

Kansas Military Children Education Council

January 5, 2018

9:00 am

Membership:

	Col. Marne Suttin	Garrison Commander, Ft. Leavenworth
X	Amanda Buckingham	School Liaison Officer, Fort Leavenworth
X	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
X	Keith Mispagel	Superintendent USD 207, Fort Leavenworth
X	Corbin Witt	Superintendent USD 475, Junction City
	Heather Bohaty	Superintendent USD 260, Derby
X	Craig Neuenswander	Commissioner's Designee, KSDE Finance Director
	Senator Jeff Longbine	Legislative Appointee, Emporia

Notes from meeting

National Meeting:

1. 1 of 4 Compacts adopted by all 50 states (KS was 1st; 4/9/08)
2. Parent and student panel to kickoff National meeting -
A panel of military-connected parents and students did a Q&A on the challenges of changing schools and moving from state to state.
3. Typical Cases Reported to National
 - Matching up course work with transcripts, exit/end of year exams
 - Grade system: weighted GPA vs. non-weighted GPA
 - Age of entrance for kindergarten: Kansas law mirrors the Compact, but parents from other states whose date is different can be frustrated.
 - Extracurricular activities: Often tryouts held in the spring. If a student enrolls in the fall, the school may not let these students participate. KSHAA will work with the school to resolve these issues when they come up.

Students in Gifted program: Kansas gifted students are part of the special education program. The student must first be identified as gifted and then have an IEP. Gifted student from outside Kansas may not have this requirement, and a parent may expect their child to receive gifted services immediately without going through the IEP process.

4. Dues Increase?
MIC3 state dues (\$1 per military connected student) have been the same since 2008 with no increase for inflation. Since all 50 states joined the compact, the number of military dependent students has gradually decreased. In order for the national Compact to continue to provide services for students and families, state dues may need to be adjusted in the future.

5. ABM Briefs and Documents on National website - MIC3: <http://www.mic3.net/>
ABM (Annual Business Meeting) Notes from the National Meeting - under **News and Media** tab: select **Annual Report**. Guidelines adopted for the compact commission - under **Resources**: select **Compact Rules**.

6. Military Kids Poster Contest

The contest will held around "Purple Up for Military Kids" day in April 2018. The national poster contest rules state that the winner would be a military connected student from grades 1-7.

The Council agreed to promote the first year of the contest only at schools in close proximity to a military base. Craig will work with school liaison officers to help us to identify which schools have a high impact of military students.

Follow up: The organization at the national level agreed *all students* in a school can participate in making a poster.

The Council also agreed to meet in Topeka (date TBD) to judge the posters submitted and select a winner to submit for consideration at the national commission.

We will share more information with the council prior to announcing the contest.

Other Issues:

1. ESSA - military connected student reporting requirement

ESSA includes a requirement in their database that all students will be identified if they have a parent in the military. There are a few parents that don't want the state to know this, and won't complete the paperwork. Schools try to help these students if we can identify them.

- The State requires tracking only active duty military. To receive grant money, it would be helpful for the SIS program to identify military students at enrollment.
- Keith M is working with Skyward to incorporate this change.
- Does Federal Impact Aid include as active duty those who are activated Guard or retired on disability?
- Keith M will draft a letter to the legislature about revising the state requirement to the federal requirement when tracking students with a military connection. He will send draft to Craig for state input, then finalize and share the request with KMCEC before submitting a proposal to the legislature.

2. Training Needs?

AWARENESS: If a school district is near a military installation, the schools are very involved with the needs of military families and their children. The further away the schools are from a base, the less awareness of challenges students face when a parent is in the military. Many schools in the state do not know the Compact exists.

Awareness Training:

Keith Mispagel (Ft Leavenworth) shared that Military Impacted School Association (MISA) will do regional trainings to bring awareness of the Compact Commission to counselors, social workers and principals all over Kansas, not just near bases. Keith M. and Kelly Graham (McConnell) will work together to get this going.

KSDE will facilitate sending "listserv messages" to principals, counselors and social workers with information about the Compact, and direct them to the national website <http://www.mic3.net/> as a resource. Include contact information for the School Liaison Officers at Fort Leavenworth, McConnell AFB, and Fort Riley. Definition of a school liaison officer from MIC3 website: [A School Liaison Officer will serve as the primary point of contact for school-related matters. Represent, inform, and assist Commands. Assist military families with school issues. Coordinate with local school systems. Forge partnerships between the military and schools.](#)

Distribute resources:

"Red Books" (Military Compact Commission) – These were handed out several years ago. Craig will check into getting more of these books from the national office to distribute in schools, and get them into the hands of principals, counselors and social workers.

3. Any issues we need to address or be aware of as a state?

Impact of School Redesign on schools and military students –

For students moving district to district or state to state, more awareness needed to enable schools to be ready to help military students coming in from out of state to transition smoothly.

LTG Wiggins –

He has been working with the Dept of Defense, and the Secretary of Defense is interested in stabilization for military families. This would require longer durations at military stations for families living stateside. On the education side, this would be a good thing. Families would only move every five, six or seven years. The downside of this stabilization would be if military families stationed in foreign countries for a longer duration.

National and State Websites:

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

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

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



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