MIC3 MILITARY INTERSTATE CHILDREN'S COMPACT COMMISSION

THE WIRE

NEWSLETTER



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2026 Annual Business Meeting Highlights









The Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission (MIC3) recently held its 18th Annual Business Meeting in Indianapolis, bringing together representatives from 49 Member States, seven Ex-officio Organizations, and key state and federal partners. The meeting provided an opportunity to celebrate accomplishments, advance strategic priorities, and strengthen partnerships that support successful educational transitions for military- and uniform-connected students.

A highlight of the 2026 Annual Business Meeting was hearing from Standing Committee Chairs as they shared progress made in support of the 2026-2028 Strategic Plan, focused on the priorities of Culture, Fidelity, and Engagement. The Strategic Plan guides the Commission's efforts to strengthen partnerships, maintain the integrity of the Compact, and expand education and awareness among stakeholders.

The Commission's Standing Committees serve as the driving force behind these priorities, turning strategic goals into action and helping advance MIC3's vision of *Successful Educational Transitions* for children of the uniformed services.

Committee reports highlighted several notable accomplishments from fiscal year (FY) 2026, including strong Commission-wide compliance, ensuring member states remain well-positioned to support military- and uniform-connected students, their families, and the local

education agencies that serve them. The Communications and Outreach Committee shared that more than 48,000 communications resources were distributed to increase awareness of the Compact. The Training Committee also reported continued growth in participation and learning opportunities, with 68 trainings conducted and more than 1,700 participants attending Compact 101 sessions.

Another significant milestone at the 2026 ABM was the adoption of two Compact Rule amendments. Updates to SEC. 1.101 *Definitions* and SEC. 4.103 *Transfers During Senior Year* provide receiving local education agencies (LEAs) with greater flexibility to ensure transferring seniors receive formal exit documentation that reflects graduation requirements substantially comparable to those they were pursuing in the sending LEA.

For a closer look at the accomplishments and impact of the Commission's committees last year, watch for the FY2026 Annual Report, coming soon to your inbox.

Meeting Highlights

Lisa Johnson, Family Support Services Program Manager for the U.S. Coast Guard, provided valuable insights into the unique experiences of Coast Guard families. Her presentation supported the Commission's ongoing efforts to strengthen engagement with uniformed services and increase awareness of Compact protections.





The Commission recognized Rosemarie Kraeger, Rhode Island Compact Commissioner from 2010-2026, for more than 16 years of dedicated service to MIC3. Her leadership included service as Commission Chair, Vice Chair, and Chair of the Public Relations and Training Committee.

Headquarters School Liaisons from the Air Force, Army, Marines, and Navy participated in a panel discussion highlighting the critical role School Liaisons play in supporting military-connected students through PCS moves and parental deployments.



In less than two days, Commissioners, Designees, and Proxies accomplished a tremendous amount of business, strengthening governance, advancing strategic priorities, and reinforcing partnerships that help ensure ***Successful Educational Transitions*** for the children of uniformed services members.

Did You Know?

Did you know that the Commission adopted two new Rules?

At the 2026 ABM, the Commission adopted two amendments related to substantially comparable graduation requirements:

Compact Rule, SEC. 1.101 Definitions *adds a definition of Substantially Comparable Graduation Requirements. View on mic3.net.*

Compact Rule, SEC. 4.103 Transfers During Senior Year *adds guidance on Substantial Comparability and Course Waivers. View on mic3.net.*

These amendments provide additional guidance for local education agencies, especially in states with multiple diploma pathways, to support military- and uniform-connected students who transfer while maintaining academic standards. Updated Rule Books are now available online!

Partner Spotlight

Education Commission of the States



At the 2026 ABM, Kathryn Lynch-Morin shared an overview of current education policy trends and highlighted valuable resources available through the Education Commission of the States (ECS).

One resource Kathryn emphasized was the ECS State Education Policy Tracking Dashboard. This interactive tool allows users to monitor education-related legislation during current state legislative sessions across all 50 states and territories. Users can search and filter bills by topic area, state, and legislative status, to track proposals and enacted policies on a variety of education topics. The dashboard serves as a centralized source for anyone seeking timely information on education legislation in their states.

To explore the dashboard, visit the ECS State Education Policy Tracking Dashboard. To view Kathryn's full presentation from the 2026 ABM, visit mic3.net.

EDUCATION COMMISSION OF THE STATES

Meet the Commissioner



Jennifer Belanger
Compact Commissioner
MIC3 Maine

Commissioner Belanger serves as the MIC3 Maine Commissioner. Appointed in 2026, she is one of the Commission's newest commissioners. Commissioner Belanger also works as a legislative specialist around education and policy.

What is one you wish that schools and uniform-connected families better understood about the Compact?

The power and impact of the School Liaison Officers in making the Compact work.

What quote or motto best represents your approach to service?

Maine's state motto is a perfect one: *Dirigo (I lead).* Leadership, done well, is service. Our military-connected students and their families deserve compassionate, responsive leadership.

What is one Compact-related initiative, partnership, or collaboration in your state that you are particularly proud of?

More robust participation in the State Council. Expand awareness of the Compact beyond the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard in Kittery to include areas with the National Guard.

Read More

October Training Recap

In October, the National Office delivered five Compact 101 Training sessions for stakeholders in South Carolina, New Jersey, and Colorado. Headquarters also hosted its monthly Compact 101 and quarterly Compact 201 webinars, which were open to all interested participants. Attendees included school administrators, educators, counselors, and School Liaisons, all working together to better support military- and uniform-connected students and families.

Upcoming Events

Committee Meetings

Leadership and Nomination — November 16
Executive Committee — November 19

Compact 101 Training (Virtual)

December 16 at 3 PM ET
To register, click here!



Looking Ahead: 2027

- 2027 Committee meeting dates have been set.
- 2027 Compact 101 and 201 Training Dates are on the Events Calendar!
- Register for any session today! Share upcoming training dates by downloading the graphics below.





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