



West Virginia DEPARTMENT OF  
**EDUCATION**

# **WV Council for the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children**

FY 2022 Meeting

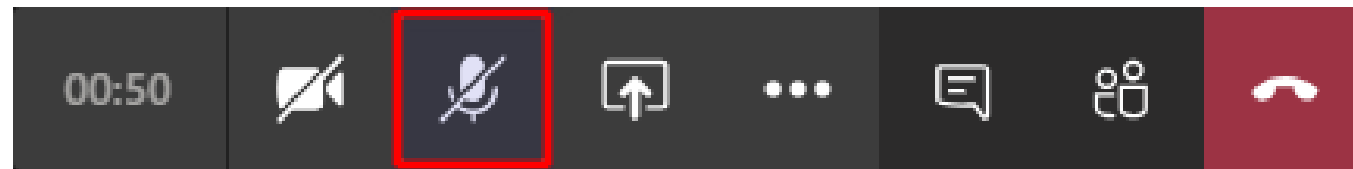
May 20, 2022

# Microsoft Teams Meeting Information

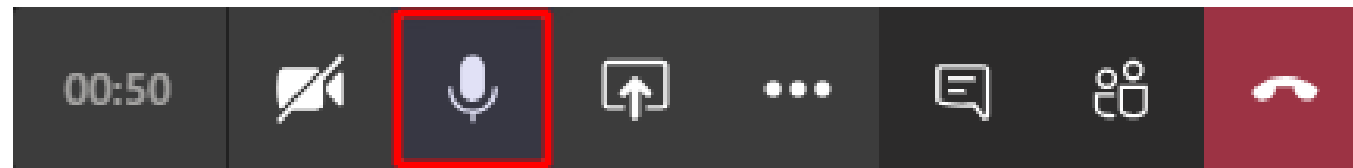
Before we begin the meeting:

- If you are using a computer or cell phone application, please note that you may use the menu bar near the bottom of your screen to:
  - Turn your camera on or off
  - Mute and unmute your microphone

*Camera and microphone turned off*



*Camera off and microphone on*



*On a telephone, \*6 will mute or unmute your audio. Press \*1 for a complete list of telephone options.*

# Welcome

Office of Educator Development and Support Services

Mr. Robert Mellace

Coordinator

Phone: 1-833-627-2833

E-mail: [rmellace@k12.wv.us](mailto:rmellace@k12.wv.us)

# Summer Agenda

1. Roll Call and Introductions
  - *Military Family Education Liaison, Mr. Robert Mellace*
2. Approval of Agenda/Minutes
3. Remarks from the State Compact Commissioner
  - *Compact Commissioner, Mr. Phillip Cantrell*
4. Remarks from the State Superintendent of Schools
  - *State Superintendent of Schools, Mr. W. Clayton Burch*
5. Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission (MIC3) Overview
  - *Military Family Education Liaison, Mr. Robert Mellace*
6. Common Ground Partnership Overview
  - *Military Family Education Liaison, Mr. Robert Mellace*
7. Roundtable Discussion on MIC3 and Supports for Military Families

# Roll Call and Introductions

## **State Council Members:**

Compact Commissioner – Mr. Phillip Cantrell

State Superintendent of Schools – Mr. Clayton Burch

County Superintendent of Schools – Cabell County Schools – Dr. Ryan Saxe

Military Installation Representative - WVNG – CPT Brittany Watson

Executive Branch Representative – Cabinet Secretary, WVDVA – Mr. Edward Diaz

WV Senate Member – Mr. Ryan Weld

WV House of Delegates Member – Mr. Bill Anderson

Military Family Education Liaison – Mr. Robert Mellace

## **DOD Representative:**

NRMA Regional School Liaison – Mr. Chris Hendrix

# Approval of Agenda

## Remarks

State Compact Commissioner

Mr. Phillip Cantrell



# Remarks

State Superintendent of  
Schools

Mr. W. Clayton Burch





MILITARY INTERSTATE  
CHILDREN'S COMPACT  
COMMISSION

## Overview

Summary Information

National Annual Business Meeting Update

West Virginia Case Update





MILITARY INTERSTATE  
CHILDREN'S COMPACT  
COMMISSION

The Military Interstate Children's Compact was developed in 2006 and has been adopted by all 50 states, the District of Columbia and the Department of Defense Education Activity. The Compact eases the educational challenges that military children encounter, and supports uniform treatment as they transfer between school districts.

