



Volume 9, Issue 2

August 2026

Show Us Your Back-to-School Moments!

As uniform-connected students return to school, the Commission wants to celebrate new beginnings and accomplishments throughout the year!

Share your first-day-of-school photos and back-to-school moments by tagging us on Facebook (@MIC3) or Instagram (@mic3compact) so we can cheer on your students. You can also send your photos to mic3info@csg.org.

We can't wait to see your students shine this school year!

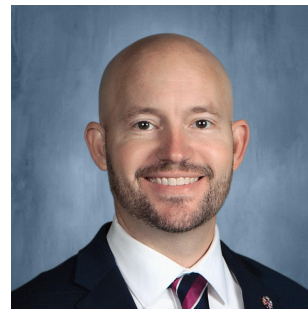


Commission Welcomes



Jennifer Belanger
MIC3 Maine Commissioner

Jennifer Belanger is the Legislative Research and Communications Specialist at the Maine Department of Education and has worked at the DOE since 2023. Prior to this role, Jen worked for 15 years in public and nonprofit education, and she began her career as an intern for her hometown Congressman. In addition to her role as Commissioner for MIC3, Jen also coordinates Freedom of Access Act requests, legislative work groups and reports, and



Brandon Woodrome
MIC3 Illinois Commissioner

Brandon Woodrome, Ed.S., serves as the Assistant Superintendent of Administrative Services for the Mascoutah School District in Illinois, a role he has held since 2022. The proud son of an Air Force veteran, Mr. Woodrome brings over 25 years of educational experience to his work, with a deep commitment to supporting military-connected students and families from nearby Scott Air Force Base.

supports all aspects of the DOE's legislative and policy priorities. Outside of work, Jen is married and is the mom to 3 school-aged boys, who keep her very busy!

Mr. Woodrome began his career in education as a dedicated teacher of U.S. History, Civics, and Government in both parochial and public school settings. He joined the administrative team at Mascoutah School District in 2014, where he gained extensive leadership experience as both Assistant Principal and Principal of Mascoutah High School before stepping into his current district-wide leadership role.

[Read More](#)

Meet the Commissioner



Steve Bullard
Kentucky Commissioner &
Compliance Committee Chair

Chair Bullard has served as the MIC3 Kentucky Commissioner since 2019 and has chaired the Compliance Committee since 2021. Chair Bullard also serves as the Executive Director for the Kentucky Commission on Military Affairs.

What is one thing you wish that schools and uniform-connected families better understood about the Compact?

My goal would be better advertising of the Compact's existence to military families as an informational and problem-solving resource for K-12 education related challenges related to uniformed services-related relocation. No one needs to be an expert on MIC3 guidance; however, they do need to know the Compact exists as a resource to access its advantages. That requires a determined effort to ensure that both families of uniformed services personnel and school administrators are aware of its existence. States, through their commissioners, can assist with this by partnering with their Department of Education to ensure its existence is acknowledged by school administrators. The Compact, however, relies on the federal government to ensure members of our uniformed services are properly informed.

What advice would you offer to commissioners seeking to strengthen Compact implementation in their state?

Develop as many relationships as you can throughout both the K-12 school leadership community and the military community. Make sure you (and the Compact) are widely known and available as a resource. Offer to be a speaker/trainer at community events and with school associations, for example the Kentucky Association of School Superintendents here. Ensure you know who your senior Department of Education leaders are, and they know you.

[Read More](#)

Chad Delbridge
Wyoming Commissioner &
Communications & Outreach Committee Chair



Chair Delbridge has served as the MIC3 Wyoming Commissioner since 2018 and has chaired the Compliance Committee since 2021. Chair Delbridge also serves as the Principal of Freedom Elementary School in Cheyenne, WY.

What is one thing you wish that schools and uniform-connected families better understood about the Compact?

The Compact is in place to level the playing field for military dependents, not to give them special privileges.

What is one Compact-related initiative, partnership, or collaboration in your state that you are particularly proud of?

