

State of Delaware MIC3 Annual Report June 2020

Delaware continues to be an active partner in MIC3. Delaware was an original member of the Compact with Delaware's Interstate Compact on Education for Children of Military Families legislation signed on July 9, 2008. Dr. Susan K. Haberstroh was appointed by then Governor Minner to serve as the State Commissioner and continues to serve in this position.

The State Council meets annually. The 2020 State Council meeting was held on March 12, 2020. The meeting notes (Appendix A) were provided to the National Office. The highlights from the meeting included a review of the MIC3 National Office Case and Inquiry Summary; review of the Dues for Fiscal Year 2021; review of the current number of military dependents based on the State's definition; summary from the Annual Business Meeting; presentation from a Military Family's Perspective; planning for the 2020 Month of the Military Child (Appendix B); programming highlights from the National Guard and a review of a presentation to school counselors connecting the school counselors with Military Connected Students.

Delaware is considered a small state in regard to military dependents. Delaware's number of Active Military Dependents (ages 5-18) was determined to be 1,663 (reported as FY21 Dues from the 2019 Annual Business Meeting). Delaware laws were changed in August 2015 and the State has been collecting "military connected student" information beginning with the 2016-17 school year. The number of students reported at the March 2020 meeting was 4,638.

Delaware's definition is more expansive than that used for dues and is as follows:

Developing a process for districts and charter schools to annually identify any enrolled student who is a "military-connected youth." For purposes of this section, a "military-connected youth" means having an immediate family member, including a parent, stepparent, sibling or any other person residing in the same household, who is on active duty in; serving in the reserve component; or recently retired from a "branch of the United States armed forces." For purposes of this section, "branch of the United States armed forces" means:

- a. United States Army;*
- b. United States Air Force;*
- c. United States Marine Corps;*
- d. United States Navy;*
- e. National Guard;*
- f. United States Coast Guard;*
- g. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; or*
- h. United States Public Health Service.*

Over the past year, as Commissioner, I had one call related to the Compact and this was a family that wished to enroll without established residency. This was solved by contacting the

school district and finding a way for the family to enroll while not a formally established resident. We attribute the low number of calls to the amazing job that is being done by the schools and districts. This said, when there are any questions that I am unable to answer, I have contacted the National Office for assistance and have always received prompt information in return.

During the course of the year, there have been opportunities for the field to learn more about the Compact. In 2019, Jenn Davis (Department of Education) shared the Military Connected Students List for School Year 2020 with the Lead School Counselors. The school counselors are planning to do small groups with the Military Students and work more intentionally with them. Also, in 2019 the Delaware National Guard provided programs for Military Students such as extracurricular activities, life skill trainings, community events, and service projects outside of the school. There is also a state teen council, which is comprised of teens ages 13-17 and has up to 18 teens at every meeting. The teen council works on language skills, life skills, and financial briefing. Dr. Susan Haberstroh did a book study with the School Support Services Workgroup reviewing "Seasons Of My Military Student". Jenn Davis also gave this book to her Lead School Counselors. The importance of providing support for all military families has been on the forefront of our Delaware educators and will continue. With the changes to the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 reauthorized as the Every Student Succeeds Act, there is a specific federal focus on the outcomes of military connected families.

Delaware usually has a special event with the Governor and General Assembly for the Month of the Military Child. This year the event was cancelled because of the COVID 19 pandemic. The Governor did provide a proclamation and all school district and charter heads of schools were asked to highlight their military connected students in April.

Current Roster for 2020

Dr. Susan Haberstroh, State Commissioner for the MIC3	Delaware Dept. of Education
Dr. Susan Bunting, Secretary of Education	Delaware Dept. of Education
Doug Crouse, 4H Military Liaison	UD Cooperative
Jennifer Davis, Education Associate, Student Supports and Special Populations	Dept. of Education
Patrick "Mickey" Devlin	DE National Guard
Laurie Sisk	DAFB School Liaison
Dr. Kevin Fitzgerald, Superintendent	Caesar Rodney SD
Dr. Terri Hodges, President	DE PTA
Representative Earl Jaques	DE House of Representatives

Christine Kubik	DE National Guard
Lt. Colonel Michael Morales	Dover Air Force Base
Dr. Ronald Sarg	Military Officers Assoc. of America
Senator David Sokola	DE Senate
Senator Laura Sturgeon	DE Senate

The primary contact is Susan Haberstroh, Delaware Department of Education
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The secondary contact is Jennifer (Jenn) Davis, Delaware Department of Education
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Respectfully submitted,
Susan K. Haberstroh
State Commissioner

