MIC3 | MILITARY INTERSTATE CHILDREN'S COMPACT COMMISSION

THE WIRE

NEWSLETTER



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Meet the Commissioner



Ernise Singleton
Louisiana Commissioner &
Leadership Nomination Committee Chair

Commissioner Singleton has served as the MIC3 Louisiana Commissioner since 2018 and as Past Chair of the Commission in 2026. Commissioner Singleton previously served as Training Committee Chair, Commission Vice Chair, and Commission Chair. Commissioner Singleton also serves as an Educational Program Manager for the Louisiana Department of Education.

What is one thing you wish that schools and uniform-connected families better understood about the Compact?
I wish schools understood the Compact has a focus on ensuring educational opportunities for uniform-connected families are provided in specific areas. Yes, extra-curricular activities are important, but that is not the focus of the Compact.

What is one Compact-related initiative, partnership, or collaboration in your state that you are particularly proud of?
I am proud of the connection my agency has with our military partners. The open lines of communication from the School Liaisons, School Systems, Military Contacts, etc. provide for educational success for all.

In what ways has your perspective shifted over the course of your service to the Commission since your appointment?
Since I have served as a Commissioner I am more cognizant of what it means for a student to move from one place to another and ensuring those students have what they need to be successful in the transition.

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Ann Pettit
South Dakota Commissioner &
Tier Group 4 Facilitator

Commissioner Pettit has served as the MIC3 South Dakota Commissioner since 2021 and as the Tier Group 4 Facilitator since 2026. Commissioner Pettit also serves as the Deputy Superintendent for the Douglas School District.



What is one thing you wish that schools and uniform-connected families better understood about the Compact?
I wish schools and military-connected families were more aware of the Compact and the supports it provides. South Dakota welcomes many young military families each year, and many are simply unaware the Compact exists. Greater awareness would help families advocate for their students and help schools ensure military-connected children experience smoother educational transitions.

What is one Compact-related initiative, partnership, or collaboration in your state that you are particularly proud of?
We are incredibly grateful for the partnerships that support military-connected students across South Dakota. Our School Liaison Program representative is an outstanding resource for families, and organizations like Blue Star Families provide valuable support and connection. We also greatly appreciate the South Dakota Department of Education's commitment to the Compact through its support of Purple Star Schools and its promotion of Month of the Military Child, helping raise awareness and strengthen services for military families.

What advice would you offer to commissioners seeking to strengthen Compact implementation in their state?
As the parent of military-connected children, I was surprised that I had never heard of the Compact until I was appointed as South Dakota's Commissioner. That experience shifted my perspective and reinforced the importance of not only doing the work but also ensuring the people it is intended to serve know it exists. It has motivated me to continually look for better ways to increase awareness so military-connected families and educators can fully benefit from the protections and supports the Compact provides.

Read More

Did You Know?

MIC3 offers Compact 101 training virtually every month!

Whether you are new to the Compact or looking for a refresher, these sessions provide an opportunity to strengthen your understanding of its provisions and how they support military-connected students.

The Compact 101 Training begins with a brief history of the Compact and followed by an overview of the educational provisions designed to support military-connected children. All attendees receive a workbook and resource materials to help implement the Compact in their school districts.

Visit mic3.net and click the Events Calendar to register for an upcoming session.

September Training Roundup

Over the last few weeks, the Commission has provided Compact-related information at multiple events.

September 3: U.S. Coast Guard Resource Fair

The Commission provided a brief on the Compact to 50 attendees at the U.S. Coast Guard Resource Fair, and distributed Compact resources to several hundred.

September 16: Lumpkin County, Georgia
The Commission provided a virtual Compact 101 training to 13 school counselors and student services staff from Georgia.

September 28: Compact 101 HQ Training
The Commission provided a virtual Compact 101 training online to 22 school liaisons and other school personnel from Hawaii, North Carolina, Mississippi, and Alabama.

