

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

Daron Korte (MN), Commission Chair

Responsible for guiding and overseeing the administration of all Commission activities and for acting on behalf of the Commission, as permitted by the Compact, during the interim between Commission meetings. Seeks, under the Commission's shared values and commitments, to attain the mission and vision of successful education transitions.

The Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission (MIC3) Executive Committee (EXCOM) demonstrated steadfast leadership during a period of transition and opportunity at the close of 2025 and the beginning of 2026. Guided by the Commission's mission to ensure *Successful Educational Transitions* for children of uniformed service members, the EXCOM remained focused on advancing the Compact, supporting member states, and maintaining the Commission's operational effectiveness.

Following the appointment of an Interim Executive Director in August 2025, the Executive Committee prioritized operational continuity and successfully guided preparations for the 2025 Annual Business Meeting (ABM). Throughout this transition, EXCOM remained committed to addressing the administrative, governance, and strategic responsibilities necessary to ensure that uniform-connected students continue to benefit from the protections and support provided by the Compact.

A significant accomplishment of the 2025 ABM was the adoption of an amended dues formula designed to strengthen the Commission's long-term financial sustainability and ensure its ability to effectively serve member states and uniform-connected students in the years ahead. The EXCOM extends its sincere appreciation to the Finance Committee and its members for their exceptional work over a two-year period in researching, developing, and refining the proposal. Through a transparent and collaborative process, the Finance Committee engaged member states, gathered feedback, and ensured commissioners had the information necessary to make a well-informed decision. In addition to approving the amended Rule *SEC. 2.103, Dues Formula*, the Commission also adopted the fiscal year (FY) 2027 Annual Dues and the FY2027 Operating Budget.

The 2025 ABM also marked the successful conclusion of the Commission's 2023-2025 Strategic Plan. Through the dedicated efforts of the Standing Committees and the engagement of member states, the Commission achieved all strategic initiatives outlined in the three-year plan. Building upon that success, the Commission adopted its fourth strategic plan, the 2026-2028 Strategic Plan, establishing a clear framework for continued organizational growth and impact.

The new strategic plan is centered on three foundational pillars:

- **Culture** – Empowering and channeling the diverse experiences, perspectives, and expertise of Commission members and staff to achieve a unified purpose and shared outcomes.
- **Fidelity** – Maintaining the integrity of the Compact and preserving its intent, purpose, and meaning as the cornerstone of the Commission's work.

- **Education** – Expanding communication, awareness, and influence by engaging stakeholders, partners, and the public on the importance and value of the Compact.

The Standing Committees entered 2026 focused on advancing the first-year objectives of the newly adopted strategic plan. Their efforts informed EXCOM's Spring Retreat in April 2026, where leadership completed several key initiatives, including enhancing engagement strategies with state appointing authorities, establishing the protocol for Vice Chair positions for the Standing Committees, reviewing a new Memorandum of Agreement with The Council of State Governments, providing guidance on proposed legislative policy matters, reviewing cases and inquiries, updating *Policy 2-2022 Open Records Requests*, and strengthening the MIC3 New Commissioner Mentoring Program.

Throughout the year, the Executive Committee also maintained its ongoing commitment to ensuring member-state compliance with statutory requirements, expanding educational and training opportunities for commissioners, fostering productive partnerships, and strengthening communication efforts. Regular Chair Messages, newsletter publications, and social media engagement continued to support transparency, collaboration, and awareness across the Commission and its stakeholder community.

An especially significant milestone during the reporting period was the selection of Lindsey Dablow as MIC3's fourth Executive Director. Lindsey's appointment followed her distinguished service as Interim Executive Director, Deputy Director, and Training & Operations Associate. She was selected for her extensive knowledge of the Compact, proven leadership in both the National Office and the Commission, and her vision for advancing MIC3's mission. Her appointment reflects the Commission's confidence in her ability to lead the organization into its next chapter while continuing to support uniform-connected students.

While the end of 2025 and the beginning of 2026 presented unique challenges, the Commission met those challenges with resilience, stability, and purpose. The accomplishments achieved during the first year of the 2026-2028 Strategic Plan demonstrate the strength of the Commission, the dedication of its staff, and the collective commitment of its member states. The EXCOM remains energized by this progress and looks forward to continuing the important work of ensuring *Successful Educational Transitions* for the children of uniformed service members.