



## COMMON GROUND COMPACT

- 1. Purpose.** This compact supersedes the Common Ground compact effective December 7, 2018 and establishes a mutual understanding among the West Virginia Department of Education (WVDE); West Virginia Board of Education (WVBE); Jim Justice, Governor of the State of West Virginia; West Virginia National Guard; United States Army Recruiting Battalion Richmond; United States Army Recruiting Battalion Columbus; Navy Talent Acquisition Group Pittsburgh; Navy Talent Acquisition Group Ohio River Valley; United States Marine Corps Recruiting Stations in West Virginia; Military Entrance Processing Command Beckley; West Virginia Wing - Civil Air Patrol; West Virginia Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. (WVPTA); Prevent Suicide WV; Military Officers Association of America for West Virginia; West Virginia American Legion; West Virginia Veterans of Foreign Wars; and West Virginia Department of Veterans Assistance.
- 2. Scope.** Whereas all parties recognize the importance of education and the development of leadership skills, life skills, serving the community, character education and the health and well-being of the young men and women of West Virginia and America, the implementation of this Common Ground compact supports the mission of the partner institutions and organizations, to ensure that all students graduate from high school, college and career ready. Our ability to ensure that students receive a high-quality education, impacts our state and our nation's ability to safeguard economic and military security. This compact creates a shared role among all parties as partners in developing our country's youth to become future leaders and humanitarians in their communities, state and nation. Partners commit to work collaboratively through the Common Ground compact to raise awareness about each organization's programs, opportunities, resources and information which may be used to support successful outcomes for students. Through these partnerships Common Ground will increase the capacity of our school districts and schools to provide children greater exposure to best practice strategies; help support and engage students who may otherwise drop out; help students avoid drugs, bullying and depression; inspire students to acquire useful technological and literacy skills; and ensure that communities have a productive, civically active, well-educated workforce.

Whereas, all parties recognize the value that active participation in the military (during and after high school) offers to students who decide to serve their communities by enlisting. The military provides job skills training in more than 150 career fields, financial incentives, values and leadership training, experiences traveling the world and additional opportunities that students might not experience otherwise. This partnership will positively impact our youth as they develop values, acquire leadership skills and grow academically, socially and physically toward participation in postsecondary options including college, vocational, workforce or military training and community service. The additional resources provided to West Virginia students (including knowledge, human, social and financial) made available through Common Ground partners, will have a significant impact on students, families, schools and communities.

Whereas, all parties understand and acknowledge that endorsement of any non-federal entity by any employee or department of the federal government is strictly prohibited. Signature on this document in no way constitutes an endorsement, express or implied, of any interested entity or party by the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force or any other federal entity. Every effort will be made to ensure that there be no appearance of endorsement on the part of any party and appropriate disclaimers will be given in all circumstances.

**This compact is non-binding, but is intended to establish expectations for cooperation among compact parties as per agreements below:**

**A. The West Virginia Department of Education will:**

- Facilitate the coordination of meetings between Common Ground partners and maintain the Common Ground website as part of the WVDE's domain, to promote cooperation between partners, share resources and meet shared goals of the compact.
- Receive requests for guest speakers of military backgrounds and public service as part of the Common Ground Speaker Series from school teachers, support staff and administrators statewide. Those requests will be forwarded to the appropriate Common Ground partner(s) for the purpose of coordinating guest speaker visits in schools. Topics covered by the Speaker Series include, but are not limited to the following: substance abuse prevention, anti-bullying, drop-out prevention, career exploration, the American flag, promoting literacy and patriotic holidays or events.
- Encourage school district administrators to incorporate a voluntary Student Exit Process that makes available opportunities for personnel of Common Ground partnering organizations to provide guidance about the benefits of graduating from high school to any students considering dropping out of school.
- Encourage school districts to collaborate with personnel of Common Ground partnering organizations whenever possible and hold events in support of meeting the Common Ground partnership and WVBE's mutual career readiness goals for all students graduating to pursue opportunities for education, employment and/or enlistment (the three E's).
- Create an updated communications plan to educate students, parents, school faculty, administrators and community members about the intent, purpose and benefits of this Common Ground compact. This communications plan will encourage schools and communities to make available resources and information from Common Ground partners which might have a positive impact on student well-being, their ability to experience success in the classroom and achieve career goals.
- Provide West Virginia school systems and Common Ground partners with information about the Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission (MIC3). The Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children is designed to ensure that qualifying military families of soldiers, such as those on Title 10 active-duty orders, can easily transition their children between public schools in participating states and spend time with family before and after deployments.
- Encourage veterans to begin state approved educator preparation programs to become teachers, student support staff and educational leaders in West Virginia school systems.