September 29: Colorado Compact 101
The Commission provided a virtual Compact 101 Training to six Colorado school liaisons and other school personnel.

Ex-Officio Corner

DoW

OneOp Upcoming Webinars:

October 13
Blended Retirement System and Survivor Benefit Plan Basics
This webinar examines key decision points in military retirement planning, including an overview of the Blended Retirement System (BRS) and the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP), and equips service providers to guide informed, client-centered conversations. Participants will explore continuation pay, lump-sum elections, and Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) participation, and resources for military financial service providers to enhance client counseling and education.

October 22
The Gut-Brain Connection: Microbiome and Mental Health in Military Populations
The gut microbiome is increasingly recognized as an important contributor to both physical and mental health through complex interactions among the gastrointestinal, immune, endocrine, and nervous systems. This webinar will introduce the gut–brain axis and examine how diet, environmental and occupational exposures, social determinants of health, medications, and other life experiences can influence the gut microbiome and potentially contribute to health outcomes. Drawing on research involving military service members and Veterans, Drs. Lisa Brenner and Andrew Hoisington, will highlight emerging evidence linking the gut microbiome and intestinal permeability with posttraumatic stress, traumatic brain injury, depression, and other health conditions. The presentation will also discuss the rapidly evolving science of microbiome-targeted interventions and distinguish promising findings from areas where the evidence remains preliminary.

November 10
TRICARE 101: What Service Providers Need to Know
TRICARE is the healthcare program for uniformed service members, retirees, and their families worldwide. It provides comprehensive coverage through health plans, prescription drug benefits, special programs, and dental and vision options.

Designed to help service providers better support military families as they navigate the TRICARE system, this webinar provides an overview of TRICARE plan options, including Prime, Select, and TRICARE Remote, and examines key considerations that influence healthcare decisions. Presenters will discuss services covered by TRICARE, enrollment requirements, and how the evolution of the benefit may affect

beneficiaries. Participants will also explore how healthcare benefits contribute to a service member's total compensation and use this information to help equip families to account for healthcare expenses in their monthly spending.

For more information and to register for upcoming webinars, click here!

MCEC

MCEC Upcoming Webinars:

October 14
The Parent-Teacher Conference, Decoded
Parents know the kid. Teachers know the curriculum. Together at conferences, you're basically an unbeatable tag team for your student.

Families and teachers each bring expertise to the table. You know your child better than anyone: what motivates them, what worries them, and how they've handled every move, new school, and fresh start along the way. Teachers know the classroom: where your student shines, where they need support, and what the year ahead will ask of them. When you bring both perspectives together at a parent-teacher conference, your student doesn't stand a chance of falling behind. In this webinar, we'll share practical ways to prepare for conferences, what to ask and share, and how to leave with a clear plan you and your child's teacher can put into action together. Whether it's your first conference at a new school or your tenth, you'll walk away ready to make the most of those few minutes.

October 20
Academic Portfolios that Move with Your Child
Moving boxes get lost. Your child's academic record shouldn't. Learn how to build a portfolio that travels with your student.

Every move brings a long list of things to pack, track, and keep from getting lost. Your child's academic history belongs at the top of that list. Records don't always arrive on time, and a transcript alone rarely tells a new school who your student really is. An academic portfolio fills that gap. It gathers report cards, test scores, work samples, IEP or 504 documents, awards, and notes from past teachers in one place, so your child's progress and strengths arrive with them instead of weeks later. In this webinar, we'll walk through what to include, how to keep it organized, and how to share it with a new school to help your student start strong. Think of it as the one box you'll always know how to find.

To register for upcoming webinars, click here!

Upcoming Events

Annual Business Meeting
October 14-15
Indianapolis, Indiana

Compact 201 Training (Virtual)
October 27 at 2:00 PM ET

Compact 101 Training (Virtual)
November 6 at 5:00 PM ET

Compact 101 Training (Virtual)
December 16 at 3:00 PM ET



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