

**STATE COUNCIL FOR EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY FOR MILITARY CHILDREN**

**Douglas School District Administration Office**

February 28, 2020

1:00 pm (MT)

**Present:**

Alan Kerr, State Commissioner

Sara Deaver, 28 MSG Commander

Jonathan Nesladek, SDNG / SD Dept of Public Safety

Jacque Larson, SD Dept of Education

Fran Apland, Ellsworth AFB SLO

Jackie McPherson, Recorder

**Absent:**

Nancy York, SD House Representative

Daniel Swartos, SDHSAA

1. **State Council Organization.** Members were introduced and welcomed to the MIC3 State Council meeting.
2. **Purpose of the Interstate Compact-Key Messages.** Discussed the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children and its purpose to address key educational issues military families encounter when transitioning from school to school. It is to have uniformity for military dependents when moving from state to state. All fifty states and the District of Columbia have adopted the Interstate Compact to give consistency for transitioning military dependent students. The Interstate Compact covers children of uniformed services active duty members, including National Guard and Reserve members on active duty orders, uniformed members of NOAA and USPHS, and up to one year for members/veterans who are medically discharged, retired, or died during active duty.
3. **Key Issues Affecting Military Students.** Discussed the specific impacts facing military dependent children from the sending and/or receiving schools, due, in part, to lack of understanding the unique military family dynamics. Military students move and transfer schools at least every 2-4 years throughout their school career. One member stated her 5<sup>th</sup> grade daughter has transferred schools six times. Real issues are how many days of absence before truancy is an issue; exclusion from sports and other extra-curricular activities when arriving during the school year; course sequencing and graduation requirements not consistent from state to state; and being able to hand carry school records from sending school. Schools need to allow flexibility in these issues.

Per input from the South Dakota Department of Education, not all states have LEAs granting diplomas. Recommend that the wording be changed to also include SEA on page 4 of the MIC3 Guide for Parents, School Officials and Public Administrators.

Also request that course, placement, programs and previous enrollment be defined in order to be able to hold district's accountable. (page 5) There is lack of understanding on part of schools and the knowledge that they can be flexible in helping their military dependent students successfully transition.

4. **State Council Responsibilities.** The State Council responsibilities are to serve as an advisory and advocacy body; develop policy concerning the Compact within the state; help the State Commissioner; and promote and advocate the Compact to school administrators throughout South Dakota.
5. **State Commissioner's Responsibilities.** The State Commissioner's responsibilities were covered on the national level—National Council and Executive Committee and state level.
6. **What Compact Covers and Doesn't Cover.** One thing not covered by the Compact is high school student transcripts.
7. **MIC3 Website.** The website is [www.MIC3.net](http://www.MIC3.net). It is a great resource including Directory of State Compact Offices, discussion forums, current information and resources available for schools and military families with children.