- Encourage meeting the unique needs of military-connected children and their families by recognizing school districts and schools which foster military-friendly school environments by issuing the Purple Star Award. The WVDE will provide information about Common Ground partner activities, best practices and resources to the network of military family points of contact who focus on providing support to military children, especially during times of deployment and transition. Information about the award is maintained on the Common Ground website at the WVDE.
- Encourage schools to participate in, “Purple-Up Month” activities during April (the month of the military child) each year to recognize the strength and resiliency of military-connected children.
- Provide guidance and support to schools for hosting events which recognize and celebrate students who commit to serve the public by enlisting into the military as they are graduating from high school.
- Ensure that West Virginia public schools are made aware of requirements enacted through the Floyd D. Spence National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2001 (with subsequent amendments) and the Every Student Succeeds Act in regard to armed forces recruiter access to students and student recruiting information. West Virginia schools will be encouraged to display partner resources and information about career opportunities in schools (such as military enlistment) as approved by the local school district.

The West Virginia Department of Education understands that the West Virginia National Guard, United States Army Recruiting Battalion Richmond, United States Army Recruiting Battalion Columbus, Navy Talent Acquisition Group Pittsburgh, Navy Talent Acquisition Group Ohio River Valley, United States Marine Corps Recruiting Stations in West Virginia, Military Entrance Processing Command Beckley, and the West Virginia Wing - Civil Air Patrol’s personnel obligations may include many types of service, including weekend drills, annual training, additional duty training, search and rescue missions and deployments within the United States or to foreign locations that temporarily impede or interrupt services to schools.

**B. The West Virginia National Guard, United States Army Recruiting Battalion Richmond, United States Army Recruiting Battalion Columbus, Navy Talent Acquisition Group Pittsburgh, Navy Talent Acquisition Group Ohio River Valley, United States Marine Corps Recruiting Stations in West Virginia, and the Military Entrance Processing Command Beckley will:**

- Provide resources and opportunities to schools in West Virginia such as guest speakers, publicity items, career information and media materials.
- Meet requests made by West Virginia school districts and schools to the WVDE for the Common Ground Speaker Series, by selecting a primary point of contact who will provide guest speakers that are appropriately prepared to address identified series topics which include, but are not limited to the following: substance abuse prevention, anti-bullying, drop-out prevention, career exploration, the American flag, promoting literacy and patriotic holidays or events. Requests will be met by soldiers who are proficient and knowledgeable in the topic(s) requested by West Virginia school systems. These guest speakers participate under the supervision of school staff.
- Coordinate visits with school districts and schools receiving Purple Star Awards for cooperation in related activities and celebratory events. Partners may use their participation in these events as opportunities to plan with school staff for teamwork throughout the course of the three-year award period.

- Coordinate with school staff for participation in events which recognize and celebrate students who commit to serve the public by enlisting into the military when they graduate from high school.
- Work closely with school counselors, faculty and administrators to assist them in increasing the graduation rates of all students.
- Provide one-on-one or group career counseling services to students in West Virginia schools, with appropriate supervision as approved by the school district and school administrators. Career mentors will counsel students about various careers, provide information about training and educational opportunities associated with that career field, provide information about career exploration programs and the importance of education.
- Foster opportunities to cooperate with schools by providing information and support related to tutoring, physical fitness, and student wellness programs.
- Provide guidance regarding the benefits of graduating from high school and future opportunities available to any student thinking about dropping out of school.
- Provide support to develop Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC), National Defense Cadet Corps (NDCC) and Civil Air Patrol programs in West Virginia schools.
- Cooperate with educators and district personnel to establish military programs or clubs in selected schools that do not have existing JROTC and NDCC programs.
- Provide a variety of free and relatively inexpensive resources for schools to use, like the Career Exploration Program, the March2Success Online Tutoring Program and other programs made available by military organizations of all branches. These programs will give students the prospect of learning about a wide variety of career paths and assistance in improving their academic performance on standardized tests like the SAT, ACT and ASVAB.
- Provide Educator Tours (as funds are available) to allow counselors, faculty and administrators an inside look at the training and educational opportunities available to students who enlist in military service as they are graduating from high school.

