

EX-OFFICIO REPORT

Mary Gable (MD), Commission Vice Chair

Ex-officio representatives are non-voting representatives who are members of interested organizations, including but not limited to military-oriented, military family, education oriented, and parent and teacher organizations. — Article IX of the model compact language and Article II, Section 3 of the Commission Bylaws.

Throughout the previous year, the Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission (MIC3) continued to strengthen and expand its collaborative relationships with a diverse network of national organizations dedicated to supporting uniform- and military-connected students and families. Through shared expertise, strategic engagement, and a commitment to addressing the unique challenges associated with military life, the Commission and its ex-officio partners worked together to advance awareness, improve educational outcomes, and promote successful school transitions for military-connected children. These partnerships remain vital to the Commission's mission, enhancing outreach efforts, informing policy discussions, and creating opportunities to better serve students, families, educators, and stakeholders nationwide. The following highlights the initiatives, accomplishments, and collaborative contributions of MIC3's ex-officio organizations during the year.

Blue Star Families (BSF) remained an engaged partner of the MIC3, leveraging its national platform to elevate the experiences and needs of uniform- and military-connected families. During the year, BSF launched its Military Family Lifestyle Survey, one of the nation's most comprehensive assessments of military family experiences, and explored opportunities to incorporate questions related to the Interstate Compact in future surveys. BSF also advanced its advocacy efforts through a Capitol Hill fly-in day that brought chapter leaders from across the country together to discuss military family policy priorities with federal lawmakers.

MIC3 and BSF continued to strengthen their collaborative relationship through information sharing, outreach, and strategic communications. The Commission provided Compact-related content for inclusion in BSF communications and worked with the organization to increase awareness of Compact protections and resources among the families of uniformed service members. Through this partnership, both organizations demonstrated a shared commitment to amplifying the voices of uniform-connected families and supporting the educational success of uniform-connected students nationwide.

In 2025, the Education Commission of the States (ECS) became a valued strategic partner of the MIC3, strengthening collaboration between two national organizations committed to advancing education policy and supporting students across state lines. Throughout the year, ECS continued its work with states to develop listening stations and resources designed to elevate student voices, inform education policymaking, and encourage stakeholder engagement. The organization also advanced planning for its National Forum on Education Policy, bringing together policymakers, education leaders, and national organizations to address emerging education issues and share innovative policy solutions.

The Military Child Education Coalition (MCEC) continued its longstanding partnership with the MIC3, supporting initiatives that advance awareness, advocacy, and educational success for military-connected students. Throughout the year, MCEC focused on developing its policy priorities and planning for the Global Training Summit, while adapting programming to meet evolving needs and continuing to provide professional learning opportunities for educators, military support personnel, and advocates. The organization also announced plans for a Capitol Hill advocacy day to elevate the needs of military-connected students and

increase awareness among policymakers.

MIC3 and MCEC maintained a strong collaborative relationship through ongoing outreach, education, and information-sharing efforts. The Commission provided Compact-related content for inclusion in MCEC training materials and summit activities, helping to ensure that stakeholders received current information on Compact implementation and student transition supports. Together, MIC3 and MCEC remain committed to advancing initiatives that improve educational outcomes and support successful transitions for uniform-connected children and their families.

The Military Impacted Schools Association (MISA) continued its important partnership with the MIC3, advocating for federal policies and resources that support school districts serving military-connected students. Throughout the year, MISA maintained a strong focus on protecting and strengthening Impact Aid funding while working to educate policymakers on the unique challenges and needs of military-impacted school systems. The organization also expanded professional development opportunities for member districts, providing educational programming and in-person training designed to strengthen local capacity and improve support for military-connected students. MIC3 and MISA collaborated through conference participation, regular information sharing, and ongoing dialogue regarding federal and state issues affecting military-connected children and the schools that serve them. MISA's annual summer leadership meeting provided an additional opportunity for school and district leaders to exchange best practices and address emerging issues impacting military families. Through this partnership, both organizations remained committed to advancing policies, resources, and collaborative solutions that support student success and strengthen military-impacted schools nationwide.

The National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) continued its partnership with the MIC3 by providing expertise on student eligibility, participation, and interscholastic activities that affect uniform-connected students during school transitions. Throughout the year, NFHS monitored legislative developments and focused on addressing eligibility and participation challenges within extracurricular programs, helping to promote equitable access to athletics and activities for students transferring between states and school districts. These efforts closely aligned with the Compact's goal of minimizing barriers and ensuring continuity for the children of uniformed service members.

MIC3 and NFHS maintained a shared commitment to supporting student success both inside and outside the classroom. During the year, NFHS also underwent a significant leadership transition with the retirement of Chief Executive Officer Dr. Karissa Niehoff and the appointment of former Chief Operating Officer Davis Whitfield as Chief Executive Officer. Through continued collaboration and information sharing, MIC3 and NFHS worked to advance policies and practices that reduce educational disruptions and ensure that uniform-connected students have access to meaningful extracurricular and educational opportunities wherever their families' service may take them.

The National Military Family Association (NMFA) continued its partnership with the MIC3 through advocacy, outreach, and support initiatives benefiting uniformed-connected students and families. Throughout the year, NMFA focused on federal advocacy priorities related to the National Defense Authorization Act while providing resources and support services for families across all branches of service. The organization also responded to emerging needs by supporting Coast Guard and U.S. Public Health Service families affected by federal funding challenges, demonstrating its commitment to addressing issues impacting the families of uniformed service members. Additionally, NMFA's flagship Operation Purple Camp program continued to provide enriching summer experiences for military-connected children, helping to build resilience and strengthen connections among military youth.

MIC3 and NMFA maintained a collaborative relationship focused on improving outcomes for uniformed service members and their families. Through regular engagement during ex-officio meetings and ongoing strategic discussions, both organizations explored opportunities to align advocacy, outreach, and educational support efforts. This partnership strengthened awareness of the challenges facing military families while advancing shared goals of supporting student success, enhancing educational opportunities, and ensuring military-connected families have access to the resources and support they need throughout periods of transition.

The Commission's ex-officio partnerships continue to strengthen its ability to support uniform-connected students and families through advocacy, policy development, training, outreach, and stakeholder engagement. Collectively, these organizations provide expertise that enhances the implementation of the Interstate Compact while expanding opportunities for collaboration that directly benefit the families of uniformed service members throughout the nation.