



Tier Group 2 Meeting Notes
Friday, July 24, 2026
12:00 – 1:00 PM ET

PRESENT	Debra Jackson	New York Commissioner	Tier Group 2 Facilitator
	Dale Brungardt	Kansas Commissioner	
	Steven Bullard	Kentucky Commissioner	
	Brian Henry	Missouri Commissioner	
	Peter Laing	Arizona Commissioner	
	Pete LuPiba	Ohio Commissioner	
	Deanna McLaughlin	Tennessee Commissioner	
	Kim Priester	South Carolina Commissioner	
	Douglas Ragland	Alabama Commissioner	
	Ernise Singleton	Louisiana Commissioner	
	Brandon Woodrome	Illinois Commissioner	
EXCUSED	Don Enoch	Alaska Commissioner	
	Will Jones	Oklahoma 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 2 Facilitator and New York Commissioner Debra Jackson.

ITEM 2 – ROLL CALL

2. Executive Director Lindsey Dablow 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 eleven Compact Commissioners. Ms. Dablow welcomed Commissioner Brandon Woodrome (IL) to the group.

ITEM 3 – AGENDA

3. Commissioner Jackson reviewed the agenda with the group.

ITEM 4 – COMMISSION INFORMATION

4. Commissioner Jackson 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 Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 compliance items by the June 30 deadline, an overview of the FY2026 State Compliance and Coordination graphic and outstanding compliance items, and reminders regarding registration and hotel reservations for the 2026 Annual Business Meeting (ABM). Ms. Dablow reminded the members of the Commission policy for permission to drive to the ABM.

ITEM 5 – NEW BUSINESS

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5. **Proposed Rule Amendments to SEC 1.101 and 4.103** – Commissioner Jackson provided an overview of the Rules amendments proposed by the state of Virginia regarding graduation requirements and diplomas of “equivalent stature,” including the comment from the state of New York. No questions or further comments were received from the Tier 2 states. Ms. Dablow noted that the proposed Rule amendments were referred to the Executive Committee (EXCOM) for review before the ABM.
6. **Highlighting State Best Practices** – Commissioner Jackson reviewed updates made to the *Highlighting State Best Practices* document, formerly known as the *Good, Better, Best: State Best Practices on Implementing the Compact*, noting significant improvements to the document following revision from the Standing Committees. The members agreed the revised document is more effective in distinguishing statutory obligations from voluntary best practices and provides valuable examples of implementation approaches across states. Several members noted that they would be reviewing the document with their State Councils prior to the ABM.
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.” Several members questioned whether *Article V Course Placement and Attendance* applied due to the focus on credit rather than placement requirements. They agreed that the Compact does not explicitly address awarding credit based on demonstrated mastery of course content. Commissioner Kim Priester (SC) stated that the case could be viewed as a course placement issue because the student was placed into the second portion of the course instead of the first part, suggesting that the incorrect placement resulted in the credit issue.
8. The members discussed flexibility for awarding credit through demonstrated mastery and competency-based approaches as outlined in Texas’s policies, questioning whether the school in Texas could retroactively resolve the issue. Ms. Dablow clarified that the school in Texas acknowledged that the student should have been placed back into the first half of the course the next school year and provided training to address the oversight with the administration. She confirmed that the student remained on track to graduate despite the credit discrepancy.
9. The Tier 2 states were asked if their state’s Department of Education had a formal appeals process that families could access. Commissioner Jackson shared that New York had a formal appeals process, but it took multiple years for a decision to be made. Commissioners Peter Laing (AZ), Dale Brungardt (KS), Ernise Singleton (LA), and Kim Priester noted that their states did not have formal processes and that most issues were routed through the School Liaisons and Compact Commissioners. Commissioner Deanna McLaughlin (TN) stated that Tennessee has a process for appeals to go through the local school boards with escalation to the State Board of Education if needed. Commissioner Woodrome noted that Illinois had a similar process at the local level. Commissioner Douglas Ragland (AL) stated cases in Alabama could be elevated through the state superintendent and Department of Education leadership if necessary.
10. **Commissioner Role and Responsibilities Guidance for Appointing Authorities** – Commissioner Jackson reviewed the *Commissioner Role and Responsibilities Guidance for Appointing Authorities* document, highlighting the Commissioner Role and Responsibilities and the Commissioner Responsibilities Checklist. The members agreed that clearly outlining the commissioner responsibilities would improve continuity during leadership transitions and help appointing authorities better understand commissioner expectations.
11. **Tier-Focused Discussion** – Commissioner Jackson opened the floor for discussion on topics related to the Tier 2 states. Ms. Dablow reported that families previously located in Bahrain that returned stateside during the evacuation in March may establish permanent residence and enroll their children at their new



locations. She also noted that the National Office was receiving more questions regarding transitions from homeschool to public school.

ITEM 6 – OTHER BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

12. Commissioner Jackson reminded the members that the June 30, 2026, deadline to submit state compliance requirements had passed, reporting that no states in the Tier Group had outstanding items for FY2026. She announced that the dues notices for FY2027 were distributed on July 1, 2026.

ITEM 7 – ADJOURNMENT

13. The meeting was adjourned at 12:54 PM ET.

Respectfully submitted by,
Lindsey Dablow
Secretary