**C. The West Virginia National Guard Family Programs will:**

- Help create and enhance existing networks of people, organizations, and other resources to help support military children. This includes collaborating with the WVDE to provide opportunities for school staff to receive training and information about programs which support military-connected children and their families.
- Provide information to military families about provisions of the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children and MIC3.
- Help children better understand and cope with military life, family member deployment(s) and reintegration, as well as the unique challenges facing their families.
- Offer a wide array of recreational, social, and educational programs for military youth living in civilian communities.
- Increase school and community awareness of the impact of the deployment cycle on service members, families, kids, and the community.

**D. The West Virginia Wing - Civil Air Patrol will:**

- Provide information to interested schools upon request and appoint a project officer/mentor when appropriate.
- Provide recruiting materials to school districts and schools to help gain student interest in the Cadet Program.
- As part of the Cadet Programs and Aerospace Education missions, provide instructor guides, lesson plans, activity books, Drug Demand Reduction (DDR) materials and other program resources at no cost.
- Provide textbooks, uniforms and additional training materials to student members.
- Conduct a FBI background check at no cost on all adult members.

**E. Beckley Military Entrance Processing Station will:**

- Provide the opportunity for every student in West Virginia who participates in the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB), the interpretation services at their home school or a school nearby, for the purpose of career assessment, exploration and development.
- Provide professional development and technical assistance to principals, school counselors and teachers for the ASVAB and detail its benefits to students.

**F. West Virginia Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. will:**

- Provide education and resources outlined in the Common Ground compact to its members of students, parents, faculty, administration and community members about the positive supports, including career development and tutoring services, available to military personnel through bulletin articles and displays/materials at WVPTA conventions.
- Work as a member of Common Ground to create and support networks of people, organizations, and other resources which assist military children.
- Support efforts to make the ASVAB available to all students in West Virginia.
- Educate WVPTA members and increase community awareness of others about the impact of the deployment cycle on service members, families, kids, and the community.
- Encourage military personnel who are parents to become actively involved in PTA meetings and their community schools as career mentors.

**G. The West Virginia Governor's Office will:**

- Support partnerships between the institutions and organizations involved in Common Ground.
- Support the mission and efforts of Common Ground through this compact.
- Promote Common Ground by emphasizing the crucial role education plays in developing leadership skills needed in the West Virginia workforce.

**H. Prevent Suicide WV will:**

- Provide train-the-trainer opportunities for associated parties.
- Provide for technical assistance regarding suicide prevention initiatives.
- Promote Common Ground in schools and communities throughout the state.
- Provide consultation services for identification and referral of at-risk youth.

**I. The West Virginia Board of Education will:**

- Support the partnerships between the institutions and organizations involved in the Common Ground compact.
- Support the WVDE and its commitment to the Common Ground compact.
- Promote the Common Ground compact by providing support in the educational facets included in the compact.
- Promote the Common Ground compact by providing a WVBE member, when able, to participate in the Common Ground events.

**J. The Military Officers Association of America for West Virginia, West Virginia American Legion, and the West Virginia Veterans of Foreign Wars will:**

- Participate in meetings of Common Ground to share information and explore ways in which their organization may contribute to activities.
- Provide information about Common Ground activities to members of the organization to raise awareness of supports for education, military-connected children and their families.
- Upon request, provide supportive visits from veterans at school and community events. All individuals answering requests participate in cooperation and under the supervision of school staff, in accordance with federal, state and local policies.

**K. The West Virginia Department of Veterans Assistance will:**

- Ensure West Virginia Department of Veterans Assistance veteran service officers, social workers, and health care workers understand the mission and efforts of Common Ground.
- Provide students and teachers with information about state and federal veterans' benefits to support military families.
- Serve as liaison between education institutions and the veteran community and, upon request, seek to provide veterans for speaking and other patriotic events in order to help students understand the importance of service.

**3. Termination.** Any party hereto may terminate this compact upon a 30 days notice to the other parties.

**4. Participation.** The Common Ground compact in no way obligates the United States Government or the West Virginia Government to any financial or contractual obligations.

**5. Effective Date.** This compact will become effective on the date signed by the West Virginia Department of Education (WVDE); West Virginia Board of Education (WVBE); Jim Justice, Governor of the State of West Virginia; West Virginia National Guard; United States Army Recruiting Battalion Richmond; United States Army Recruiting Battalion Columbus; Navy Talent Acquisition Group Pittsburgh; Navy Talent Acquisition Group Ohio River Valley; United States Marine Corps Recruiting Stations in West Virginia; West Virginia Wing - Civil Air Patrol; Military Entrance Processing Command Beckley; West Virginia Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. (WVPTA); Prevent Suicide WV; Military Officers Association of America for West Virginia; West Virginia American Legion; West Virginia Veterans of Foreign Wars; and West Virginia Department of Veterans Assistance and be reviewed three years after the effective date and, if deemed necessary by Common Ground partners, be re-signed.



