



MILITARY INTERSTATE  
CHILDREN'S COMPACT  
COMMISSION



# 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

SUCCESSFUL EDUCATIONAL TRANSITIONS

# FACTS AND FIGURES

ACTIVE DUTY AND NATIONAL GUARD  
SERVICE MEMBERS—WORLDWIDE

—2,651,958—

ACTIVE DUTY MEMBERS  
1,414,597

NATIONAL GUARD MEMBERS  
1,237,361

ACTIVE DUTY AND NATIONAL GUARD  
SPOUSES—WORLDWIDE

—1,042,866—

ACTIVE DUTY MEMBERS  
535,792

NATIONAL GUARD MEMBERS  
507,074

AS OF JULY 2021, THERE ARE

2,257,373

DEPENDENT CHILDREN (0-18)

OF THE U.S. MILITARY WORLDWIDE

1,223,170

OR 54%

ARE SCHOOL AGE (5-18)



## ACTIVE DUTY

W O R L D W I D E

975,925 TOTAL DEPENDENT  
CHILDREN (0-18)

—636,190 (65%)—

ARE SCHOOL AGE CHILDREN (5-18)

387,739 (61%) ARE UNDER AGE 12

C O N T I N E N T A L U . S .

903,267 TOTAL DEPENDENT  
CHILDREN (0-18)

—589,984 (65%)—

ARE SCHOOL AGE CHILDREN (5-18)

357,538 (61%) ARE UNDER AGE 12

## NATIONAL GUARD & RESERVE

W O R L D W I D E

1,281,448 TOTAL DEPENDENT  
CHILDREN (0-18)

—586,980 (46%)—

ARE SCHOOL AGE CHILDREN (5-18)

285,949 (49%) ARE UNDER AGE 12

C O N T I N E N T A L U . S .

1,242,896 TOTAL DEPENDENT  
CHILDREN (0-18)

—669,430 (46%)—

ARE SCHOOL AGE CHILDREN (5-18)

277,421 (49%) ARE UNDER AGE 12

# LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

In this report, you'll read many examples of our accomplishments and how we are moving forward. As you do, please view our work not just in terms of time and energy, but talent and tactics. Your support enables our complete commitment to help our military remain focused on their mission, and our job — as appointed officials for our state — is crucial to their success.

Education is always a challenge for military children, even under normal circumstances, as they typically move between 6-9 times throughout their educational career. Under the COVID-19 pandemic, the past 18 months have been incredibly difficult for all kids across the nation as schools moved to remote learning and dealt with the impact of the virus on our communities. This unique environment has added an additional set of challenges for our military families and kids as they serve.

Despite these challenges, it has been an opportunity for creativity. We've heard of numerous situations where the sending and receiving schools in remote learning worked together and allowed students to remain virtually enrolled and finish the semester to counter learning loss. Although many activities were cancelled, schools tried their best to engage and provide opportunities for students to connect virtually — and we know kids were promoted to the next grade and graduated from high school.

We must not forget the challenges our schools faced under COVID, dealing with the constantly changing regulations and continued impact of the virus in our schools and communities; learning new technology and teaching strategies to engage kids in the classroom. It has been no easy feat and we applaud them for their commitment.

As an organization, we're also continually evolving, addressing, and resolving the educational challenges that our military kids face as they move. The pandemic has changed how we connect and coordinate our state programs: by moving our council meetings from in-person to virtual meetings; and celebrating April's Month of the Military Child with virtual and socially distanced activities and events.

As you read our highlights from 2020-2021 and see our work in progress, you'll notice more examples of pivoting to provide additional resources and ensure we are implementing and meeting the requirements of the Compact. Pandemic or not, one key message resonates, our work is crucial, and we are firmly committed to providing the expertise, resources, and training programs that expand our reach and impact.

It has been an amazing honor and privilege to serve as the 6th Commission Chair. Our organization is in good hands: the Executive Committee members are committed and devoted to the mission; our commissioners are dedicated, creative, and passionate leaders; our relationships with external partners continue to strengthen as we work together toward our common goals; and the national office staff continue to serve and support us in every aspect of the work. Thank you for the opportunity to serve.

Warmest regards,



**John I. "Don" Kaminar**  
Commission Chair and  
Arkansas Commissioner

## GENERAL COUNSEL REPORT

RICHARD MASTERS



Outside Counsel is retained to provide guidance for the Commission and its Committees with respect to legal issues, related to their duties and responsibilities under MIC3 terms, and its by-laws and rules. Actively participating in both dispute resolution and litigation matters related to enforcement of the Compact provisions and rules, Counsel also advises the Commission on issues pertaining to investigation, compliance, and enforcement responsibilities. During this period, Counsel has: drafted two advisories on the IDEA & Special Education and U.S. Space Force; drafted three legal memorandums regarding Ex-officio members and the electoral process under Robert's Rules, the Purple Star program, and Senate Bill 638: a Proposed Amendment to the Arkansas MIC3 Statute.

## LEADERSHIP



**CHAIR**

John I. "Don" Kaminar (AR)



**VICE CHAIR**

Laura Anastasio (CT)



**TREASURER**

Craig Neuenswander (KS)



**PAST CHAIR**

Rosemarie Kraeger (RI)





# MIC3 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

## MISSION

Through the Interstate Compact, MIC3 addresses key educational transition issues encountered by children of military families.

## VISION

Successful Educational Transitions

## VALUES

- 1 Doing the right thing for children
- 2 Resolving issues fairly
- 3 Respect for all
- 4 Transparency in all we do
- 5 Committed to making a difference

## SHARED COMMITMENTS

- 1 Advance the organization to serve children (set aside adult issues).
- 2 Openness and transparency in all we do.
- 3 Collaboration based on trust.
- 4 The inclusion of diverse perspectives of all members (50+1).
- 5 Continual professional growth of the organization and the individuals and commissioners.
- 6 Make decisions using data, expertise and experience consistent with the strategic plan.
- 7 Our actions always reflect our vision, mission and values.
- 8 Regularly assess our performance and progress.