The Compact only applies to public schools.

# Compact Quick Fact Guide

## Goal of the Compact

To overcome transitional issues experienced by military families when their children move to a new school in another state.

## Member States

All states and the District of Columbia.

## Applies to

Active duty members of uniformed services including the National Guard and Reserve members on active duty orders pursuant to 10 U.S.C. §1209 and 1211, as well as veterans who are severely injured and medically discharged for one year after medical discharge or retirement, and veterans who die on active duty for a period of one year after death.

## Educational Records

Receiving member states must accept unofficial records for initial enrollment and then the sending member state must submit official records within 10 days of receipt of the request for records.

## Immunizations

A child who is unable to provide official documented proof of at least one dose of each required vaccination must be automatically enrolled and/or homebound services will be provided within 3 days, to ensure educational services are immediately provided while the first dose(s) of all required immunizations are confirmed. Note: Tuberculosis testing is currently not required for enrollment in WV schools.

## Kindergarten and 1st Grade Entrance Age

A student who moves may continue in the same grade in the receiving state regardless of the entrance age requirements of the receiving state.

## Course and Educational Program Placement

School districts must initially honor equivalent course enrollment or program placement (ex. Gifted, AP, etc.), if available. Then, evaluation may occur to ensure appropriate placement. Space must be available, and member states must demonstrate reasonable accommodations.

## Special Education

Receiving schools must use the sending state's IEP until a new IEP may be conducted/evaluated.

## Placement Flexibility

The Compact encourages schools to waive course prerequisites as appropriate to the content, when similar coursework was completed (ex. Requirement to pass Geometry before taking Algebra).

## Absence Related to Deployment

The Compact establishes guidelines for enhanced flexibility with excused absences for military families on active duty orders (one month before deployment and six months after return).

## Enrollment

During deployments it may be necessary for students to stay with a non-custodial parent or someone in loco parentis. Guardianship of a student under these circumstances should not prevent or negatively impact enrollment (a power of attorney is sufficient). The family may keep their school as long as the guardian provides transportation.

## Extracurricular Participation

Deadlines for application are not grounds for disqualification. The school must demonstrate reasonable accommodation, but is not required to hold open or create additional space on teams.

## Course Waivers

Substituting equivalent coursework is required (ex. West Virginia History for Ohio History). Reasonable justification is required for denial of a course waiver.

## Transfers as a Senior in High School

The receiving state works with the sending school district to issue a diploma, if the student is a senior in High School (ex. using a memorandum of understanding between schools).



# West Virginia's Approach:

## Proactive Communications with Educators and Military Families Statewide

Including...

- WV Common Ground Partnership
  - Annual State Superintendent's update message
- Development of a brochure and guidance document for West Virginia
- WVDE MIC3 page on the Common Ground website

# MIC3 Annual Business Meeting (ABM) Updates

- A proposition to expand coverage to additional national guard and reserve soldiers on active duty was defeated due to legal concerns raised by the national office's legal representative. This action may be revisited at the next ABM on October 19-20, 2022.
- Dues remain at \$1,300.00, paid by the West Virginia Department of Education annually.
- Videos on the Compact are being created by the national office at <https://mic3.net/successful-compact-transition-videos/>
- U.S. Secretary of Education, Dr. Miguel A. Cardona, voiced support and wrote a letter of support which may be accessed at <https://www2.ed.gov/policy/elsec/guid/secletter/220209.html>



MILITARY INTERSTATE  
CHILDREN'S COMPACT  
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**During FY 2020, there was 1 inquiry**

**Issue:** A student moved from WY to WV with a high school level integrated science course completed, but high school equivalency was not identified on the transcript and the name of the course did not match Earth and Space Science, which was a required prerequisite in WV for the student to begin Biology I at the appropriate grade level.

- The parent contacted the WV State Compact Commissioner and the WVDE contacted the WV school district. A phone conference was facilitated to find resolutions.
- As a result of the conversation, the WV school district's central office staff member analyzed the transcript further and contacted the WY school district to seek clarity.

**Resolution:** The student received course credit equivalent to Earth and Space Science at the high school level in WV, allowing enrollment in Biology I at the appropriate grade level.

