

Kansas Military Children Education Council

March 20, 2019

9:00 am

Membership:

	Col. Marne Suttin	Garrison Commander, Ft. Leavenworth
	Amanda Buckingham	School Liaison Officer, Fort Leavenworth
	LTG (Ret) Perry L. Wiggins	Governors Military Council
X	Sandy Johnson	School Liaison Officer, Fort Riley
X	Kelly S. Graham	School Liaison Officer, McConnell AFB
	Keith Mispagel	Superintendent USD 207, Fort Leavenworth
X	David Wild for Beth Hudson	Superintendent USD 475, Junction City
X	Heather Bohaty	Superintendent USD 260, Derby
X	Craig Neuenswander	Commissioner's Designee, KSDE Finance Director
	Senator Jeff Longbine	Legislative Appointee, Emporia

Notes from meeting

Any feedback from those who attended the state training in October?

- It was good. It reinforced a lot of what I already knew, and gave some new information.
- Brought other staff and they thought it was great.

National Meeting: Cleveland, OH

1. 1 of 4 Compacts adopted by all 50 states (KS was 1st; 4/9/08)
2. New Executive Director elected: Don Kaminar, Arkansas – serve for 2 years
New election process – growing pains
When the MIC3 started in 2008, the commissioner from Colorado was elected. Since there were only a handful of states, it was easily decided. Since all 50 states are members of the compact now, a new process had to be implemented.

“Red Books” (Compact Rules) –
In October 2018 the national office updated this 16-page booklet. It can be downloaded from the MIC3 website. <http://www.mic3.net/publications.html>
Besides formatting (it's now an orange book), an amendment was made defining “kindergarten enrollment.” This information in the Compact Rules booklet will be helpful for principals, counselors and social workers.
3. Typical Cases Reported to National
 - Age of entrance for kindergarten: Kansas law mirrors the Compact date of entrance, but parents from other states whose date is different can be frustrated. If a student is enrolled in kindergarten in a private non-accredited school in another state, it doesn't count.
 - Matching up course work with transcripts, exit/end of year exams
 - Grade system: weighted GPA vs. non-weighted GPA
 - Virtual Schools accepting enrollment after September 20.

4. Dues increase

The MIC3 state dues (\$1 per military connected student) have been the same since 2008 with no increase for inflation. Since that time, all 50 states have joined the compact but the number of military dependent students has gradually decreased. In order for the national Compact to continue to provide services for students and families, they have increased the state dues to \$1.15 per student. Kansas pays dues to the Compact Commission through the KSDE budget, however, some states have to have their legislature appropriate the money every year. This is an increase of \$895 for Kansas on a total of about \$11,000.

5. ABM (Annual Business Meeting) Briefs and Documents on National website –

MIC3: <http://www.mic3.net/2018-annual-meeting.html>

6. Military Kids Poster Contest – not many states participated, so the contest didn't happen (does that mean that Kansas is the national winner?)

April is the Month of the Military Child. Which dates are we celebrating?

- All month – Ft Riley
- April 10 - DoDEA Americas
- April 24 - MIC3
- April 18 - Military Coalition
- The whole week of the 8th
- Purple Up Poster on MIC3 website: <http://www.mic3.net/assets/purple-up-poster-2019.1.pdf>

Other Issues:

Craig: The state department does not receive many complaint calls from military families. Issues concerning military connected students are handled effectively at the local district.

Question: A family coming from out of state said their student had issues with a teacher in public schools and decided to do online classes and homeschool their child. They applied to three districts with virtual schools and rejected by all three. Now the parents are homeschooling on their own. Are there any suggestions?

Answer: Craig shared with the group that after the Sept 20 count date, many districts with virtual schools do not want to enroll new students without receiving state funding.

Question: How do districts award high school credit when classes are taken prior to high school?

Answer: This is a local board decision. There are no laws governing it either way.

Question: Year round school is increasing around the country. Any discussions on this happening in Kansas?

Comment: Kentucky has year round school, but not sure how they would line up with a semester if a student would leave in the middle of a semester in July to come to Kansas.

Answer: The superintendent may be able to help. Typically if the high school principal and counselor work together, they can help the student get their credits lined up.

Question: What about a block schedule?

Answer: KSDE is in the early stages of a School Redesign initiative. Changes may make it more challenging to match up credits and GPA to students coming from a “year round school”. Some schools in the Redesign initiative have a very unique schedule. Students are learning subjects in 20-minute pods. A class might be one pod or combining two pods. This may be confusing for a new student coming in from another state.

Comment: Derby has student mentors to help new students adapt.

1. ESSA - Military connected student reporting requirement

Question: Who do we (school liaison officers) contact at the school district level to find out the names of students who have been checked on the Military Student Identifier in KIDS?

Answer: Every district will list a Technology Plan Contact (TPC) person in the KSDE Directory. Start with them to request the student information. Contact the district office. To find the TPC person’s name, follow these steps:

- Go online to the KSDE website: www.ksde.org
- Under the menu heading Popular Resources, select Directories.
- Next click on 2018-19 Educational Directory.
- Next click on USD schools – listed in alphabetical order by USD name.
- Under the district office, find TPC (Technology Plan Contact).

To view a complete list of all school personnel abbreviations:

https://www.ksde.org/Portals/0/Directories/2018-2019%20Educational%20Directory/J.%20Administrator_Abbreviations.pdf?ver=2018-10-02-093025-123

Question: We had out of state student whose parents requested the child go to a private school for special needs.

Answer: Generally, special needs children go to public schools in Kansas. Sometimes, depending on the severity, they would go to a public school and be referred to a private day school.

Craig discussed a recent legislative survey that was emailed to all USDs asking about the method used to transfer student records. Surprised by how many are sent by fax.

Question: How do military families generally handle transferring their student’s records?

Comments: Both school liaison officers said they ask the parent to get the records and hand carry them. Electronically can take 4-6 weeks. Sometimes a parent may be deploying overseas and the student school records are needed before leaving the country.

Looking ahead:

There are currently no bills at the legislature that would amend the law and impact military connected students. The 2nd student count date for military students will remain intact.

Question: Is there any discussion on how heavily impacted aid is calculated (3 tier formula)? Ft Riley has had many students leave and the district is now out of compliance to receive heavily impacted aid. Deployments can undermine the ability to qualify for impact aid.

Answer: This issue has come up every 2-3 years. We have to be careful because the state could decide to take more of the USD's impact aid. Most of these decisions are handled at the federal level. We are aware of it and working with Ardena.

Question: Are there some "talking points" on how school districts can apply to receive impact aid? What are the qualifications? 400 students or 3% of FTE – electronic or paper

Answer: Yes, the state used to have something, but it needs to be updated. We will look into it and get something out to you.

As always, if anything comes up, please do not hesitate to contact me.



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National and State Websites:

<http://www.mic3.net/>

<http://www.militarychild.org/>

<http://www.ksde.org/Agency/FiscalandAdministrativeServices/SchoolFinance/MilitaryFamilies.aspx>