# STRATEGIC PLAN 2020–2022

## STRATEGY 1

Enhance MIC3 visibility and awareness among those impacted by MIC3 through clarity of our mission, clearly defined roles and responsibilities of our stakeholders, and a commitment to the Compact.

### GOAL | *Clarity and Awareness*

Military families rely on MIC3 to assist in the successful transition of their children during transfer and transitions. However, many families and education professionals may be unaware of MIC3 and those who are aware of the Compact, may not understand exactly what the Compact covers. It is critically important MIC3 leverage our stakeholders to expand our reach to those areas that may not be aware of the Compact while continuing to provide clarity of the Compact to areas with a high military presence.

## STRATEGY 2

Empower and channel the diverse nature of our commissioners to maintain one focus, one purpose, and one outcome.

### GOAL | *Cohesive and Aligned*

MIC3 is uniquely positioned to engage the skills and abilities of commissioners and stakeholders while maintaining a culture and environment that are aligned with our mission, vision, values, and purpose. In doing so, we will encourage maximum engagement from all stakeholders while creating an organization focused on innovation, professionalism, and progress.

## STRATEGY 3

Establish and maintain a culture of growth to ensure fiscal stability and operational effectiveness.

### GOAL | *Foundation and Future*

As MIC3 continues to evolve and mature, so must our approach to continually invest in our infrastructure while positioning the organization within an ever-changing environment. To do so, MIC3 will continue to focus on maximizing our operational effectiveness while continuing to manage our assets and structure responsibly.

# COMMITTEE REPORTS

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (EXCOM)

**2020** | July 19 | Aug 20 | Sept 3 | Sept 17 | Nov 18-19 | Dec 17

**2021** | Jan 21 | Feb 18 | Mar 18 | Apr 14 | May 20 | June 17

*Responsible for guiding and overseeing the administration of all Commission activities and for acting on behalf of the Commission, as permitted by the Compact, during the interim between Commission meetings.*

At the 2020 Annual Business Meeting (ABM), the Commission extended the leadership team for Chair, Vice Chair, and Treasurer for a third term to support the stability of the organization under the COVID-19 pandemic. In November, the Executive Committee held a virtual retreat to plan for the upcoming year and held their April meeting virtually as well. The Committee adopted one advisory on the U.S. Space Force; drafted three legal memorandums regarding Ex-officio members and the electoral process under Robert's Rules, the Purple Star program, and Senate Bill 638: Proposed Amendment to the Arkansas MIC3 Statute. In addition, the Committee approved three legal memorandums drafted by General Counsel, and one legal advisory on the U.S. Space Force. Regarding the National Guard and Reserve expansion beyond Title 10, the Committee drafted guidance for Commissioners to discuss the matter with their respective state councils and other stakeholders. The guidance asked states to submit position statements by August 31 to prepare for discussion on the way ahead at the 2021 ABM. Under the Strategic Plan, the Committee established a new award for members based on years of service which was reviewed and approved by both the Communications & Outreach, and Rules committees. A fifth Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Military Impacted Schools Association (MISA) was passed to conduct joint training on the Compact. The Committee supported the National Office's weekly COVID-19 updates for member states on school closures and reopening for the Fall 2021 school year. The team also approved the Finance Committee's request to contract a consultant to conduct an Operations Audit of the Commission. Over the next year, the Committee will continue oversight of the strategic plan and priorities for Year 3.

## RULES COMMITTEE

**2020** | July 21 | **2021** | Feb 9 | Apr 20 | June 15



### COMMITTEE CHAIR

Mary Gable | Maryland

*Responsible for administering the commission's rulemaking procedures, and for developing proposed rules for the commission's consideration as appropriate.*

The Rules Committee continues to review the Case and Inquiry Report to identify areas of the Compact that could be strengthened by a new rule or amendment to an existing Commission Rule. In addition to its standard work, the Committee reviewed policies 1-2021, 2-2021, and 3-2021 related to staffing and meeting practices during the COVID-19 pandemic. These policies will be on the Consent Calendar at the 2021 Annual Business Meeting.

# COMMITTEE REPORTS (CONTINUED)

## FINANCE COMMITTEE

2020 | July 28 | Aug 25 | 2021 | Jan 26 | Mar 23 | May 25



### TREASURER

Craig Neuenswander | Kansas

*Responsible for guiding and overseeing the administration of all Commission activities and for acting on behalf of the Commission, as permitted by the Compact, during the interim between Commission meetings.*

Under the strategic plan, the Committee had two main areas of focus this year: examining how states funded their Compact programs through a survey of the Commission; and conducting an operations audit of the commission through an independent consultant. The Operation Audit results will be released at the Annual Business Meeting in November. The Committee continues to track impacts to the Commission funding which is based on annual state dues calculated at \$1.15 per military student residing in the Continental U.S. (CONUS). Additional factors impacting fiscal projections include the: Kentucky Employee Retirement System; rising cost of employee benefits and healthcare; and unknown impact of COVID-19 on current and future operations. The good news is despite the economic challenges of the pandemic, the 2018 Finance Committee's recommendation that the Commission invest a portion of reserve funds into Vanguard Investments continues to prove a valid one as the growth in that account has increased steadily over the past four years. In addition, the FY2021 annual audit, completed by Blue & Company, found the Commission to be in good standing. The Committee supports educating members on the financial process and added a brief for new commissioners in their onboarding process which has proved successful. The Committee will continue to: educate members on the fiscal process, report on the budget and fiscal operations; and establish fiscal principals and policies to support a stable organization. Over the next year, the Committee will examine the viability of outside funding sources to support Commission programs.