One thing I am truly proud of regarding the Compact is our State Council's engagement in raising awareness and finding effective ways to communicate the purpose and benefits of MIC3 throughout our state. Examples of these efforts include the Purple Cord Ceremony in Cheyenne, which recognizes graduating seniors from military families; celebrations across Laramie County School District #1 and Platte County School District #1 during the Month of the Military Child; and the growing number of Purple Star Schools in the Cheyenne area.

Have you or a member of your family served in the military? If yes, please share who, what branch of service, and the length of service.

Several of my uncles and cousins served in the military, and both my brother-in-law and nephew served in the Air Force.

Did you know?

Are you concerned that a deployment could affect your child's ability to continue attending their current school if they are placed in the care of a guardian or non-custodial parent?

Compact Rule, SEC. 6.101 Absence as Related to Deployment Activities

(a) A custody order, special power of attorney, or other applicable document relative to the guardianship of a child of a military family and executed under the applicable law of each member state shall be sufficient for the purposes of enrollment and all other actions requiring parental participation and consent. A special power of attorney form, which is acceptable in some jurisdictions, can be obtained through the Judge Advocate General's Corps (JAG) offices pursuant to Military Family Care Plan regulations.

(1) An LEA shall be prohibited from charging local tuition to a transitioning military child placed in the care of a non-custodial parent or other person standing in loco parentis who lives in a jurisdiction other than that of the custodial parent. Tuition may be charged for optional programs offered by an LEA.

(2) An eligible military child, placed in the care of a non-custodial parent or other person standing in loco parentis who lives in a jurisdiction other than that of the custodial parent, may continue to attend the school in which he/she was enrolled while residing with the custodial parent.

(3) An LEA shall not charge tuition. In addition, transportation to and from school is the responsibility of the non-custodial parent or other persons standing in loco parentis.

[Rules Book](#)

July Training Roundup

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

July 9: Compact 201 HQ Training (Virtual)

The Commission provided the quarterly Compact 201 Training to school personnel, school liaisons, and military parents from Maryland, South Dakota, Texas, and several other states.

During this session, attendees had discussions on several Compact-related case studies.

July 9: Military Connected School Administrators Summit (MCSAS) in Nashville, Tennessee

The Commission provided a Compact 201 Training as part of MCSAS with attendees representing school districts from Kansas, New Jersey, Missouri, and several other states.

July 13: Compact 101 HQ Training (Virtual)

The Commission provided Compact 101 Training to school liaisons and school personnel from Louisiana, Texas, and Hawaii.

July 21: Coffee and Conservation with the Coast Guard

The Commission provided a Compact presentation to Coast Guard personnel, hosted by Base NCR WorkLife Special Needs Program.



Ex-Officio Corner

MCEC

MCEC Upcoming Webinars:

August 11th: Communication 360

Join us this week to learn about communication fluency, how to state what you need, and how to practice active listening.

August 12th: Back to School Basics

Join us this week to learn about practical strategies to help your family start strong and stay steady all season long.

August 18th: Supporting Military Teens Mental Health Through Relocation

Join us this week to learn how best to support your child as they navigate the trickiest parts of relocating and resilience.

August 19th: Bullying

Join us this week to learn about how to be your child's best ally, advocate,

DoW

OneOp Upcoming Webinars:

August 12th: Creating a Network for Military Nutrition Readiness

This webinar will describe an important shift from viewing food security solely as economic access toward a more comprehensive, military nutrition readiness framework grounded in three pillars: physical access to food, economic access to food, and nutrition quality.

August 19th: Navigating Child Care Barriers and Their Effect on Military Spouse Employment

This 90-minute multidisciplinary webinar explores how these challenges intersect with employment barriers faced by military spouses. The session offers current data, foundational knowledge, practical strategies, and real-world case analysis to help professionals expand childcare access, support military

and empowering agent. We all know the heartbreak that comes with thinking about our child feels when rejected or harmed. Let's learn how to navigate our own feelings and how to build up our child with strategies to protect themselves to be the resilient and beautiful humans they already are.

