

*The Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunities for Military Children*

## Maine MIC3 Council Meeting

30 November 2017, 1:30 pm-3:30 pm

Room 228, State House

Augusta, ME 04330

(207) 624-6600

1. Welcome from Commissioner Hasson
  - Commissioner Hasson was not able to attend the meeting so Sarah Forster provided the welcome to committee members.
    - o Members present: Sarah Forster from Maine Attorney General's Office, Elizabeth Marcoutte from Maine National Guard Family Program, Jane Durgin from Kittery Public Schools, Eric Waddell from Kittery Public Schools, Brian Carpenter from RSU 79/MSAD 01 Public Schools, Commander Richard Taylor was attending the meeting for Captain David Hunt from Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, and Student Representative Dionne Taylor
    - o Ex officio members Kristen Ferullo from Portsmouth Naval Shipyard and Tyler Backus from Maine Department of Education.
2. Introductions
  - Each member introduced themselves
3. History & Overview – Kristen Ferullo
  - a. ME adoption of the law
  - b. What is MIC3?
  - c. Why is it so important?
  - As we had a new member on the council Kristen provided a history of MIC3, including the Maine's adoption of the law. She discussed the transitions for the families to the state of Maine from other states. Kristen works with the family to find out the needs of each individual family, including any educational needs. This would include the transfer of credits that they have already received in other states, and how classes are tracked different in each state, and how grades transfer between school districts. Kittery has also made the transition to a proficiency based grading system, and many students transfer from schools that use the traditional grading system so she works with the school system to ensure credits transfer appropriately. Many students have emotional needs as well. These emotional needs are caused by many factors, but it includes the reason that 1 in 15 students loses a parent to war, and transitioning between school districts can be difficult.

#### 4. Annual Meeting Update – Sarah Forster / Kristen Ferullo

- Significant points of interest at the national meeting:
  - o The MIC3 is in the 11<sup>th</sup> year of the organization, in the beginning only 7 or 8 states were members. Now all 50 states are members.
  - o The goal is that every student has a successful transition.
  - o In Maine the Commissioner of Education is that Compact Commissioner, this is not the case for all 50 states.
  - o MIC3 Council is losing money because student counts are going down, as states provide funding that is determined by the number of students.
  - o Some states that are working towards proficiency based education, but not all. Maine has worked on when students are transitioning into the state, but have less protocols for when students are transitioning out of the state.
- Kristen provided an education & military 101, topics on how education works for non-educators
  - o Educators need more training about the compact, there is currently lots of turnover throughout the state. The liaison needs to get more integrated into the schools, get to work more with the educators so they have a better understanding of military student challenges.
- Taylor told her personal story of transitioning to Maine in 2015. Noted that communication is vital, and that for military students the SLO need to be included in the check-in sheet. In Maine it was the first time she had been given anything as part of the transition.
- Jane noted that when her department has any issues with a military student they ensure they are right on the phone with Kristen.

#### 5. Compact Issues of Maine – Sarah Forster

- a. ME Case Studies
- b. Best Practices
- Sarah mentioned that when Sara Smiley moved to Maine with her children there was no MIC3 council. This year the state had 3 issues but they were not directly related to the compact. Two of the issues were resolved successfully, and one of them was not success.

#### 6. Issues or potential concerns facing your schools

- Group discussed Permanent Change of Station (PCS)/deployments when the student is in the last 2 years of education. Commander Taylor talked about his upcoming PCS, and how that will affect Dionne as she moves into her senior year.

- Dionne mentioned her previous moves across the country through her school age years. She has moved five times already, and will have one more move before she graduates.
- The hardest part has been restarting her life, getting engaged in the community. Previously she played volleyball since she was 9, when she moved to Maine she learned that Kittery does not have a school team; she was able to find a club team. She has also gotten a job at a local restaurant. She does not know what she will do when she has to move after the school year.
- Dionne also noted that she felt lucky because she got to start high school with proficiency based education, and that those that move in now typically are not that lucky. New students that are moving in and had not been educated in the system previously had higher stress levels just because of not knowing. Concern over how grades from previous high school will convert, and how will grades convert when they leave the school district.
- Eric talked about converting grades for students that are moving into the district, and those moving onto another high school. When students are leaving he communicates with the new district on how they want the grades listed for each class, and Kittery will convert their grading system to the new school's grading system. Kittery does the same when students move into the district, he does not request the sending school do the conversion.
- Kristen asked about a group looking at proficiency based education around transitions for students.
- Sarah asked if what Kittery does could be transferable and used in other districts.
- Eric noted that what Kittery does is one of the purest forms of PBE, and that the matrix is formed off that level of PBE.

## 7. Military Identifier

- a. SY2018 counts
  - i. Active Duty
  - ii. National Guard
- Tyler provided student counts for each category. It was noted that the military identifier field had not been marked as required in the student system, so many district still did not report the data. The identifier will be made a required field starting with the April count.

## 8. Spring Meeting – April 2018

- a. Proficiency Based Education / Proficiency Based Diplomas for outbound students
- b. Month of the Military Child

- It was decided that the group would try to meet in May. No specific events were decided during the meeting around the Month of the Military Child.