

Military Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children FLORIDA COUNCIL MEETING

July 31, 2026

10:00 am ET

Microsoft Teams Meeting

TOPIC	SPEAKER
Call to Order	Dr. Andrew Weatherill, Senior Director, Student Support Services
Welcome	Dr. Peggy Aune, Vice Chancellor for Strategic Improvement
Message from the Compact Commissioner	Col. Terrance J. McCaffrey, USAF (Ret.), Florida Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission (MIC3)
Purple Star Districts and Schools of Distinction Update	Dr. Andria Cole, Chief, Bureau of Family and Community Outreach
Purple Star Districts and Schools of Distinction Reflection	John Spolski, Assistant Superintendent, Okaloosa County School District
Teacher Certification Pathways for Military-Connected Applicants	Chris Cowart, Chief, Bureau of Educator Certification
Updates from the Military Family Education Liaison	Lisa Hill, Military Family Education Liaison
Updates from the National Office	Lindsey Dablow, Executive Director, MIC3
School Liaison Spotlight	Lisa Hill, Military Family Education Liaison
Updates from the School Liaisons	Chris Hendrix, Navy Region Southeast School Liaison
Other Business • Public Comments/Questions	
Next Meeting: • October 23, 2026	

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COMPACT COUNCIL MEMBERS	ATTENDANCE
Compact Commissioner Col. Terrance J. McCaffrey, USAF (Ret.)	Present ☒ Not in Attendance ☐
Commissioner of Education Designee Dr. Peggy Aune	Present ☐ Not in Attendance ☒
Superintendent of district with highest percentage of per capita John Spolski	Present ☒ Not in Attendance ☐
Military Family Education Liaison Lisa Hill	Present ☒ Not in Attendance ☐
National MIC3 Office Lindsey Dablow, Executive Director	Present ☒ Not in Attendance ☐
Representative from Speaker of House Allison Liby-Schoonover	Present ☒ Not in Attendance ☐
Representative from President of Senate Danny Burgess	Present ☐ Not in Attendance ☒
Representative from the Dept. of Defense Rear Admiral John W. Hewitt, Commander, Navy Region Southeast	Present ☐ Not in Attendance ☒
Representative from the Florida Department of Education (FDOE) Dr. Andrew Weatherill, Student Support Services	Present ☒ Not in Attendance ☐

SCHOOL LIAISON OFFICERS	ATTENDANCE
NAS Whiting Field Christopher Hendrix	Present ☒ Not in Attendance ☐
NAS Pensacola Hannah McCarthy	Present ☒ Not in Attendance ☐
NSA Panama City Erin Pickard	Present ☒ Not in Attendance ☐
NAS Jacksonville Teri Wanamaker	Present ☒ Not in Attendance ☐
NS Mayport Sharon Kasica	Present ☐ Not in Attendance ☒
NAS Key West Kimberly Fegley	Present ☐ Not in Attendance ☒
Navy Region Southeast Patrigna Murphy	Present ☐ Not in Attendance ☒
Hurlburt Field Dr. McKinley Cross	Present ☐ Not in Attendance ☒
Patrick Space Force Susan Clark	Present ☒ Not in Attendance ☐
Tyndall AFB Mallory Gross	Present ☒ Not in Attendance ☐
Eglin AFB Elaine Lajeunesse	Present ☐ Not in Attendance ☒
Eglin AFB Margaret Rivera	Present ☐ Not in Attendance ☒
McDill AFB Dr. Venetia Waters	Present ☐ Not in Attendance ☒
USAG Miami Garth Gourley	Present ☐ Not in Attendance ☒

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ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES	ATTENDANCE
Kim Brumage, Student Support Services Project, USF/FDOE	Present ☒ Not in Attendance ☐
Jessica O'Neal, Student Support Services Project, USF/FDOE	Present ☒ Not in Attendance ☐
Dr. Andria Cole, Chief, Bureau of Family and Community Outreach, FDOE	Present ☒ Not in Attendance ☐
Cindy Huffman, Bureau of Family and Community Outreach, FDOE	Present ☐ Not in Attendance ☒
Jennifer Darnell, Bureau of Family and Community Outreach, FDOE	Present ☒ Not in Attendance ☐
Timothy MacGregor, Director, Office of Military and Defense, FloridaCommerce	Present ☐ Not in Attendance ☒
Jordanne Stark, Florida High School Athletic Association	Present ☒ Not in Attendance ☐
Dwain Cherry, U.S. Coast Guard	Present ☐ Not in Attendance ☒