**During FY 2021, there were 0 inquiries**



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CHILDREN'S COMPACT  
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### **During FY 2022, there was 1 inquiry**

**Issue:** A student moved from TN to WV during the Summer of 2020 and a concern was expressed in the Summer of 2021 that a credit was not properly transferred in the Fall of 2020 and would impact the student's ability to graduate. The credit earned prior to the Fall of 2020 in Tennessee was for a JROTC class (which can result in physical education credit). The JROTC class was credited as an elective when the student was received by the county. Subsequently, the student failed a physical education course during the Fall of 2020 while attending school in WV and decided to take a credit recovery class in the Summer of 2021. The family wanted the credit recovery class from the Summer of 2021 to result in a grade positively impacting GPA by substituting for or eliminating the failing grade received in the Fall of 2020.



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### FY 2022 Continued

- After correspondence with the county, the county determined that the JROTC course could be credited as a physical education credit, however the student's parents decided not to ask for this change under the Compact's provisions.
- Virtual school credit recovery in WV only provides a pass/fail grade with no replacement of the previously failed course grade or impact on GPA. As the student transitioned to WV during the Summer of 2020, their transition did not directly impact the student's ability to pass the failed virtual school course or have implications related to the virtual school credit recovery.

**Resolution:** While the student qualified to have the JROTC course credited for physical education rather than an elective, the family decided to keep the course an elective, as it would not impact the student's ability to graduate. This change would have been covered by the Compact. Changes to credit recovery outcomes or the failed course are not covered under the Compact.

# Importance of MIC3 in WV

- The participation of every state in the Compact supports military readiness across the nation.
- Soldiers with families transitioning from other states into West Virginia are supported with reasonable accommodations provided by the Compact.
- Soldiers from West Virginia transitioning into other states for the completion of their active-duty military orders are supported by other states participating in the Compact.





