

MINUTES
TN Council on Educational Opportunity for Military Children
MIC3
MARCH 14, 2014

The TN Council on Educational Opportunity for Military Children met at the offices of the Tennessee State Board of Education with some members via conference call for an annual organizational meeting at 01:00 p.m., CDT, on March 14, 2014.

Members Present.....9

Deanna McLaughlin, Chair
Carolyn Davis
The Honorable Dolores Gresham
Eric C. Goslowsky
Douglas H. Walker (via conference call)
Many-Bears Grinder
LaDonna McFall (via conference call)
B. J. Worthington (via conference call)
Scott Eddins

Members Absent.....1

Others Present.....1

Teresa Dellinger representing David Dellinger

1. Our Purpose

Pursuant to the terms of the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children, (the Compact”), the Tennessee State Council on Educational Opportunity for Military Children (the “Council”) is established to fulfill the objectives of the Compact, through a means of joint cooperative action among the Compacting States: to promote, develop and facilitate a uniform standard that eases the state to state transition of military personnel, their spouses and primarily their children as these children transfer from one state to another and from one school system to another as a direct result of the military parent’s frequent reassignments.

Chair Deanna McLaughlin called the meeting to order and welcomed the new members to the council identifying them by name. She then summarized the council’s mission and purpose.

2. Roll Call to Establish Quorum

Chair Deanna McLaughlin called roll and noted a quorum present.

3. Introduction of BG (RET) Stephen Hogan, Executive Director, MIC3

Stephen Hogan presented a brief update on the current strength of the MIC3 national partnership noting Tennessee to be one of the most mature councils in the compact.

No questions or comments on this item.

4. Introduction of State Council Members

Chair Deanna McLaughlin asked each member to introduce themselves.

Deanna McLaughlin - Tennessee Commissioner

Carolyn Davis - Military Family Education Liaison

Senator Delores Gresham – Tennessee State Senator

Commissioner Many-Bears Grinder – Tennessee Department of Veterans Affairs

COL David Dellinger – Garrison Commander Ft. Campbell Kentucky

LTC Eric Goslowsky – Director J9 Military and Family Readiness Programs

CPT Douglas Walker – Commanding Officer Naval Support Activity Mid-South Millington Naval Air Station (appointment pending)

Dr. Scott Eddins - State Board of Education

Dr. B.J. Worthington – Director of Schools Clarksville-Montgomery County Schools

Dr. LaDonna McFall – Director of Schools Coffee County Schools

5. MIC3 Overview

Chair Deanna McLaughlin presented key issues affecting military students such as:

- Typical student experiences between 6-9 transitions between grades K-12
- Adjustment to New School Setting
- Transfer of Services for Special Education
- Incompatible Graduation Requirements
- Redundant / Missed Testing
- Transfer of Coursework and Grades
- Transfer of Records
- Exclusion from Extra-curricular Activities

Interpersonal issues affecting performance noted as:

- Social and Emotional Needs - New Friends/Peers

- 1 in 15 military dependents have lost a parent to war
- Typical deployments vary from 45 days – 1+ years
- Deployments can be sudden / no notice
- Recent Armed Forces survey showed that even parents who don't deploy cope more poorly due to increased work load
- Issues can also begin during reintegration when the military member returns

Compact Highlights:

The Compact addresses key educational transition issues encountered by military families including enrollment, placement, attendance, eligibility and graduation.

Children of active duty members of the uniformed services, National Guard and Reserve on active duty orders, and members or veterans who are medically discharged or retired for one year are eligible for assistance under the Compact.

Compact designed to resolve recognized education transition issues.

Compact not intended to impact curriculum or local standards of education.

Recognizes the authority and responsibility of states and local education agencies.

Would have been a major obstacle in obtaining state membership.

Council Member asked if medically discharged services could last beyond one year. Discussion followed recognizing that the compact generally applies to active duty members only. States are encouraged to implement the compact agreements, but are not required to.

Chair Deanna McLaughlin continued to describe the duties of the member states, responsibilities and roles of the council, and the online resources available to support the compact.

Discussion on the concerns of systems being able to provide gifted and talented services to students in a timely fashion.

