](#)).

(5) Members of the Council who have shared with others throughout the state.

f) Shelley was recognized by the [Sun Prairie City Council](#) for her support of April, Month of the Military Child.

g) Shelley was recognized by the [Sun Prairie Area School District Board of Education](#) for support of April Month of the Military Child. If anyone is recognized in any way, please let Shelley know.

h) Presented at the Regional Conference of the [National Exchange Club](#). i) Presented the awards from WI State Superintendent to [Shane Boeve](#), Principal of [Eastside Elementary School](#) and [Michelle Jensen](#), Principal of

[Prairie View Middle School](#) at the Sun Prairie Area School District Board of Education meeting.

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j) Participated in the Sun Prairie Eastside Elementary School Purple Star School recognition event with [Senator Melissa Radcliff](#) and [Representative Andrew Hysell](#).

i) Thank you to the leadership of Eastside Elementary Principal Shane Boeve, for this inspiring and student-centered event.

k) Attending the 2026 - 2027 State of Education Meeting at the Wisconsin State Capitol. Thank you to WI State Superintendent, Jill Underly, and her staff for including me in this important event.

l) Shelley regrets she will not be able to attend the East Troy Military Families and Vets Celebration due to a conflict with an event at the Governor's mansion. The East Troy event will be held on Wednesday, August 19th at 6:30 pm, featuring the Acapella Choir that includes one of our newest Council members, Christine Hamele. Shelley is thankful for the invitations and looks forward to attending future events. Christine has been very gracious and understanding.

m) Shelley and Student Liaison Officer, Becky Walley, will be attending the Annual Business Meeting of the Military Children's Compact Commission in Indianapolis in October 2027. Thank you to [Stephanie Hauser, Executive Director of WIAA](#) and the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association (WIAA) and the National Federation of State High School Associations (NHSF) for their strong support of military children and Veterans. Wisconsin was the first state in the nation to offer special opportunities for military Veterans to be involved and supportive of athletic activities throughout WI and also share information on ensuring military children have opportunities to participate in athletic events. WIAA has been recognized at the national level for their involvement in the WI State Council for many years and their efforts supporting military members, Veterans, and militarily connected students.

i) Congratulations to Stephanie Hauser who was elected as President of the [NFHS](#). Her efforts to support military children and families extend beyond Wisconsin and influences others nationwide.

n) Shelley is currently working with [Edgewood University, Educational Leadership Department](#), the [Military Children's Education Coalition](#) (MCEC), and the [Military Family Research Institute at Purdue University](#) to advance research and relevant information to support Purple Star

Schools in Wisconsin.

- i) Shelley met with [Mary Bier, President and Chief Executive Officer of MCEC](#) prior to our Council meeting. Mary lives in Waunakee and we are pleased for her support and all of the efforts of MCEC.

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10) Sharing Resources

- a) Please see the Information shared on the [WI DPI Military Children](#) (MIC3) website and the [Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission website](#). Please send Shelley information to be shared.
- b) Upcoming training provided by MIC3 is listed on the [MIC3 events calendars](#).
- c) Upcoming training provided by MCEC is on their [website training hub](#).
- d) [Military One Source online training for Families](#).
- e) [The Wisconsin County and Tribal Veterans Services Offices](#) - an excellent resource for a wide number of questions related to Veterans issues.

11) [April is the Month of the Military Child \(MOTMC\)](#)

- a) Shelley will begin sharing information with organizations throughout the state about April, the Month of the Military Child. This planning is already underway. Please share any additional resources you have.

12) [Veterans Day, NOV 11, 2026](#)

- a) [Teacher Resources for Veterans Day](#)
- b) Please feel free to share information on your Veteran's Day activities.

13) Cases related to the Interstate Compact

- a) There have been no cases related to the Interstate Compact.

14) Input from Members

- a) Members are always invited to reach out to Shelley with good news, agenda items, or questions.
 - i) How do WI Purple Star Schools compare to other states?
Wisconsin's numbers are small, but not as small as some. Shelley will send out a map that depicts the number of awards by state and gather additional information to share. Ohio, as the first state with a Purple Star School program, leads the way in schools recognized with Purple Star Schools.
 - ii) What months are relevant to military children and families? November is Veteran's Day, April is the Month of the Military Child, May is

Month of the Military Family. (Shelley will share information related to all three months early so folks in various organizations are able to share with their members. Shelley thanked Stacy Eslick for the reminder.)

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iii) When is Purple Star School application due? DPI will provide an update regarding the application cycle and share it with all in the near future. The website and Overview document will be updated to reflect the application timeline.

15) Council member announcements

- a) Shelley is proud and pleased that Wisconsin has a highly visible presence in Purple Star Schools nationwide. She shared her pride and appreciation for the opportunity to be involved with a variety of state and national organizations supporting military children and their families, and her long service on MIC3 at the national level. Shelley shared that she requested MIC3 leadership consider increased opportunities between the newest commission members and the more experienced commissioners. The staff at MIC3 shared that some of Shelley's ideas and others will be incorporated into this year's meeting to help develop stronger connections among all commissioners.
- b) Dr. Underly thanked Shelley for all she does as the Commissioner. c) Andréa Donegan thanked everyone for joining the Council meeting and the outstanding involvement with military students and families with a special note of thanks to those of who are serving, have served, or have family members serving.

16) Thank you to everyone for their contributions.

- a) Shelley will continue to share updates via email between now and future meetings. Always feel free to email Shelley, shelleyjoan.weiss1@gmail.com

17) Save the date for the FEB 2027 Council meeting.

- a) Will send save the date for FEB 2027online Council meeting.

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