## TRAINING COMMITTEE

2020 | July 28 | Aug 25 | 2021 | Feb 23 | Apr 27 | June 22



### COMMITTEE CHAIR

Ernise Singleton | Louisiana

*Responsible for developing educational resources and training materials for use in the member states to help ensure awareness of, and compliance with, the terms of the compact and the Commission's rules.*

Following the 2020 ABM, the Training Committee launched the New Commissioner Mentoring program. This program pairs newly appointed Commissioners with seasoned mentors that can assist them as they serve the military families within their state. Along with the New Commissioner Mentoring program, the Committee has focused on developing a training calendar and new online training materials for the Commission. Aligned with *Strategic Plan, Goal 1, Tactic 2* – Continue to expand training within states, regionally, or online the Committee will debut a new training video focused on *Article 7 – Graduation* at the 2021 ABM. Members developed the script and produced both a film and webinar version of the training which will be featured on *mic3.net* as part of the site's new Training page.

As Fiscal Year 2021 ends, the Members are concentrating on development of an e-learning environment to increase outreach and dissemination of information related to the Compact and how it assists military families.

## COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE

2020 | July 14 | Sept 8

2021 | Jan 12 | Mar 23 | May 11 | July 13 | Sept 14



### COMMITTEE CHAIR

Daron Korte | Minnesota

*Responsible for monitoring the compliance by member states with the terms of the compact and the Commission's rules, and for developing appropriate enforcement procedures for the Commission's consideration.*

The Compliance Committee continues to monitor member states' compliance with the 1-2017 State Coordination Policy. Since its passage in 2017, states reporting on State Council meetings and production of an End-of-Year Report to the Commission has increased. Committed to assisting member states with resources to fulfill the requirements outlined in policy 1-2017 the Compliance Committee will launch the End-of-Year Report Template at the 2021 ABM.

The Committee has reviewed and assisted with Commissioner vacancies throughout the course of the year. While there has been substantial turnover in the Commission over the past two years the process for obtaining new appointments to the Commission has become easier since the implementation of policy 1-2019 Resolving Compliance Issues and through the efforts of this committee.

Along with its regular work the Compliance Committee actively monitored Texas Legislature House Bill 3932, Relating to the establishment of a *State Advisory Council on Educational Opportunity for Military Children*, which was signed by Texas Governor Greg Abbott and took effect on September 1, 2021. House Bill 3932 allows the Compact Commissioner in coordination with the Texas Education Agency to establish Texas' MIC3 State Council as required by *Article VIII* of the Compact statute.

At the conclusion of this fiscal year, the Compliance Committee is focused on completing *Strategic Plan Goal 2, Tactic 4* – Define and communicate minimum expectations for commissioner participation and engagement at the Annual Business Meeting and standing committee meetings.

## COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH

2020 | July 1 | Aug 5 | 2021 | Jan 6 | Mar 3 | May 5



### COMMITTEE CHAIR

Brian Henry | Missouri

*Responsible for developing materials to improve and expand the outreach of the Commission and for targeting ways to communicate our message to a wider audience.*

Under the pandemic, a majority of schools across the U.S. remained in remote learning throughout the 2020-2021 school year. Though many districts reported reopening during the 4th quarter, there were an equal number of schools that remained with virtual or hybrid instruction. Proactively, the Committee updated April's Month of the Military Child (MOTMC) campaign materials with virtual celebrations and activities for schools which were disseminated through the Commission's social media and Chair Messages. Several states celebrated creatively with virtual celebrations, proclamations, video messages, and lighting state capitols, monuments, and bridges in purple. The team updated the toolkits for Commissioners, State Councils, Schools, and Parents, and released a mid-year memorandum



highlighting the resources available to states. Though no submittals were received for the new Successful Transition Videos program this year, the program will be relaunched at the upcoming Annual Business Meeting in November. The program highlights personal stories on how the compact has facilitated student transitions and will be featured in social media campaigns and highlighted at the 2022 ABM.

## LEADERSHIP NOMINATION COMMITTEE

2020 | July 3 | July 27 | Aug 24 | Oct 26

2021 | Mar 22 | May 24



### COMMITTEE CHAIR

Rosemarie Kraeger | *Rhode Island*

*Responsible for developing a transparent and fair election process that provides a clear leadership succession plan.*

At the 2017 ABM, the Commission approved the formation of an Ad Hoc Committee on Leadership Development (LDC). The first year the LDC was led by former Commission Chair Kate Wren Gavlak (CA), the purpose was to examine the current election protocol and develop a process that was transparent and outlined a clear succession plan for MIC3. On recommendation of the previous Committee, it was adopted in 2019 as a new permanent committee and the name was changed from Leadership Development to Nomination. In October 2020, the Committee reviewed feedback from the Annual Business Meeting survey. Throughout the year, they revised the electoral process to address concerns and improved transparency which included the public release of the secret ballot the candidate vote count to members; moving the process from a secret paper ballot to a roll call vote under Robert's Rules; and eliminating the virtual meet the candidate evening session.

## NATIONAL GUARD AND RESERVE COVERAGE TASK FORCE

Aug 26, 2020



### TASK FORCE CHAIR

Kathleen Berg | *Hawaii*

*Mission: To collect and analyze relevant data in order to recommend whether MIC3 protections for military-connected students already in place for the children of these reserve component service members in Title 10*

*status should be expanded to cover children of members in other status situations, as well.*

The Ad Hoc National Guard and Reserve Coverage Task Force (NGRTF), convened by the Executive Committee in 2019, presented their final report at the 2020 Annual Business Meeting (ABM). The Committee recommendation supported expansion of the Compact coverage for school aged dependents of members of the selected reserve for moves related to changes in duty station and for deployments in any active-duty status, including Title 10, Title 32, and State Active Duty (SAD). The Commission did not adopt the recommendation and expressed concern regarding a possible dues increase with the additional dependents added to the program; requested the opportunity to discuss the matter with their respective state councils; and asked the item to be referred to the Executive Committee (EXCOM). The EXCOM drafted a Guidance for Commissioners to discuss the matter with their respective state councils and other stakeholders. The guidance asked states to submit position statements by August 31 to prepare for discussion on the way ahead at the 2021 ABM.



