

TRAINING COMMITTEE REPORT

Dr. Tremekia Priester (SC), Training Committee Chair

Responsible for developing educational resources and training materials for use in the member states to help ensure awareness of, and compliance with, the terms of the compact and the Commission's rules.

The Training Committee remains committed to ensuring member states and commissioners have the tools, resources, and professional development opportunities necessary to effectively educate schools, uniform-connected families, and partners on the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children. Throughout 2026, the Committee focused on strengthening existing programs, evaluating resource needs, and aligning its efforts with the initiatives outlined in the 2026-2028 Strategic Plan.

As the first year of implementation of the Commission's fourth strategic plan, 2026 provided an opportunity to revisit longstanding programs and initiatives, evaluate their effectiveness, and enhance them to meet evolving member needs. The Committee's work centered on continuous improvement, collaboration across committees, and advancing training opportunities that support commissioners and stakeholders nationwide.

The New Commissioner Mentoring Program continues to serve as a cornerstone in supporting newly appointed commissioners as they transition into their roles. Recognizing the value of personal connections and peer support, the Training Committee has adapted and refined the program annually to ensure it remains responsive to participant needs.

Building on feedback received during the 2025 Annual Business Meeting (ABM), mentors and mentees were encouraged to meet in person for breakfast prior to the start of Day One of the meeting. This informal gathering provided an opportunity for participants to establish relationships, address questions, and help ease the uncertainty often associated with attending the ABM. The Committee received positive feedback regarding the enhanced networking opportunity and its contribution to a more welcoming onboarding experience.

The Training Committee continued its commitment to data-informed decision-making by reviewing information submitted by member states through the End-of-Year Report process. Analysis of the reported data enabled the Committee to identify trends, evaluate training activity across states, and recognize potential gaps in available resources.

To improve the quality and consistency of information collected, the Training Committee revised the training-related questions included in the End-of-Year Report. These revisions were designed to establish greater consistency in reporting and to provide comparable data. The improved data collection process will enable the Commission to better quantify training efforts, measure outreach effectiveness, and communicate the impact of Compact education initiatives to stakeholders.

A key priority outlined in the Strategic Plan is providing professional development opportunities for commissioners. During 2026, the Training Committee Chair presented an updated version of the Duties and Responsibilities of a State Commissioner and State Council webinar. The presentation offers valuable guidance regarding commissioner responsibilities, state council functions, and best practices for Compact implementation. To ensure broad accessibility, the live training session was

recorded and made available on the Commission's website, providing a valuable resource for newly appointed commissioners and state council members seeking to better understand their roles.

The Committee recognized an ongoing need for commissioners to engage in practical, scenario-based professional development. To address this need, the Training Committee collaborated with the Communications and Outreach Committee to support and promote the *Lunch and Learn Series: Compact Case Studies* program.

This initiative provides commissioners with opportunities to explore real-world case scenarios involving Compact implementation, strengthening their understanding of Compact provisions and encouraging discussion among peers. Through practical application and shared experiences, the program reinforces consistent interpretation of the Compact while enhancing commissioners' confidence in addressing complex situations within their states.

The Commission's three-tiered training program continues to demonstrate measurable success in expanding awareness and understanding of the Compact. To better communicate the program's growth and impact, the Training Committee approved the inclusion of infographics within the Annual Report.

These visual representations will highlight historical training achievements, participation trends, and program milestones, providing stakeholders with a concise and engaging overview of the training program's progress. The incorporation of data visualization further supports the Committee's commitment to transparency, accountability, and effective communication.

As the Commission moves forward with implementation of the 2026-2028 Strategic Plan, the Training Committee's work continues to be guided by its mission.

The mission of the MIC3 Training Committee is to respond to the needs of various audiences to provide accurate, current, and customized content.