August 25th: Coping: Developing Healthy Coping Strategies

Join us this week to learn about real strategies to implement as we face life as it comes: strategies that use healthy, simple, and productive tools to improve our lives and help us ride out the stressful times.

August 26th: Identifying How Your Child Learns

Join us this week to learn about supporting your child and their unique learning abilities through hands-on skills to identify, support, challenge, and advocate for your brilliant student.

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

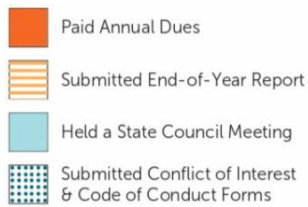
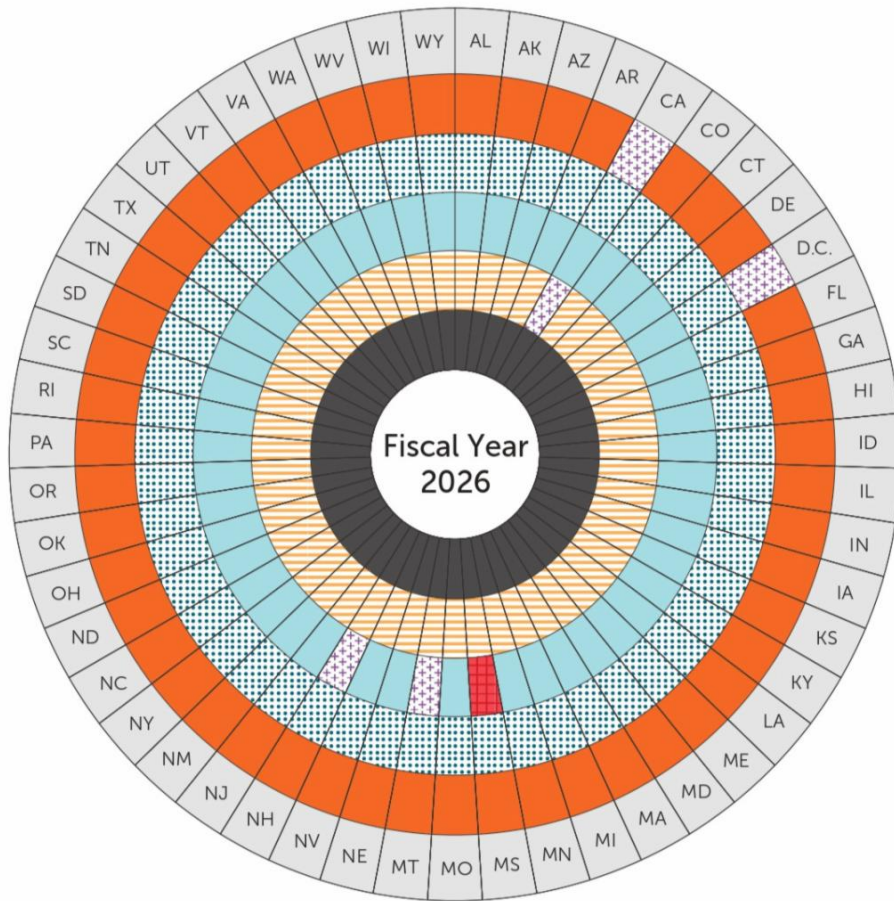
spouse workforce participation, and advance overall family readiness.

August 26th: Building Strong Communities: A Panel Discussion

This panel discussion will focus on policy awareness and leveraging local systems to support military families. Using successful, community-based examples, this panel will show how shared responsibility at the local level supports state and national policy.

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

FY2026 State Compliance and Coordination



Reporting Deadline

June 30

- Conflict of Interest
- Code of Conduct
- Annual Dues
- State Council Meeting
- End-of-Year Report

Upcoming Events

Committee Meetings

LNC — August 17
EXCOM — August 20
Training — August 25
Finance — August 26
Ex-officio — September 3

Compact 101 Training

September 28 at 12:00 PM 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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