

Military Interstate Children’s Compact Commission (MIC3)
Nevada State Council
Wednesday, NOVEMBER 10, 2021, 1:00 pm – 3:00pm

MEETING LOCATIONS			
Department of Education	2080 E Flamingo Rd.	Las Vegas	Board Room
Department of Education	700 E. Fifth St.	Carson City	Board Room
Department of Education	Virtual/ Livestream	n/a	n/a

DRAFT SUMMARY MINUTES OF THE COMMISSION MEETING

STATE COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT

Via Videoconference

State Council Member Colonel Anthony Figiera covered by Mr. David Curley
State Council Member Steve Staggs
State Council Member Nicole Jullanant
State Council Member Carol Padilla
State Council Member Holly Payne
State Council Member Ryan Wickes
State Council Member Cecilia Yacuta

STATE COUNCIL MEMBERS

In Person

State Commissioner Felicia Gonzales
State Council Member Brittney Miller

STATE COUNCIL MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

State Council Member Lt. Col Jason Wild
State Council Member Deja Walker-Cole
State Council Member Marva Clevon
State Council Member Eric Killian
State Council Member Fred Wager
State Council Member Summer Stephens

DEPARTMENT STAFF PRESENT

KellyLynn Charles, Office of Educator Effectiveness and Family Engagement
Martha Warachowski, Office of the Superintendent

AUDIENCE IN ATTENDANCE

Via Livestream

Kelli May Douglas

1: CALL TO ORDER; ROLL CALL; PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Meeting called to order at 1:22 PM. by State Commissioner Gonzales.
Roll call was taken, and a quorum was established.
State Commissioner Gonzales led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2: PUBLIC COMMENT #1

No Public Comment

3: APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM November 5, 2020, Nevada State Council meeting

State Council Member Brittney Miller moved to approve the minutes of the November 5, 2020, meeting.
State Council Member Steve Staggs seconded the motion. Motion passed.

4: WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION OF NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS AND NDE REPRESENTATIVE

State Commissioner Gonzales introduced a new council member, Deja Walker-Cole. Commissioner Gonzales gave a brief description of Deja’s background. State Council Member Walker-Cole is a teacher and a member of the Nevada National Guard. Deja has agreed to serve as the Council’s Education Liaison.

There are currently two vacancies on the Council that we are working on filling. During our next MIC3 meeting we are looking forward to introducing Ryan Wickes as our new National Guard representative.

5: COMMISSIONER’S REPORT

State Commissioner Gonzales restated the MIC3 mission of providing consistency across States and was drafted with the intent to avoid conflict with existing State codes where possible. It replaces widely varying state policies that affect transiting military-connected students and supports uniform treatment for these students as they transfer between school districts and member states. Commissioner Gonzales goes on to state that while the Compact is not exhaustive in what it covers, it does address the key issues encountered by transitioning military families and students deal with areas such as eligibility, enrollment, placement, and graduation.

The MIC3 is the 4th Compact in 50 years to be adopted by all 50 States.

State membership on the Commission demonstrates Nevada’s commitment to military-connected students and our support for successful education transitions.

The Commission conducts an annual business meeting in the fall. This meeting allows State Commissioners to come together and provide input on issues that have come up in the year in their states. It also offers the opportunity to attend workshops, discuss and vote on bylaw changes that may impact their States. The meeting also allows attendees to hear about best practices in managing issues that come up regarding the Compact.

State Council Commissioner Gonzales went on to report that in 2021, the MIC3 meeting was held virtually on November 4 and 5. Prior to the 2021 annual business meeting, Member States were asked to develop a position on expanding the Military Interstate Children’s Compact Commission coverage to include the children of Nevada National Guard and reserve. Currently, only children of servicemembers on Title 10 orders are covered under the Compact. Nevada State Council members and military-connected stakeholders were surveyed to collect and analyze data to recommend a position. After considering the issues of need, choice, and fairness, the Nevada State Council based on feedback, recommends expanding the Compact to cover the children of Nevada National Guard and reserve.

Nevada’s ongoing commitment to supporting military-connected students is further bolstered by the feedback and as efforts are refined to ensure the strongest support, the Nevada State Council feels that these dependents should receive the same support granted to children of active-duty service people under the Compact language. Nevada believes that even though the number of National Guard and reserve connected students who move are low, they should receive the same benefits as their active-duty counterparts.

The State Council acknowledges that confusion already exists at the school level regarding which Nevada National Guard and reserve connected students fall under the Compact leading to gaps in reporting and tracking. Differing coverage may also lead to confusion when a sponsor changes from Title 32 to Title 10 orders.

This also raises the question of how a school knows when a sponsors orders change and how schools address the new coverage under the Compact. Additionally, the State Council recognizes that National Guard and Reserve families may face the same stressors such as parental leave as their Active-duty counterparts. Not covering these students may lead to a lack of support for their social and emotion needs.