M. Ward, Waynesville District Schools, Missouri

## EX-OFFICIO REPORT



Laura Anastasio | *Connecticut*

Jan 7 | Mar 25

From the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic until present the support and engagement of the Commission with the five ex-officio groups has proven to be an invaluable asset and resource for the Commission. This past year, with the retirement of David Splitek, the group welcomed Dr. Becky Porter, Executive Director of the Military Child Education Coalition to its ranks.

Representative Charles Clymer, Jr. briefed on the Navy's Judge Advocate General (JAG) Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP) Support pilot program allowing Vice Chair Anastasio and the other members to better understand the program and its impact on military families. National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) representative Davis Whitfield updated the members on actions throughout the member state's athletic associations in response to the pandemic. Mr. Whitfield also collaborated with MIC3 to inform the Commission on the role of NFHS and how it works with military families experiencing frequent moves due to military orders.

Mr. Kyle Fairbairn and the Military Impacted Schools Association (MISA) continues to support the training efforts of the Commission. MISA President Dr. Keith Mispagel collaborated with MIC3 to facilitate the *MIC3 Townhall: The Pandemic and its Impact on Schools* to provide the Commission with an educator's perspective and share best practice to support students and an overall positive school environment under the pandemic. MIC3's partnership with MISA to train military impacted school districts to assist military-connected students will continue in 2022.

National Military Family Association representative Nicole Russell has been an asset to the Training Committee providing valuable feedback on committee initiatives. She is also collaborating with MIC3 to produce a webinar for the Commission, watch for that in the coming months.

Each appointed representative collaborates to bring their organization's area of focus to benefit the MIC3. The Commission appreciates each organization's continued commitment to and efforts on behalf of military families and the Commission.

## EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

We appreciate the partnership and support from our Ex-Officio (non-voting) representatives as we all strive to do what is best for children of military families.



**Charles Clymer, Jr.**  
CYES Program Manager  
Commander Navy Installation Command



**Kyle Fairbairn**  
Executive Director



**Dr. Rebecca Porter**  
President and CEO



**NATIONAL  
MILITARY FAMILY  
ASSOCIATION**  
Together we're stronger

**Nicole Russell**  
Deputy Director of  
Government Relations



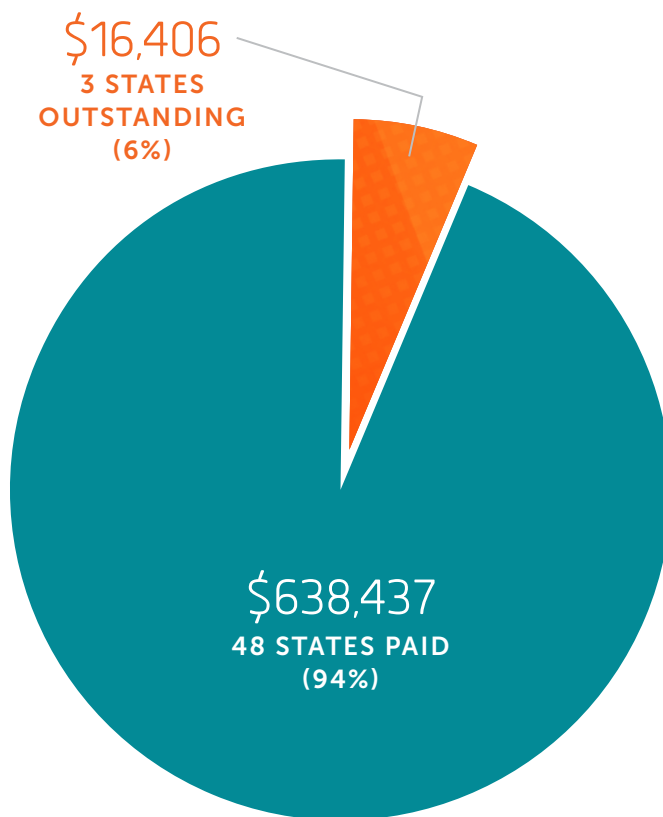
NATIONAL FEDERATION  
OF STATE HIGH SCHOOL  
ASSOCIATIONS

**Davis Whitfield**  
Chief Operating Officer

## FINANCIAL OUTLOOK

### ANNUAL DUES PAYMENTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021

based on total amount due of \$654,843



**TOTAL PAID 94% | TOTAL OWED 6%**

Payment deadline is June 30, 2021

States outstanding as of September 15, 2021: MO, NH, NJ

*Compact Rules Language adopted at 2018 ABM—"Beginning with FY 2020, the dues formula shall be based on the figure of one dollar and fifteen cents per child (\$1.15) of military families eligible for transfer under this compact, and this calculation shall be based upon the State in which each military family resides, except that no State dues assessment shall exceed the sum of sixty-nine thousand dollars (\$69,000.00) per year or shall be less than two thousand three hundred dollars (\$2,300.00)."*





# MIC3 REPORT OF INDEPENDENT AUDITORS

**To the Board of Directors  
Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission  
Lexington, Kentucky**

We have audited the financial statements of the Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission (the Compact) for the year ended June 30, 2021, and have issued our report thereon dated as of the date of this letter. Professional standards require that we provide you with information about our responsibilities under generally accepted auditing standards as well as certain information related to the planned scope and timing of our audit. We have communicated such information to you in our letter dated August 12, 2021 and our engagement letter dated June 1, 2020. Professional standards also require that we communicate to you the following information related to our audit.

## **Significant Audit Findings**

### *Qualitative Aspects of Accounting Practices*

Management is responsible for the selection and use of appropriate accounting policies in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter, we will advise management about the appropriateness of accounting policies and their application. The significant accounting policies used by the Compact are described in Note 1 to the financial statements. No new accounting policies were adopted and the application of existing policies was not changed during 2021. We noted no transactions entered into by the Compact during the year for which there is a lack of authoritative guidance or consensus. All significant transactions have been recognized in the financial statements in the proper period.