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**Jim Justice**  
**Governor, State of West Virginia**




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**W. Clayton Burch**  
**State Superintendent of Schools, West Virginia Department of Education**



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**Miller Hall**  
**President, West Virginia Board of Education**



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**Major General William "Bill" Crane**  
**The Adjutant General, West Virginia National Guard**



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**Colonel Connie S. Moody**  
**Wing Commander, West Virginia Wing - Civil Air Patrol**



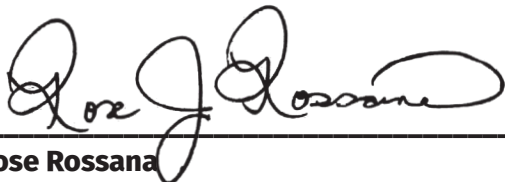
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**Barri Faucett**  
**Director, Prevent Suicide WV**



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**Major Patrick M. Zebrowski**  
**Commander, Beckley Military Entrance Processing Station**



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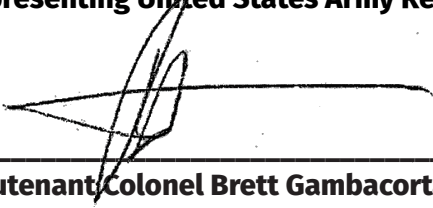
**Rose Rossana**  
**Acting President, West Virginia Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc.**



*Erik S. Peterson*

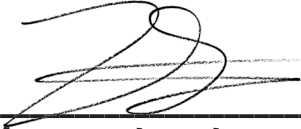
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**Lieutenant Colonel Erik Peterson  
Battalion Commander, United States Army Recruiting, Richmond, VA  
Representing United States Army Recruiting Stations in WV**



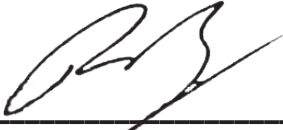
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**Lieutenant Colonel Brett Gambacorta, Battalion Commander, and**



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**Captain Leonard Genders, Company Commander  
United States Army Recruiting, Columbus, OH  
Representing United States Army Recruiting Stations in WV**



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**Major Ryan Berger  
Commanding Officer, United States Marine Corps Recruiting Station, Columbus, OH  
Representing United States Marine Corps Recruiting Stations in WV**

*Daniel Phil Chamberlin*

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**Major Dan Chamberlin  
Commanding Officer, United States Marine Corps Recruiting Station, Frederick, MD  
Representing United States Marine Corps Recruiting Stations in WV**



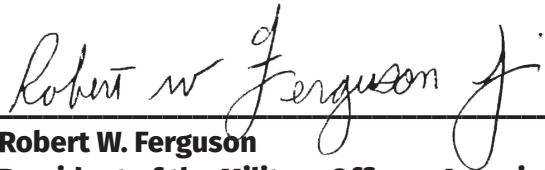
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**Commander Brandon D. Smith  
Commanding Officer, United States Navy  
Navy Talent Acquisition Group Pittsburgh, PA**

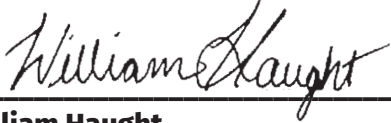


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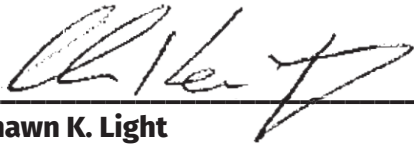
**Commander Warren R. Overton  
Commanding Officer, United States Navy  
Navy Talent Acquisition Group Ohio River Valley**



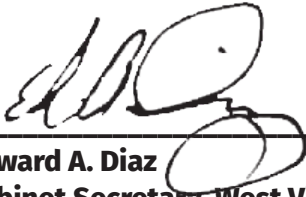
**Robert W. Ferguson**  
**President of the Military Officers Association of America for West Virginia**



**William Haught**  
**Commander, West Virginia American Legion**



**Shawn K. Light**  
**Adjutant/Quartermaster, West Virginia Veterans of Foreign Wars**



**Edward A. Diaz**  
**Cabinet Secretary, West Virginia Department of Veterans Assistance**