The Nevada State Council also suggests that in the interim, the Member States adopt a memorandum of agreement (MLA) to be in place while the Compact language is being amended and adopted.

State Commissioner Gonzales reported that during the meeting there were five courses of action purposed:

1. Amend the current compact language and statutes
2. Amend the State Code outside of the Compact
3. Create an enhanced Compact
4. Adopt a memorandum of agreement (MLA)
5. Take no action currently.

An initial motion was made to adopt two and four. This will provide the Member States with the flexibility to propose future legislation or enter an MLA. After much discussion, the Commission voted to table the item allowing States additional time to share these options with State Governors and the Department of Education. Additional time will also allow for the MLA option to be fully vetted and allows the National office more time to provide more guidance.

State Commissioner Gonzales paused the meeting to allow for additional discussion within the State Council.

During the annual meeting Impact Aid was also a strong topic of discussion. Impact Aid provides schools that have 400 or more military connected students or 3% of the school is military connected with additional funding of \$1000.00 per students if the student lives off the military base and \$5000.00 per student if the student lives on the military base.

State Commissioner Gonzales stated that after the 11/5/2021 meeting she will be working with the Nevada Department of Education to assist Nevada schools in asking for Impact Aid.

Training on the Compact was also a much-discussed topic at the MIC3 Annual Business meeting. Gonzales will be working with KellyLynn Charles and Martha Warachowski to coordinate Compact virtual trainings in January and August.

It is important to note that US Space Force military-connected students are now covered under the Compact.

State Commissioner Gonzales presented data regarding the Compact. There was one case 2021 related to the Compact. It was solved amicably.

An Executive Summary of the National Annual Business meeting has not been sent out to the Nevada State Council because of the lack of time between the National meeting and this State meeting. Once it is released it will be shared with the Nevada Council.

State Commissioner Gonzales announced the retirement of two long standing State Council members, Delana Cardenas, and Bart Thompson. She thanked them for their service on the Council and announced that that the Council will be looking to fill the vacancies on the Council that have been affected by Member Cardenas and Bart Thompson's retirement. For these vacancies we will be looking to the new Child and Youth Lead Coordinator to the Nevada National Guard and a person with close ties to the Nevada Interscholastic Activities Association.

Commissioner Gonzales went on to acknowledge that November is the Month of the Military Family.

6: SCHOOL LIAISON AND MEMBER REPORTS (*Information/Discussion*)

Commissioner Gonzales asked to hear from the School Liaison Officers and other members with something to bring to the Council.

Carol Padilla, School Liaison Officer for Creech and Nellis Airforce bases. Member Padilla further explained the couple of cases that she was involved in as SLO for Creech and Nellis Airforce bases. She stated that the cases had been resolved amicably. Carol briefed the Council on her attendance at the Annual MIC3 business meeting. She reported on her discussions with the SLO's both the challenges that have arisen from the pandemic, best practices, and policy.

7: PURPLE STAR SCHOOLS PROGRAM UPDATE

Commissioner Gonzales informed the Council that the pandemic has unfortunately led to many schools who had initially shown considerable interest in joining the Program to holding off until after the issues that have arisen from COVIDS impact on the state to be resolved.

Commissioner Gonzales asked KellyLynn Charles, who is an Education Program Professional (EPP) and Martha Warachowski who is an administrative staff member with the Department of Education, to give updates on what we are doing to help Nevada schools implement the Purple Star Schools Program in their facilities.

Martha Warachowski reminded the Council that the purpose of the award is to recognize schools that have shown a major commitment to military connected students and their families. Martha also went over the requirements to becoming and keeping Purple Star School certification.

EPP KellyLynn Charles presented the Purple Star Schools Program application process. The program has two application periods annually, April to November and November to April. KellyLynn went on remind the Council that April is the Month of the Military Child and November is the Month of the Military Family. The application is posted on the Nevada Department of Education webpage. Once the application is completed and turned into the Program a panel of reviewers, many who sit on the Council, review the applications, and then score them on their adherence to the guidelines for receiving their certification. The Program accepts applications on an ongoing basis. The schools that receive the Purple Star Schools award are recognized both through the media and with an in-person ceremony awarding their Purple Star School certificates and banners and thanking them for participating.

The Program is proud to announce that Clark County School District has two schools that have received their certificates and banners: Ernest A. Becker Middle School and Robert O. Gibson Leadership Academy.

At this time, we also have five schools that have earned their certifications for the November 2021 application period. They are:

- Coral Academy of Science, Las Vegas – Nellis
- Coronado High School
- Mountain View Lutheran School
- Triggs Elementary School
- Watson Elementary School

KellyLynn went on to report that through Fred Wager and some of the Veteran's organizations the Program has secured funding to pay for this application period's school banners. KellyLynn closed by asking for questions from the Council.