Accounting estimates are an integral part of the financial statements prepared by management and are based on management's knowledge and experience about past and current events and assumptions about future events. Certain accounting estimates are particularly sensitive because of their significance to the financial statements and because of the possibility that future events affecting them may differ significantly from those expected.

### *Difficulties Encountered in Performing the Audit*

We encountered no significant difficulties in dealing with management in performing and completing our audit.

### *Corrected and Uncorrected Misstatements*

Professional standards require us to accumulate all known and likely misstatements if identified during the audit, other than those that are trivial, and communicate them to the appropriate level of management. None of the misstatements detected as a result of audit procedures and corrected, by management were material, either individually or in the aggregate, to the financial statements taken as a whole.

### *Disagreements with Management*

For purposes of this letter, professional standards define a disagreement with management as a financial accounting, reporting, or audit-

ing matter, whether or not resolved to our satisfaction, that could be significant to the financial statements or the auditor's report. We are pleased to report that no such disagreements arose during the course of our audit.

### *Management Representations*

We have requested certain representations from management that are included in the management representation letter dated as of the date of his letter.

### *Management Consultations with Other Independent Accountants*

In some cases, management may decide to consult with other accountants about auditing and accounting matters, similar to obtaining a "second opinion" on certain situations. If a consultation involves application of an accounting principle to the Compact's financial statements or a determination of the type of auditor's opinion that may be expressed on those statements, our professional standards require the consulting accountant to check with us to determine that the consultant has all the relevant facts. To our knowledge, there were no such consultations with other accountants.

### *Other Audit Findings or Issues*

We generally discuss a variety of matters, including the application of accounting principles and auditing standards, with management each year prior to or to retention as the Compact's auditors. However, these discussions occurred in the normal course of our professional relationship and our responses were not a condition to our retention.

### *Required Supplementary Information*

With respect to the required supplementary information accompanying the financial statements, we have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

This information is intended solely for the use of the Board of Directors and management of the Compact and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

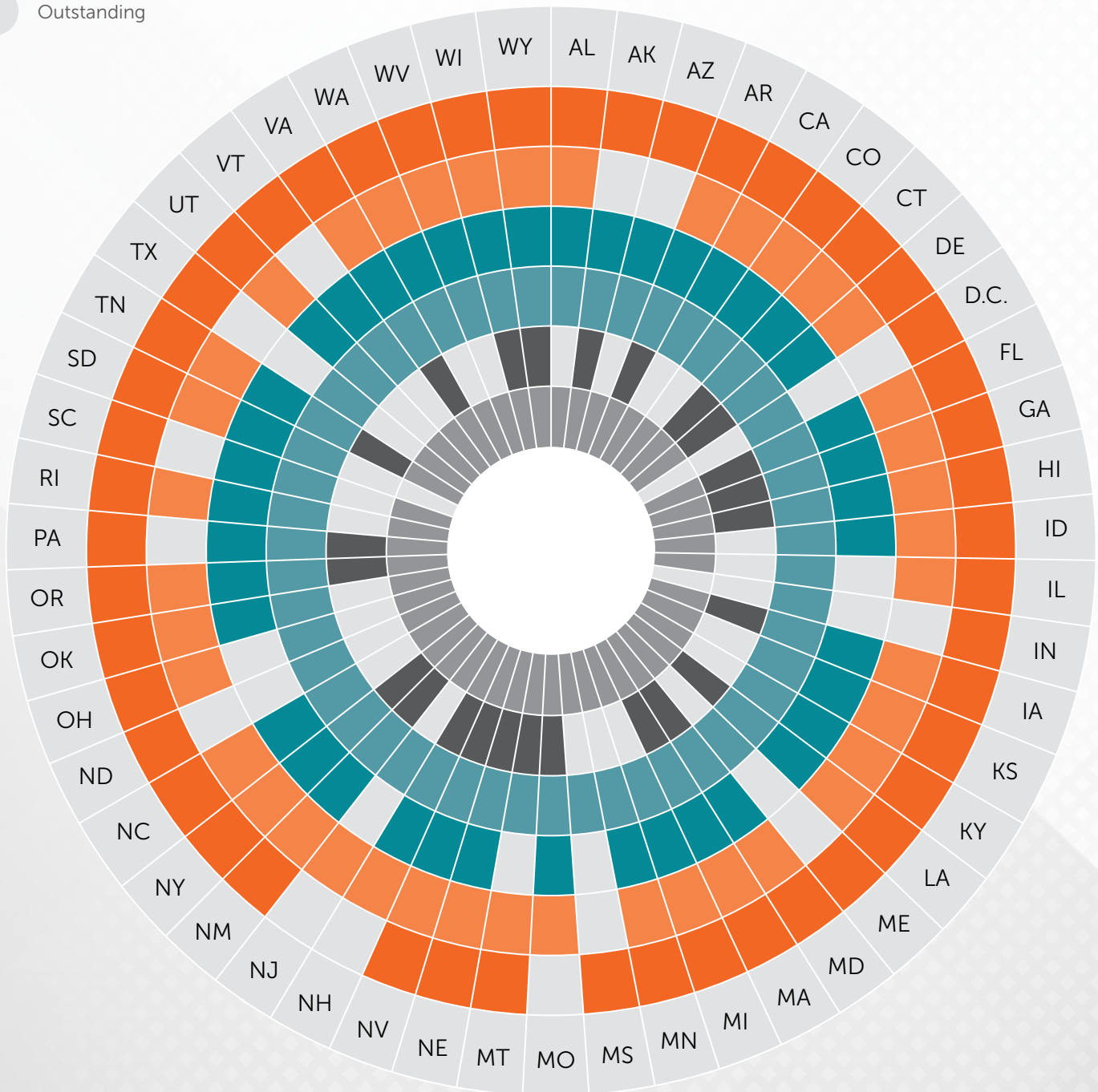
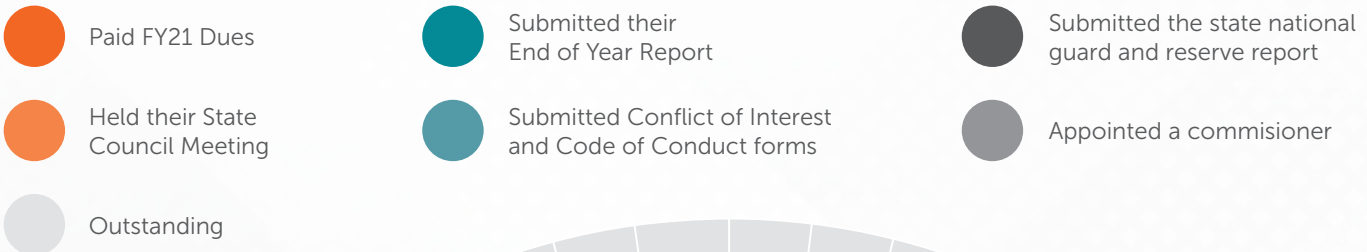
**Blue & Co., LLC**