6. Review of 2013 Tennessee Cases

Course placement.

When the student transfers before or during the school year, the receiving state school shall initially honor placement of the student in educational courses based on the student's enrollment in the sending state school and/or educational assessments conducted at the school in the sending state if the courses are offered. Course placement includes but is not limited to honors, international baccalaureate, advanced placement, vocational, technical and career pathways courses. Continuing the student's academic program from the previous school and promoting placement in academically and career challenging courses should be paramount when considering placement. This does not preclude the school in the receiving state from performing subsequent evaluations to ensure appropriate placement and continued enrollment of the student in the course(s).

Rule 4.101 Waiver requirements – LEA administrative officials shall waive specific courses required for graduation if similar course work has been satisfactorily completed in another LEA or shall provide reasonable justification for denial. Should a waiver not be granted to a student who would qualify to graduate from the sending school, the LEA shall provide an alternative means of acquiring required coursework so that graduation may occur on time. If the receiving LEA requires a graduation project, volunteer community service hours, or other state or LEA specific requirements, the receiving LEA may waive those requirements.

Rule 4.103 Transfers During Senior Year.

Transfers during senior year – There may be cases in which a military student transferring at the beginning or during his or her senior year is ineligible to graduate from the receiving LEA after all alternatives have been considered. In such cases the sending and receiving LEA's shall ensure the receipt of a diploma from the sending LEA, if the student meets the graduation requirements of the sending LEA. In the event that one of the states in question is not a member of this compact, the member state shall use best efforts to facilitate the on-time graduation of the student in accordance with Sections A and B of this Article.

Another specific example recognized that the compact is limited to the public school system. Home schools and private schools are not under the compact agreement.

Kindergarten Entrance Age.

The last example reviewed involved a transfer student of Kindergarten age. SEC. 3.102 Application for transfer of student records and enrollment An application for transfer of educational records of students subject to this compact shall contain the following:

(b) Kindergarten and First grade entrance age – Students shall be allowed to continue their enrollment at grade level in the receiving state commensurate with their grade level (including Kindergarten) from a LEA in the sending state at the time of transition, regardless of age. In the case of a Kindergarten student, the student must have been enrolled and attended class in the sending state in order to assure continued attendance in Kindergarten in the receiving state. A student that has satisfactorily completed the prerequisite grade level in the local education agency in the sending state shall be eligible for enrollment in the next highest grade level in the receiving state, regardless of age. A student transferring after the start of the school year in the receiving state shall enter the school in the receiving state on their validated level from an accredited school in the sending state.

Educational program placement.

The receiving state school shall initially honor placement of the student in educational programs based on current educational assessments conducted at the school in the sending state or participation/placement in like programs in the sending state. Such programs include, but are not limited to: (1) gifted and talented programs; and (2) English as a second language (ESL). This does not preclude the school in the receiving state from performing subsequent evaluations to ensure appropriate placement of the student.

Many members engaged in discussion concerning the issue of gifted and talented students receiving services through the IEP process to better understand how these services are provided in Tennessee.

Chair Deanna McLaughlin explained these issues with respect to the specific school systems and cases they represented.

7. Strategy to Reach Individual School Registrars

MFEL Carolyn Davis explained how this process works in the Clarksville Montgomery school system. The school counselors annual conference was suggested as a vehicle to distribute this information.

8. MIC3 Annual Meeting

November 15-17, 2014 Tennessee will host the Annual MIC3 Meeting in Nashville at the Opryland Hotel.

If you would like to attend, please start to budget for the cost to attend. Expected daily registration fee is approx. \$150. Hotel accommodations are extra.

Items needed for State Commissioners, Officers, and Ex-Officio Members “goody bags”. Quantity 60 needed.

9. Open Discussion

No questions or comments on this item.

10. Important Links

Visit www.mic3.net frequently for information

Tennessee MIC3 Link <http://www.tn.gov/sbe/MIC3.shtml>

MIC3 Facebook Link <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Military-Interstate-Childrens-Compact-Commission-MIC3/138282872875792?ref=hl>

Chair Deanna McLaughlin thanked members for being available to participate in the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 2:10 p.m. C.D.T. with next meeting dates planned for Spring, 2015.