8: NEVADA STATE COUNCIL GOAL SETTING (*Discussion/For possible action*)

Commissioner Gonzales reported that although the Program and the State Council attempted to set up the Nevada MIC3 Goals in 2020, the ongoing issues around COVID led the Council to ask that they be able to discuss goal

setting in November of 2021. Gonzales announced that EPP KellyLynn would be walking the Council through a short activity on goal setting, so the Council knows what we are working on for the remainder of the school year.

KellyLynn Charles stated that when thinking about goals we think about what beliefs we hold dear to ourselves and what we would like to see improvements in. She went on to state that we can look at those beliefs as beliefs that are widely held so everybody connected to the military in Nevada would agree that these things need to be improved upon. We also have deeply held beliefs that are important to us as individuals and may only impact as small subset of the population. They are both as important when considering goals. KellyLynn presented a table that listed goals in two different categories, cultural goals and structural goals. Cultural goals are goals that impact your family, community, and military culture. Structural goals will take policy, legislature, or memorandums of understanding to implement.

KellyLynn went on to ask the Council to take a moment think about a widely or deeply held belief that either you have, or your community has regarding concerns about those beliefs. Then the Council was asked to consider in those Cultural goals and Structural goals divided up into Short Term, Mid Term, and Long-Term categories. We will be focusing on Cultural goals first. Assemblywoman Miller presented one goal which she believes is overarching speaking in terms of education. She believes that we should be offering a Military career as an equal option to college. She went on to talk about that she had asked Navy recruiters to come into her classroom to talk about careers in the Navy. After the presentation was over, she asked the officers how it went, and they stated that the students that they had talked to largely didn't know what questions to ask them. Assemblywoman Miller went on to say that she thinks we can do a better job to expose Nevada students to the military as another viable option. KellyLynn asked her if she saw this as a short term, midterm, or long-term goal. Miller said that she feels this goal belongs in all three categories. In the short term we could have a goal that we want to make sure that recruiters conduct more in school visits. However, that doesn't really get us to the results we want. It may possibly take a few years to create that cultural shift from students and their families thinking that college is only the real career path that is available to them. She would like to see more exposure to Technical, skilled trades and Military career possibilities and the change to the mindset that these options are less than college.

Felicia shared one of the goals that she would like to set. She would like to identify schools that will create videos to celebrate both the month of the military child in April and the month of the military family in November. She would also like to see as part of those videos, questions, and answers around what it means to be in the military or have family in the military and what questions students should be asking.

Ryan Wickes, the Program Coordinator for the National Guard Child and Youth Services, presented a possible long-term goal of promoting the National Guard as championing themselves as advocates for students and mental health issues.

Commissioner Gonzales thanked Ryan for bringing this to the Council. She went on to ask Ryan if he sees this goal as something that that doesn't need to be National Guard specific but how this Council can help promote this effort. Ryan went on to say that he feels that the Purple Star Schools Program is a tremendous opportunity for us as schools are applying, being accepted and participants are joining in the trainings. He also thinks that there are opportunities to add to the Professional Development trainings with modules on Mental Health and indicators that will help identify mental health issues.

EPP KellyLynn Charles asked to add a goal of increasing the number of Purple Star Schools throughout the State. Commissioner Gonzales states that right now we have seven Purple Star Schools and then asked the Council what would be an ideal number by November of 2022? Member Jullanant, Member Staggs, Member Padilla, Member Yacuta, and Ryan Wickes suggest doubling the schools as a goal for November 2022. Member Miller was thinking twenty-five, but she is good with doubling the number.

Commissioner Gonzales also reported that Mineral County School District is interested in becoming a Purple Star School District.

KellyLynn asked the Council what they think some good structural goals would be. KellyLynn offered a goal that help the Program accurately track the number of military-connected students in our schools. She adds that she thinks that would be a midterm goal. Ryan Wickes concurs. Commissioner Gonzales would like to drill down into infinite campus to see what the barriers are to getting those more accurate numbers. She went on to state that this is not just a Nevada issue.

Commissioner Gonzales was asked if we can add educating on impact aid to our goals. Gonzales said one of her goals is looking to reach out to the State's public and charter schools regarding the process to procuring this aid. She feels that this is a long-term goal. Her personal goal is to reach out to 100% of the schools that qualify for this aid and help them to apply and receive it.

Commissioner Gonzales asked KellyLynn to review these goals and if everybody concurs, ask for a motion to vote on and adopt these goals. Member Miller made a motion to adopt these goals as outlined, Member Staggs seconded the motion, Commissioner Gonzales asked if there was any further discussion on these goals, hearing none she asked for the vote, the Council passed them unanimously.

9: FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

There were no future agenda items from the Council. Gonzales stated that one of future agenda items will be reviewing the goals and making any changes.

10: NEXT MEETING – TBD

11: PUBLIC COMMENT #2

There was no public comment.

12: ADJOURNMENT

Motion for adjournment was made by Member Miller

Second by Member Padilla

Motion carried

Meeting was adjourned.