August 27, 2021

*A full copy of auditors report is available on the MIC3 website at MIC3.net*

# STATE COMPLIANCE AND COORDINATION

Under the Compliance Committee, the Commission tracks compliance with Statute/Code requirements which mandate member states to: appoint a state commissioner; submit their code of conduct and conflict of interest forms; annually convene one state council meeting; and submit an end-of-year report. This year, states were asked to provide, by August 31st, a position statement regarding the expansion of the compact to include interstate transitions of school aged dependents of the National Guard and Reserve beyond those covered under Title 10, Active Duty status in preparation for the 2021 Annual Business Meeting.





# MIC3 YEAR IN REVIEW

## NEW COMMISSIONERS & EX-OFFICIOS

### PHILLIP CANTRELL

Military Authority Director, WVNG  
Adjutant General Office, Joint Force  
Headquarters, West Virginia

### LEAH JOHNSON, RN, BSN

Johnson, Dallas-Center Grimes, Des  
Moines Christian Schools, Iowa

### WAYNE MARQUIS

Building Management Specialist,  
Division of Finance and Support  
Services, Department of Education  
and Early Development, Alaska

### DR. BECKY PORTER

(Ex-officio)  
President and CEO, Military Child  
Education Coalition, Texas

### MICHAEL PRICE

Senior Deputy Director of State  
Operations and Director of Strategic  
Planning, Department of Military and  
Veterans Affairs, Michigan

### DR. TREMEKIA PRIESTER

Office of Student Intervention  
Services, Department of Education,  
South Carolina

### KRISTEN WINDHAM

Policy Advisor, Office of Governor  
Tate Reeves, Mississippi

### JOEL WILSON

Deputy Superintendent of Operations,  
Idaho State Department of Education

## STATE COMMISSIONER BACKGROUNDS

While the majority of our Commissioners have a background in education, we also have representatives from the military and legal fields as well as other areas.

### Out of 48 Commissioners\*



### EDUCATION 38 members (79%)

#### Current or Retired

- Higher Education, 2 members (5%)
- State, 19 members (50%)
  - State Board of Education, 1 member (5%)
  - State Department of Education, 18 members (95%)
- District or school, 17 members (45%)
  - Superintendent, 13 members (76%)
  - Other District Personnel, 2 members (12%)
  - School Level, 2 members (12%)

### MILITARY 7 members (15%)

- State Military and Veteran's Affairs (or equivalent), 3 members (43%)
- Retired Military 4 members (57%)

### OTHER STATE DEPARTMENT OR PROFESSION 3 members (6%)

\* 3 vacant positions

## FISCAL YEAR 2021 AWARDS

### COLONEL JUAN ALVAREZ

377 MSG Commander, Kirtland Air  
Force Base, and Military Representative  
to the New Mexico Military Child  
Education State Council

