

Military Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children FLORIDA COUNCIL MEETING

November 21, 2025

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 Purpose of the MIC3 Council Annual Business Meeting Update	Col. Terrance J. McCaffrey, USAF (Ret.), Florida Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission (MIC3)
Military Student's Education Records Training Update	Dr. Andrew Weatherill, Senior Director, Student Support Services
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	Major Bryan F. Williams, D.M.L., M.S., M.A., U.S. Army (Ret.), Department Chair and JROTC Senior Army Instructor, Mariner Leadership Academy
Step Up for Students Resources for Military-Connected Families	Lena O'Brien, Regional Manager, Schools & Provider Services, Step Up for Students; and Crisceli Acosta, Regional Manager, Schools & Provider Services, Step Up for Students
Updates from the Military Family Education Liaison	Lisa Hill, Military Family Education Liaison
Updates from the National Office	Lindsey Dablow, Interim Director, MIC3
School Liaison Spotlight	Lisa Hill, Military Family Education Liaison
Updates from the School Liaisons	Patrigna Murphy, Navy Region Southeast School Liaison
Other Business Public Comments/Questions	
Next Meeting: January 9, 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 ☐
Military Family Education Liaison Lisa Hill	Present ☒ Not in Attendance ☐
National MIC3 Office Lindsey Dablow, Interim 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 Bacon	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 ☐
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 ☐
Dr. Samantha Donnell, FDOE	Present ☒ Not in Attendance ☐
Natasha Lunan, FDOE	Present ☐ Not in Attendance ☒

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TOPIC	SPEAKER
Call to Order	Dr. Andrew Weatherill, Senior Director, Student Support Services
• Dr. Aune welcomed the attendees on behalf of Dr. Weatherill. • She stated the Resiliency Characteristic of the Month is gratitude.	
Welcome	Dr. Peggy Aune, Vice Chancellor for Strategic Improvement
• Dr. Aune reviewed the meeting agenda.	
Message from the Compact Commissioner • Purpose of the MIC3 Council • Annual Business Meeting Update	Col. Terrance J. McCaffrey, USAF (Ret.), Florida Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission (MIC3)
• Commissioner McCaffrey stated the purpose of the MIC3 Council. • National Level: Cherise Imai has left the national office, and Dr. Lindsey Dablow is the interim director. • In the 2025 Florida legislative session, MIC3 was renewed in statute until 2028. • Education House Bill 1255 amended section 1003.05, Florida Statutes, to include training on the Interstate Compact. • Commissioner McCaffrey, Mrs. Hill and Dr. Aune presented to the House Subcommittee on Supports for Military-Connected Students and Families of Distinction. • Florida is the first state to have colleges and universities become Purple Star Campuses. • Update on the Annual Business Meeting: An increase in dues was discussed for the Commission across the country. The measure passed and will take effect in 2027. • The next Annual Business Meeting will be in October 2026 in Indianapolis, Indiana.	
Military Student's Education Records Training Update	Dr. Andrew Weatherill, Senior Director, Student Support Services
• Dr. Aune provided an update on the education records training. House Bill 1255 requires FDOE to provide training related to the transfer of records for military students coming to Florida from out of state. • The training is for district and charter school employees, which would include registrars, school counselors, administrators, etc. • The training will give schools flexibility to incorporate local policies and procedures. The training covers Florida initiatives supporting military families. • The training will also include a memorandum of agreement between school districts, military families and military installations containing key components of the Interstate Compact. This training is expected to be ready by January 2026. • Questions: Lacey Allen asked about the MIC3 Training that is already available on the MIC3 website in their training portal. Dr. Aune stated that will be included in the resources portion of the training. Commissioner McCaffrey also mentioned there are resources already available. Dr. Aune suggested creating a resource library and scheduling a meeting to preview what that would look like.	

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Purple Star Districts and Schools of Distinction Update	Dr. Andria Cole, Chief, Bureau of Family and Community Outreach
200 schools received the distinction for the cohort 2025-2028. 78 schools applied for the first time; 124 were renewals from the original cohort; 16 colleges also applied including seven new ones, for a total of 425.	
Purple Star Districts and Schools of Distinction Reflection	Major Bryan F. Williams, D.M.L., M.S., M.A., U.S. Army (Ret.), Department Chair and JROTC Senior Army Instructor, Mariner Leadership Academy
- Lee County (Mariner High School). The closest military installation is two and a half hours away. Many military families are new retirees with middle and high school children. - Staff members understand the unique challenges that military students encounter and provide supports. - Students in JROTC were able to sponsor military students when they first arrived on campus to get them connected to the school environment. - This distinction requires at least one community outreach event each year. The JROTC visited assisted living communities to deliver flag presentations, and the JROTC was involved in the Veterans' Day Parade. - At graduation, military students will now get a stole to recognize them, even if they are not members of the JROTC.	
Step Up for Students Resources for Military-Connected Families	Lena O'Brien, Regional Manager, Schools & Provider Services, Step Up for Students; and Crisceli Acosta, Regional Manager, Schools & Provider Services, Step Up for Students
- Step Up for Students helps families with the cost of education. - These programs include: - Family Empowerment Scholarship for Educational Options (FES-EO). - Personalized Education Program (PEP). - Family Empowerment Scholarship-Unique Abilities Scholarship (FES-UA). - Transportation Stipend – for public or charter school attended outside of the student's home zone. - Applications close on November 15th annually; however, military families can apply at any time. - Questions: Commissioner McCaffrey inquired as to who may apply and the response was any family can apply. Lisa Hill inquired about how Step Up receives funds since the organization is non-profit, and the response was they are state funded and they take donations.	
Updates from the Military Family Education Liaison	Lisa Hill, Military Family Education Liaison
- Annual Business Meeting – tiered priority for active duty vs. veterans in schools. - Advocated for mental health providers to accept Tricare, the official uniformed services health care program for active-duty military personnel and their eligible family members. - In August 2025, Hurlburt Field hosted 30 Military and Family Life Counselors (MFLCs) for a Hurlburt Field Mission Brief and beginning-of-year orientation. During the event, information about MIC3 was shared with attendees, and Lisa Hill was able to advocate for the importance of being educated about MIC3 to better support military-connected students and families. She also shared the perspective of the military child, helping attendees gain a deeper understanding of the unique challenges and needs of military-connected students.	

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Updates from the National Office	Lindsey Dablow, Interim Director, MIC3
- At the National Meeting, \$1.78 was the increase per military child for the new dues for the Interstate Compact. - The finance committee will issue a memorandum to communicate the increase in the state's payment. - The Wire is the monthly newsletter that will be sent out in January, which will feature the 2025 annual report. - Commission's 2028 Strategic Plan – 4 Strategic Plan will be released in December 2025.	
School Liaison Spotlight	Lisa Hill, Military Family Education Liaison
- Garth Gourley – U.S. Army Garrison – Miami - Organized the Bring Your Child to Work Day. The installation is 50 percent civilian. There were still over 200 participants at the event.	
Updates from the School Liaisons	Patrigna Murphy, Navy Region Southeast School Liaison
- Liaisons meet every month to discuss challenges. - There have been 16 MIC3 cases since August 2025. 15 were solved at the lowest level. Supported cases were placement in Exceptional Student Education or comparable services and kindergarten placement. - Seeking additional support with advanced enrollment for active-duty military students to have a uniform policy throughout the state. - Question: Acosta: Is there a contact list to connect when issues arise? Answer: Commissioner: The contact information is located on the MIC3.net website.	
Other Business	
Public Comments/Questions	
None	
Next Meeting:	
January 9, 2026	