

IL Educational Opportunities for Military Children Council

Wednesday, February 5, 2014
9am – 10:30am

Governor's Video Conference Rooms

Chicago – James R. Thompson Center, 100 W. Randolph, 16th floor, Suite 16-100
Springfield – State Capitol, 401 S. 2nd St., 2nd floor, Room 205

MINUTES

Chicago: Danice Kern, Amber Kirchhoff, Brian Riegler, Julie Smith, Dan Tully

Springfield: Michele Carmichael

Phone: Cindy Doil, Anne Kondziela, Ben Martindale, Lorna McDaniel Wilson

I. Welcome and Introductions

Commissioner called for introductions in Chicago, Springfield, and by phone. Due to the weather, most participants joined by phone. Commissioner thanked everyone for participating.

II. Review of Draft Minutes for Approval

Participants were provided copy of draft minutes from November via email. Commissioner called for edits or additions. Minutes were passed as approved with minor edits.

III. Commissioner's Update – Commissioner Riegler

Commissioner provided brief update on any activity since November including Compact related calls received and interim activity of Commission committees.

a. Report from November MIC3 Annual Meeting

Agenda from 2013 Annual MIC3 meeting was included in the meeting materials which were emailed. Commissioner attended meeting on behalf of Illinois. Commissioner provided a summary of discussion and key take away's from November conference. Annual meeting was held in San Diego in November 2013. Agenda items of note included a compliance case study for IDEA. Additionally, the Commissioner noted that MIC3 would not be taking a position on Common Core. Also, a couple of additional states have joined the Commission since last meeting so nearly all states are now participating. Commission has also updated its website to make materials more accessible. New website includes state profiles and an archive of newsletters, presentations, and outreach materials. Commissioner is a member of the Public Relations Committee of the Compact which is headed by Rosemarie Kraeger of Rhode Island.

IV. Update on Communications Plan and Final Outreach Materials – Amber Kirchhoff, Governor's Office & Michele Carmichael, IL State Board of Education

Amber Kirchoff provided an update on the status of the development of outreach materials and the communications plan. Amber thanked group for their input during the development process. She has incorporated all feedback provided to date. Additionally, she has spoken with MIC3 about using their logo in addition to the state seal so that anyone who accesses is clear that the information is being provided in connection with the state council.

a. Review Final Drafts of Tool Kit, FAQs, and Communications Plan for Approval

Final drafts of both the tool kit and FAQs document were included in meeting materials. Amber provided a review of the process to this point and noted updates to the materials made based on feedback at the last meeting. She invited discussion of final drafts of FAQs, Tool Kit, and Communications Plan. Group added a few additional suggestions of stakeholder groups to include in outreach efforts as part of the communications plan. Group also discussed the possibility of developing a basic slide deck to be used as a default for stakeholders interested in providing presentations to external groups about the basics of the compact. Amber agreed to work on this deck and make available to the group.

Toolkit, FAQs, and Communications Plan were approved as presented with minor edits. The IL State Board of Education (ISBE) will present final materials as an information item to their Board prior to posting to their website. Barring any concerns raised by the Board, final toolkit and FAQs will then be posted to ISBE website. ISBE will host master documents and stakeholders are asked to link to their posting to ensure that anyone interested in accessing it is being referred to the most up to date version. Amber will send link to documents once available online.

V. Discussion of Base Listening Posts Education Feedback – Danice Kern, Lt. Governor’s Office

Amber introduced Danice Kern, advisor to Lt. Governor Simon, who has been helping to lead the Interagency Military Base Support and Economic Development Committee (IMBSEDC). She noted that IMBSEDC has recently met and among the topics discussed was the IEMCC and Illinois’ compact. Members of the IMBSEDC expressed concern over the variation between the model compact at the national level and Illinois’ compact language and protections for students from military connected families. Group is interested in updating Illinois’ compact legislation to strengthen provisions and more closely align to model compact. School Liaison Officers reiterated confusion expressed by families transferring from other compact states regarding the lack of consistency in provisions.

Danice also briefly discussed feedback received by the Lt. Governor’s Office during listening posts conducted with community members in areas of the state where military bases are located. Participants included veterans, civilian retirees, elected officials, local business leaders, active military service members and their families among others. Community members provided input on a number of topics related to their priorities and areas of concern as it related to base retention and realignment efforts. Education was included among these topics. Overall, respondents were mostly satisfied or somewhat satisfied with ease of transition to local schools, quality of local schools, and ability of local school systems to prepare students for college and careers.

VI. Other Business and Announcements

Commissioner called for announcements or other business. It was noted that MIC3 would be holding a webinar on implementation of the compact in the spring.

VII. Adjourn