# Overview: Common Ground Partnership



Supporting the Success of All Students



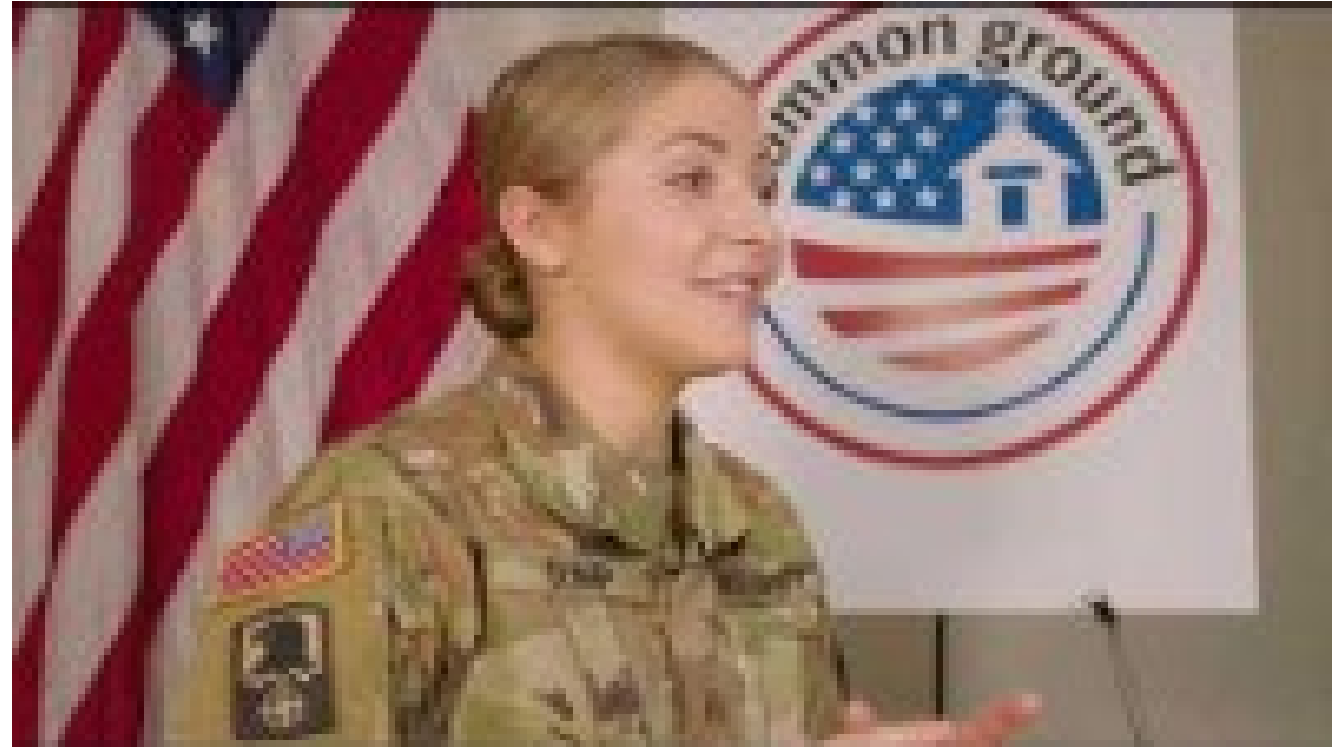
### **18 Partnering Organizations:**

- Office of the Governor
- West Virginia Board of Education
- West Virginia Department of Education
- WV Department of Veterans Assistance
- Military Recruiting Stations (Active/Reserve)  
from the Army, Navy and Marines
- West Virginia Air and Army National Guard
- Military Entrance Processing Command Beckley
- West Virginia Wing – Civil Air Patrol
- West Virginia Congress of Parents and Teachers
- Prevent Suicide WV
- Military Officers Association of America for WV
- West Virginia American Legion
- West Virginia Veterans of Foreign Wars

**A Group of Community Organizations Providing Services and Resources to Schools**

# Common Ground Compact Signing Event

## December 7, 2021





## **Mission: Supporting the Success of All Students**

- Online Resources at <https://wvde.us/commonground>
- Online Educator Request System for the Speaker Series
  - Military Signing Week



**Supporting the WVBE's Three E's for Career Readiness:**  
*Employment, Education, and Enlistment*

# Second Class of Purple Star Award Recipients



West Virginia Department of Education

18h · 🌐

We are proud of all the schools in the second class of Purple Star Award Recipients. These schools have identified commitments to meeting the needs of military children now and in the future. The second class of recipients brings the total number of Purple Star Schools to 200! Thank you for all you do for our students 🍆🌟.

For more details, visit the link 🖱️ <https://bit.ly/3w4cJYR>.  
#WVEd #PurpleStar



PURPLE STAR AWARD

WEST VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



0:40 / 3:19



You, Robert Wiseman and 9 others

12 Shares



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# Professional Development – Military Family Points of Contact

- The West Virginia Department of Education and Compact Commissioner collaborated with the Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission (MIC3) to offer a free learning session for West Virginia educators covering the basics of MIC3.
- Over 50 educators registered for the training.
- A video of the training may be accessed: <https://wvde.us/commonground/purplestaraward/>

Phillip Cantrell  
MIC3 Compact Commissioner West Virginia

“Successful Educational Transitions”

West Virginia Compact 101 Training Feb. 2022



Gov. Jim Justice spoke at James Monroe High School for a Military Signing Day ceremony honoring five JMHS and Monroe County Technical Center students on Friday, April 29.

## NEXT GENERATION OF HEROES

### First-ever WV Military Signing Week a success

The inaugural state Military Signing Week celebrated and recognized students making a commitment to military service. Much like student athletes signing with their next collegiate team, these students will serve the United States in the Armed Forces. The modern military is involved in a variety of missions ranging from combatting COVID-19, to conducting search and rescue activities during national emergencies, to national security duties. This event provides communities an excellent way to show their support for the aspirations of these students.

Twenty-four schools held an event recognizing students enlisting into the military. These celebrations were the product of the Common Ground Partnership, a collaboration between military and community-based organizations focusing on the success of students and promoting assistance for military-connected families in schools.



ABOVE: Evan Large, of University High School in Monongalia County, commits to the U.S. Air Force.





# Communities in Schools

## WVDE Representative: Cynthia Sorsaia

- Program designed to prevent dropouts and support the physical, psychological, and social needs of students
- Provides for partnerships which bring resources into schools and help remove barriers to student learning
- Site Coordinators tailor services to the needs of individual students. Services may encompass academic help, provision of health care, counseling, transportation, donated goods, mentoring, afterschool programs, and much more.
- List of site coordinators provided to Common Ground Partners prior to Fall 2019 meeting

Complete information about this program may be accessed at:

<https://wvde.us/cis/>



# Roundtable Discussion: MIC3 and Supports for Military Families

# Closing Remarks

## Compact Commissioner:

Mr. Phillip Cantrell

[pcantrell07@gmail.com](mailto:pcantrell07@gmail.com)

## Military Family Educational Liaison:

Mr. Robert Mellace

[rmellace@k12.wv.us](mailto:rmellace@k12.wv.us) or 1-833-627-2833