Attachments: Appendix A

Appendix A
DRAFT MEETING NOTES – to be approved at the 2021 meeting

**STATE COUNCIL FOR THE INTERSTATE COMPACT ON EDUCATION FOR
CHILDREN OF MILITARY FAMILIES**

March 12, 2020

Townsend Building, Department of Education Cabinet Room, Dover, DE

Attendees:

Dr. Susan Haberstroh
Patrick “Mickey” Devlin
Jennifer Davis
Dr. Mike Noel for Dr. Kevin Fitzgerald
Lt. Colonel Michael Morales
Laurie Sisk
Dr. Ron Sarg

Unable to Attend:

Dr. Susan Bunting
Doug Crouse
Christine Kubik
Dr. Terri Hodges
Senator Laura Sturgeon
Representative Earl Jaques
Senator David Sokola

Introductions and Welcome:

The State Council for the Interstate Compact on Education for Children of Military Families (MIC) was called to order at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, March 12, 2020 at the Townsend Building in Dover by State Commissioner for MIC Dr. Susan Haberstroh. Dr. Haberstroh explained that the group is required to meet once a year. Everyone was welcomed to the meeting and introductions were made. Kelly Cheeseman, who is the parent of military connected children and is a Wilmington University doctoral candidate was in attendance and is interested in the work that this compact does.

Approval of Minutes:

The Committee reviewed meeting minutes from March 14, 2019 meeting. Dr. Sarg made a motion to accept the meeting minutes and Ms. Sisk seconded, motion passed.

Updates from the Annual National MIC Meeting:

Dr. Haberstroh stated that she and Jenn Davis attended the National Conference in October and welcomed other School Liaison Officers “SLOs” to attend the conference next year which will be held on October 1-2, 2020. Laurie Sisk stated she would be happy to attend the conference next year. Dr. Haberstroh stated that she would forward the conference information to Laurie.

Dr. Haberstroh commented that Delaware has been a member of the MIC for 12 years and the impact is operating very well and rarely have changes to the regulations. Dr. Haberstroh referred members to the Annual Report specifically the letter from the Chair stating that there may be a need to examine whether the Total Force concept has created a need to make a change to the Compact. Further updates on that will come in the future. Dr. Haberstroh reported that the Facts and Figures are still as of May 2018 and have not been updated. Dr. Haberstroh also commented that all state commissioners have to sit on a committee and that she is currently sitting on the Rules Committee. Dr. Haberstroh commented on the MIC3 Annual Report that requires each state to file which provides a summary of the activities that were done last year.

Dr. Haberstroh reviewed the MIC3 National Office Case and Inquiry Summary and explained that most cases are handled at the state level. Dr. Haberstroh commented that in the past year she has not been contacted and feels that is due to the schools and districts doing an amazing job.

Dr. Haberstroh reviewed the Dues for Fiscal Year 2021 and commented on Delaware's number 1663 and explained that the numbers have gone down from last year. Dr. Haberstroh further explained that this number is the number of military dependents in the compact. Dr. Haberstroh also commented that our dues are \$2300.00.

Jenn Davis reviewed the Military Connected Students List for School Year 2020 and commented that this chart gives an idea of the number of total students we have and the chart breaks it down by the number of charter school and district schools and how many student are in those schools. Dr. Haberstroh commented that in 2018 we reported 3600 students, last year 2018-19 there were 4014 and this year there was 4638. Dr. Haberstroh explained that she feels the reason the numbers are going up is because the reporting has gotten much better. Dr. Haberstroh explained that ESSA (Every Student Succeeds Act) has a component where we have to report out on special populations which include the military connected students. Dr. Haberstroh commented we need to support all kids no matter where they live.

Presentation From a Family Perspective

Laurie Sisk, Dover Air Force Base Liaison, introduced Misty Trask. Ms. Sisk explained that when the Trasks family moved to Dover they had a son senior in high school.

Ms. Trask explained that after living in the same place for over 6 1/2 years, her husband received orders to move to Dover Air Force Base. She explained that she went to her son's school to request his school records. She explained that her son was a senior. Ms. Trask explained that she did some research and found that Caesar Rodney School District was recommended so she set up an appointment with the high school to bring her sons records to the school. Ms. Trask commented that they were moving from California and that their standards were different from Delaware and her son would need additional classes in order to be able to graduate on time. Ms. Trask explained that the counselors worked with her son and he was able to take classes on line. She explained that her son took 6 classes at the school and 4 classes on line. She also commented that her son struggled in certain areas but that Caesar Rodney was very accommodating. She stated that her son was going to need a summer class but because he was a military child the school waived it. Ms. Trask commented that her son worked very hard in order to be able to graduate on time. Ms. Trask commented that the counselors worked with her son so that he would be able to graduate on time. Ms. Trask stated that she was very proud of her son because as a military child he is very resilient and put so much extra work in to be able to graduate. Ms. Trask commented that now that she knows more about this program she can help other military families.

