

COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Steve Bullard (KY), Compliance Committee Chair

Responsible for monitoring the compliance by member states with the terms of the Compact and the Commission's Rules and By-laws, and for developing appropriate enforcement procedures for the Commission's consideration.

In fiscal year (FY) 2026, the Compliance Committee continued to demonstrate exceptional dedication and diligence in supporting Commissioners, member states, and the Commission's mission. Committee members worked collaboratively throughout the year to provide practical guidance, develop resources, and improve processes designed to help states understand and fulfill their obligations under the Compact statute, Commission Rules, and By-laws. Their efforts strengthened awareness of compliance responsibilities while supporting member states in their ongoing work to ease educational transitions for military-connected children.

Under its umbrella of responsibilities, the Compliance Committee continued to monitor member state compliance as outlined in the Compact statute, Commission Rules, and By-laws. Throughout FY2026, the Committee focused on ensuring states had access to clear, consistent information and the resources necessary to maintain compliance and fulfill annual reporting obligations.

The launch of the 2026–2028 Strategic Plan introduced new goals and challenges for the Committee. In response, the Compliance Committee developed practical solutions and guidance to ensure member states had the necessary tools, information, and awareness to remain compliant with Commission requirements. Working alongside other standing committees as assigned by the Strategic Plan, the Committee advanced initiatives designed to improve understanding of compliance requirements and strengthen engagement across the Commission.

To support member state education and awareness efforts, the Compliance Committee facilitated the Compact Rules *SEC. 8.101 Coordination Between States and Commission* webinar. The webinar provided Commissioners and members with an opportunity to learn more about state roles and responsibilities under Compact Rule Chapter 800, promoting a greater understanding of compliance obligations.

The Compliance Committee not only produced new resources during FY2026 but also refined existing materials, streamlined processes, and established more efficient procedures. The Committee continued its review and refinement of the *State Compliance and Coordination* infographic, ensuring it accurately communicated compliance tasks in accordance with the Compact statute and Rules. The revised infographic presents information in a concise, user-friendly format that supports Commissioners and member states throughout the fiscal year.

A significant collaborative effort involved reviewing End-of-Year (EOY) reporting requirements against requests. The Committee worked with the Rules, Training, and Communications and Outreach Committees to amend the online EOY Report, clarifying the distinction between required reporting elements and optional requests for information. The reporting form was also revised to improve efficiency and ensure the collection of uniform, consistent data across member states. This joint effort enhanced Commissioners' ability to submit timely and accurate reports while improving the Commission's overall reporting process.

In collaboration with other standing committees and pursuant to Strategic Plan objectives, the Compliance Committee also reviewed the New Commissioner Onboarding Process. Particular attention was given to how compliance information is communicated to newly appointed Commissioners. The Committee evaluated existing onboarding procedures and identified opportunities to communicate state and Commissioner responsibilities from the outset, increasing awareness and reducing confusion for new members.

To reinforce expectations and promote continued engagement, the Compliance Committee maintained publication of the *Memorandum Regarding Expectations for Commissioner Participation and Engagement at the Annual Business Meeting and Standing Committee Meetings*. The Committee also continued distributing the *Memorandum Regarding Annual Reporting Deadlines*, providing timely reminders of important reporting obligations and compliance deadlines throughout the year.

The Committee also continued oversight of the *Race to the Finish* infographic initiative. Featured annually on the homepage of mic3.net beginning each January, the racecar-themed graphic provides at-a-glance information regarding each Tier Group's progress toward meeting the Commission's June 30 End-of-Year reporting deadline. The program remains an engaging and effective tool for promoting accountability, increasing visibility of reporting progress, and encouraging timely completion of annual requirements.

The Compliance Committee remains committed to supporting member states through education, collaboration, and continuous improvement of Commission processes. Through strategic initiatives, enhanced resources, targeted communications, and cross-committee collaboration, the Committee strengthened awareness of compliance responsibilities and improved the tools available to Commissioners throughout FY2026.

As the Commission advances the goals of the 2026–2028 Strategic Plan, the Compliance Committee will continue to develop practical solutions, strengthen compliance resources, and foster accountability across the membership. The Committee appreciates the partnership and engagement of Commissioners, member states, and fellow standing committees whose collective efforts ensure the Compact remains effective in serving military-connected students and their families.