### YOLANDE ANDERSON

South Carolina Commissioner

### CHRIS CMIEL

West Virginia Commissioner

### KELLY FRISCH

Regional School Liaison Officer, Navy  
Region Southwest

### DR. CHRISTINA KISHIMOTO

State Superintendent, Hawaii  
Department of Education

### WADE LITRELL

Chief Financial Officer, The Council of  
State Governments

### STEVE LYNCH

Missouri State Council

### TIM MCMURTREY

Idaho Commissioner

### KIM MUNOZ

Army School Liaison Officer, US Army  
Garrison Hawaii

### JACIE RAGLAND

California Department of Education

### TERRY RYALS

Alaska Commissioner

### DR. DAVID SPLITEK

Representative to the Commission,  
Military Child Education Coalition, Texas

### MAGGIE WILLIAMS

Military Family Education Liaison, MIC3  
Hawaii State Council

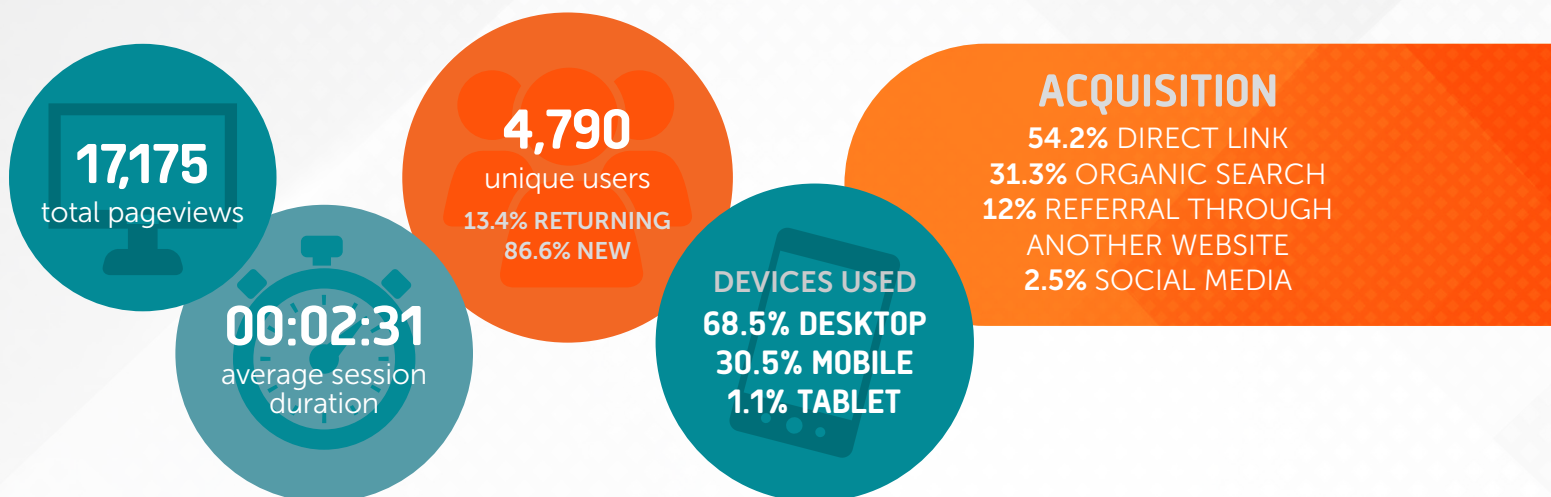


M. Ward, Waynesville District Schools, Missouri

## MIC3 YEAR IN REVIEW

### WEBSITE ANALYTICS BETWEEN MAR. 13, 2021 – SEPT. 6, 2021

MIC3 launched its new website in 2017. Over the past three year, the users have grown significantly. In March, the system analytics (which collects website data) was reset, therefore this data represents 5 months.



## INITIATIVES

**89%** of eligible states with a Commissioner held a meeting

**3 states** had commissioner vacancies

**SIX STATES** had newly appointed Commissioners in FY21

**59**  
**TOTAL**  
**MEETINGS**  
**HELD**

(10 states held more than one meeting)

**4 STATES** had newly appointed Commissioners in FY22

**13% of eligible states** with a Commissioner did not report a meeting



# MIC3 YEAR IN REVIEW

## THE IMPACT OF THE PANDEMIC ON EDUCATION

In June 2020, states and schools were scrambling to adjust to new and revised federal and state regulations and guidance regarding the pandemic, including: health and safety guidelines, and options of remote, in-person, and hybrid instruction. During this time, the Commission was proactive and published 42 weekly updates on “State Department of Education/Public Instruction COVID-19 Information/Guidance on School Closures and Reopening”, a valuable resource for states and stakeholders. In Fall 2020, while some school districts opened their buildings and returned to in-person classes, a majority of schools nationwide remained in remote learning. The general hope was a return to “normal” after the holidays.

As pandemic regulations were extended and remote learning continued, state officials and schools provided updates and flexibility on academic credits, testing requirements, and graduation to ensure the school year was completed on time. Despite the changing environment and continued challenges, states were more flexible and made exceptional accommodations for transitioning military students to mitigate learning loss and ease challenges. If students were moving between two states where both schools were in remote learning, students were allowed to remain enrolled in the sending school to complete the quarter, semester, or year to ensure they completed the class or grade level. In one case, the family of a medically fragile student received military clearance to drive across the U.S. to their new duty station. The student was allowed to enroll remotely in the new school and attend classes while traversing North America – while COVID was a major factor in this unique accommodation, schools placed the needs of the student and family first to ensure access to education.

Following the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines requiring masks and social distancing, most schools reopened their doors to in-person learning in the fourth quarter, and communities opened business and government. Life (at that time) seemed to be getting back to normal. With the arrival of the new Delta

variant over the summer months, the outlook was an indicator that we are not quite out of the pandemic — yet.

While adapting to life under COVID has not been easy for communities over the past 18 months, the question is if this is the “new normal”? Although the pandemic has broadened discussion in education, from the impact of remote learning, learning loss, socio-emotional learning, and mental health of students – the long-term impact is still unknown. As a commission, we must continue to focus on our mission, “successful educational transitions”. Our work is more vital than ever to ensure military students stay on grade level and are able to graduate on time.

President Robert F. Kennedy stated eloquently, “It is not more bigness that should be our goal. We must attempt, rather, to bring people back to the warmth of community, to the worth of individual effort and responsibility, and of individuals working together as a community, to better their lives and their children’s future.” Although there are no easy answers or solutions, remaining positive and student-focused, is part of our shared responsibilities as part of the community safety net to make it through this crisis. We can, and will, do it together.

