

October 14, 2026

Dear Commissioners, Designees, Ex-officio Members, and Guests,

On behalf of the Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission, it is my pleasure to welcome you to the 2026 Annual Business Meeting. This year's theme, "Supporting Educational Success for Children of Uniformed Service Members," reflects our continued commitment—eighteen years after our founding—to ensure *Successful Educational Transitions* for all uniform-connected children.

Each year, the Commission has grown in outreach and impact through a shared sense of mission. Each strategic plan has built on the one before it, and the 2026 – 2028 Strategic Plan has been no different. By deepening the Commission's focus on Culture, Fidelity, and Engagement, the Commission has had a strong beginning to this three-year plan. This includes reconnecting or establishing points of contact with the United States Coast Guard, United States Public Health Service, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to ensure all school-age children of the uniformed services can access the provisions of the Compact.

The Commission has worked hard to raise awareness of its many resources and available programming. During FY2026, the Commission provided 68 Compact 101 & 201 Trainings, both virtual and in-person. The Commission also distributed nearly 12,000 Parent Guides, 10,000 Quad Fold Brochures, and 8,500 Rules Books both within the United States and overseas, showing the widespread reach of Commission materials.

Committed to staying mission-driven and student-centered, the Commission has explored ways to empower student voices. This has come in the form of quarterly articles from students from Bloom, a program of NMFA, in the Commission's newsletter, *The Wire*, the *Empowering Student Voices: Using Collaboration to Address Education Concerns for Military Children* webinar, and continuing the *Compact Stories: Student Voices* video series with three new additions this year.

As we look ahead to the second year of the 2026 – 2028 Strategic Plan, Standing Committees will continue to deepen their focus on the Commission's pillars of *Culture, Fidelity, and Engagement*. We are eager to build on this year's great progress.

I want to extend heartfelt appreciation to the members of the Executive Committee for their time, hard work, and dedication to the Commission and the states they represent.

It has been an honor to serve as the Commission's ninth Chair over the past year, and I look forward to the opportunity for us to reconvene and renew our commitment to supporting successful education transitions for children of uniformed-service members.

Thank you for your commitment, your collaboration, and your service. Together, we will continue bridging the gap for the children and families who sacrifice so much for our nation.

With gratitude,



Daron Korte

MIC3 Chair and Minnesota Commissioner