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Roll Call	Dr. Andrew Weatherill, Senior Director, Student Support Services
Welcome	Dr. Andrew Weatherill, Senior Director, Student Support Services
Dr. Weatherill reviewed the meeting agenda.	
Message from the Compact Commissioner	Col. Terrance J. McCaffrey, USAF (Ret.), Florida Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission (MIC3)
Purple Star Districts and Schools of Distinction Update	Dr. Andria Cole, Chief, Bureau of Family and Community Outreach
- Quarterly meetings continue to provide updates and technical assistance to current and prospective Purple Star schools and districts. - Eleven virtual office hours were held in June and July 2026 to support schools and districts preparing to apply or reapply for the Purple Star designation. - On July 28, 2026, more than 100 participants attended a statewide technical assistance meeting for new and returning applicants. - The Purple Star application window will open in August 2026 and the deadline for submission is September 30, 2026. - Currently, there are 451 Purple Star Schools, 6 Purple Star Districts and 16 Purple Star Colleges recognized statewide.	
Purple Star Districts and Schools of Distinction Reflection	John Spolski, Assistant Superintendent, Okaloosa County School District
- All 36 traditional schools, Okaloosa Technical College and two charter schools have earned the Purple Star School of Distinction designation. - The district supports military-connected students through the SkillBridge Program, which provides opportunities for service members to engage in schools through coaching, teaching and other activities. - The district continues to build partnerships with international military families by addressing topics such as enrollment, transportation, school options and support for English Language Learners. - The Military and Family Life Counseling Program provides support for military-connected students and families through services focused on stress management, conflict resolution, deployment and reintegration, grief and loss, self-esteem, and leadership development.	
Teacher Certification Pathways for Military-Connected Applicants	Chris Cowart, Chief, Bureau of Educator Certification
- The Bureau of Educator Certification includes five units: Communications, Operations, Evaluations, Policy and District Support, and Special Projects, which oversees military-connected applicants and certification fee waivers. - The Military Certification Fee Waiver is available to active-duty service members, honorably discharged veterans and eligible spouses or surviving spouses. It covers initial certification examination attempts and selected application fees. Applicants must provide documentation verifying military status and eligibility.	

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- The Military Veterans' Temporary Certificate is a five-year temporary certificate available only to eligible veterans. Applicants must have at least 48 months of military service, 60 college credits with a minimum 2.5 GPA, a passing Florida subject area examination score and employment with a Florida public school district that provides a mentor. A complete application and supporting documentation, including a DD214 Member 4, are required. - Because the Military Veterans' Temporary Certificate does not require a bachelor's degree, certificate holders are limited to bachelor's-level subject areas and are not eligible for Exceptional Student Education K-12 certification or endorsements. - Active-duty service members, veterans and eligible spouses may also qualify for a Florida Professional Educator Certificate through reciprocity by holding a valid out-of-state standard teaching certificate or certification from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards.	
Updates from the Military Family Education Liaison	Lisa Hill, Military Family Education Liaison
Dr. McKinley Cross presented at the Air Force Special Operations Command Squadron Leadership Course, where she provided a cohort of future squadron commanders and senior enlisted leaders with an overview of MIC3 and the role of school liaisons in supporting military-connected students at the major command level. Questions/Comments: none	
Updates from the National Office	Lindsey Dablow, Executive Director, MIC3
- The MIC3 National Office announced that the Fiscal Year 2026 Annual Report will be available in early September. - The 2026 MIC3 Annual Business Meeting will be held October 14-15, 2026, in Indianapolis, Indiana. Registration is now open. - The MIC3 National Office also shared registration information for the Duties and Responsibilities of Commissioner and State Council webinar with state commissioners and council members. Questions/Comments: none	
School Liaison Spotlight	Lisa Hill, Military Family Education Liaison
Lacey Allen, Regional School Liaison Program Specialist for the Southern and Eastern Regions, shared updates on services supporting military-connected families across 25 states and the District of Columbia.	
Updates from the School Liaisons	Chris Hendrix, Navy Region Southeast School Liaison
- Updates covered activities and events that occurred between April and July 2026. - Department of the Air Force and Department of the Navy Regional School Liaisons presented during the Purple Star Schools quarterly meeting on May 19, 2026, highlighting opportunities to partner with local educational agencies to support military-connected students and assist schools in earning the Purple Star School Designation. - Captain Jeff Hill assumed command of Navy Region Southeast, relieving Admiral John Hewitt.	
Other Business	
Public Comments/Questions	
None	
Next Meeting:	
October 23, 2026	