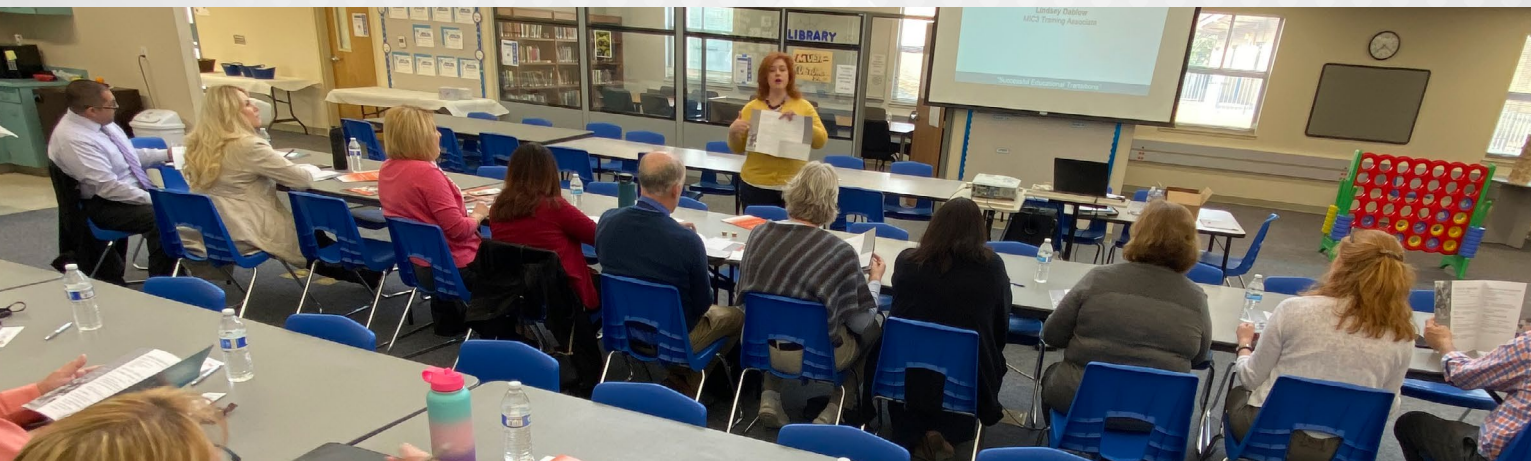


## PURPLE UP! MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

The month of April is celebrated as the Month of the Military Child, and the Commission had selected April 21, 2021, as the day to celebrate military children. Established by former U.S. Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger in 1986, the designation of April as the Month of the Military Child acknowledges the significant role military youth play in our communities. Why purple? Purple is the color that symbolizes all branches of the military, as it is a combination of Army green, Marine red, and the blue of the Coast Guard, Air Force and Navy. In March, the worldwide impact of the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in nationwide closures of school district buildings and student learning was moved to a virtual platform. While a majority of states cancelled celebrations and signatory events, some states celebrated virtually, issuing proclamations, encouraging sidewalk chalk art and social media posts.



# MIC3 YEAR IN REVIEW



## COMPACT TRAINING RAISES AWARENESS ON HOW SCHOOLS CAN SUPPORT MILITARY CONNECTED STUDENTS

Since the Commission celebrated the adoption of the Compact by 50 states and the District of Columbia in 2014, the focus shifted from advocating for signatories to ensuring regulatory compliance and expanding educational awareness to support our mission. While the initial Commission goal was educating schools and parents, the 2016 Strategic Plan provided more opportunities to expand the effort. The alignment of staffing and resources enhanced in-person and virtual training options; development of new videos, public service announcements; and an onboarding process for new commissioners and state councils.

In September 2017, the Commission signed a memorandum of understanding with the Military Impacted Schools Association (MISA), with schools hosting seven trainings sessions, covering 60 school districts and 205 participants. The collaboration benefits communities serving military families transitioning into the school system. Due to COVID-19 travel restrictions, and many schools in remote learning, trainings sponsored by MISA districts were postponed. "While we are disappointed trainings could not be held, schools needed to focus on student learning and mitigating the pandemic impact in their communities," said Kyle Fairbairn, MISA's Executive Director. "Educating military impacted schools on the compact remains a priority, however we will reassess in the fall if we can hold trainings this year."

In 2020-2021, the Commission briefed at national meetings for the: National Governor's Association; Military Child Education Coalition (fall and summer events); and Military Connected School Administrators, in addition to the 23 virtual training sessions for school district personnel; state council members; military school liaison officers (SLO), and military support organizations such as the Specialized Training of Military Parents (STOMP) and Exceptional Children's Assistance Center (ECAC).

The feedback has been overwhelmingly positive from both commissioners and stakeholders, as they supplement the independent trainings conducted by commissioners and school liaisons in states. As expected, training initiatives increased the demand for training publications which are available at no cost to states.

In 2019, the adoption of second strategic plan compelled the Commission to explore other avenues to educate on the unique challenges of military children. This year, the Commission released updated toolkits and resources to enhance state training initiatives and promote April's Month of the Military Child; a new mini-video series focused on Compact rules; and a stronger push to commissioners and stakeholders on the resources and support provided by the National Office for state programming. "Our continued growth is due to the commitment and hard work by our commissioners and ex-officio members to continually improve as an organization," noted MIC3 Chairman and Arkansas Commissioner John Kaminar, "and ultimately doing the right thing for our military kids."





# MIC3 YEAR IN REVIEW

## MIC3 NATIONAL OFFICE CASE ANALYSIS

July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021

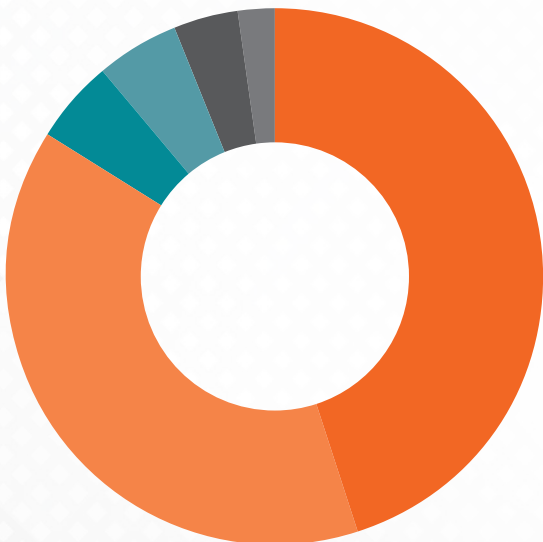
The majority of cases and inquiries are resolved at the state, district, and school levels. This data is not reflective of the actual number of compacy related cases that states address.

**30%** of cases were covered by the compact

—VS—

**70%** of cases were not covered by the compact

### REQUESTOR



- PARENT** 45%
- COMPACT COMMISSIONER** 39%
- MILITARY SERVICE** 5%  
(i.e. School Liaison)
- STATE** 5%
- EX-OFFICIO MEMBER** 4%
- OTHER** 2%
- DISTRICT/SCHOOL** 0%
- STUDENT** 0%

## COMPACT RELATED CASE TOPICS





MILITARY INTERSTATE  
CHILDREN'S COMPACT  
COMMISSION

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