Updates from Partners

Ms. Sisk commented that she helps families that receive orders to come to Dover by sending them as much information as she can on surrounding schools, their emails, and sends information on the impact and what it is, what it covers, and how it can help.

Patrick “Mickey” Devlin, Delaware National Guard, gave a brief update on programs that he is involved in such as extracurricular activities, life skill trainings, community events, and service projects outside of the school. He commented on some of the things that he does such as send welcome packets to National Guard parents that have a child as well as sends welcome packets to interstate transfers that have a youth 17 or younger. He also commented that he runs a state teen council which is comprised of teens ages 13-17 and have up to 18 teens at every meeting. Some of the things the group works on is language skills, life skills, and financial briefing. He commented that they hold a week long summer camp the third week in July at Bethany Beach Training Site. He commented that last year they donated a new playset on the beach and also donated trees to fallen service men. This year they may be working on two service projects, one at Delaware State Parks and the other at City of Bethany Beach Lifeguard Program. Mr. Devlin also commented that the kids attend the State Fair and are getting involved so that they have a purpose for attending the fair.

Jenn Davis commented that last year they did a presentation on supporting military kids and what the experience is like for a military student and all the different resources that are available to them which was very well received. Ms. Davis explained that she gave the Military Connected Students List for School Year 2020 out to the counselors and the counselors were surprised to see their school district listed on the chart as they thought all military students went to school in the Caesar Rodney School District. Ms. Davis commented that the counselors were shown how to run these lists so that they can find out who the students are. Ms. Davis said that their plan going forward is to give this information out every two years at her lead school counselor meetings. Ms. Davis also shared that her counselors were now doing small groups with the military students and working with them more intentionally. Ms. Davis also shared that the book “Seasons of My Military Student” was provided to the lead school counselors and that she was providing a copy for this group as well. Ms. Davis explained that the book was written by parents of military students and explains what the experiences are and how they can support their own student.

Dr. Haberstroh commented that she and Jenn Davis were speaking about the Coronavirus and students who may have parents deployed and expecting them to come back but may not be able to due to the virus and is there something that we can or should be doing. Lt. Colonel Michael Morales commented that at this time there are two stop movements in place which is anyone coming out of North Korea and Italy and hasn’t seen anything from other bases as of yet.

Mike Noel from Caesar Rodney commented that he was amazed at how the schools in their district are so in tune with the military students in their district and was impressed with the resilience of the military students.

Observance of Recognition of the Military Child in the State of Delaware:

Dr. Haberstroh directed the members to the draft resolution for the Day of the Military Child.

Dr. Haberstroh explained that typically a day is selected where the Governor, House, and the Senate would have this group come in. She also explained that she has confirmation of the date of April 9 but is unsure if the kids from Dover Air Force Base Middle School would be able to come because of the Coronavirus and possible restrictions. Dr. Haberstroh commented that they will keep moving forward until she hears something different. Dr. Haberstroh stated that she will get information out to the group as she gets it and that all are invited.

Other Discussion as needed:

Dr. Ronald Sarg commented on the presentation from the parent and that he was surprised with the challenges the student had to endure during his senior year. Dr. Sarg also commented that from the national level the increasing need for attention to special needs students and the problem with inadequate special needs capabilities. On a local level Dr. Sarg asked about the cybersecurity capabilities. Dr. Haberstroh spoke on behalf of DOE and said that all employees take cybersecurity classes.

Public Comment:

Kelly Cheeseman commented that she asked to attend this meeting because she is a graduate student and her focus is on military families.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

STATE OF DELAWARE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR



PROCLAMATION
IN OBSERVANCE OF
MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

Whereas, thousands of brave Americans demonstrate their courage and commitment to Delaware and the nation by serving in the military; and

Whereas, there are approximately 6,000 children with parents serving in the military either Active Duty, Reserves, or in the National Guard stationed in Delaware; and

Whereas, these children are a source of pride and honor to us all, and we recognize their contributions and celebrate their spirit; and

Whereas, the "Month of the Military Child" allows us to pay tribute to military children for their commitment, patience, courage, and unconditional support of our troops and their family members.

*Now, Therefore, We, John Carney, Governor,
and Bethany Hall-Long, Lieutenant Governor,*
do hereby declare April 2020, as

MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

in the State of Delaware, and urge all citizens businesses, educators, and government leaders to observe this month with appropriate activities to honor, support, and thank our military children.



John C. Carney
John C. Carney
Governor

Bethany A. Hall-Long
Bethany A. Hall-Long
Lieutenant Governor

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Number

Appendix B: