

MSLC/State Council for Military Children
Joint Meeting
March 27, 2025
Meeting at Beacon Point Homes Community Center
100 Tern Road, Groton, CT 06340

Draft Minutes

Attendees State Council: Captain Curtin, Jason Hartling, Bob Ross, Laura Anastasio, Miranda Chapman, Susan Austin, Kristea Francolino, Andrea Ackerman

Attendees MSLC: Groton-Susan Austin, Seth Danner, Peter Bass, Lauren Cassini; Ledyard- Jay Hartling; LEARN- Kate Ericson; New London- Kristea Francolino; Norwich- Susan Lessard; US Navy-Captain Curtin, Miranda Chapman, Elizabeth Mosier, Sarah Huband; US COAST GUARD- Anna Johnson; CT Office of Military Affairs- Bob Ross; Subforce Museum Educator-Jennifer Bourque; Central Connecticut State University- Greg Kane.

1. Welcome and introductions
2. Review, amend and approve MSLC/MIC3 minutes from the November 2024 meeting. Motion to approve the minutes by Bob Ross was seconded by Susan Austin. The minutes from the November meeting were approved by a unanimous vote. MSLC meeting minutes from January 30, 2025 were also approved with one correction.
3. Update on **2024 MIC3 ABM:** Next ABM is in Indianapolis at the NCAA complex. Information will be posted on the MIC3 website in August. If interested in attending, reach out to Laura.
4. **MIC3 Training Schedule:** Upcoming schedule attached; training can be offered in-person or virtual. Coast Guard hosted a virtual training for 6 families this past January.
5. **MIC3 Annual Report:** quickly reviewed the annual report. The most contended topics that MIC3 supports are placement and attendance and graduation requirements.
6. **MIC3 Legal Advisory discussion:** Flexibility and Waiver of Graduation Requirements
The MIC3 General Counsel, upon request of the California Commissioner has issued a legal advisory concerning the awarding of credits and graduation requirements under the Compact. This advisory results from several cases where military children were denied credit for courses previously taken in another state. Although the Compact states that school shall award credit, indicating that the schools must do this; the Compact further states “. . . if the coursework is similar to coursework in the previous state.” This provision has created some confusion at the district level.
7. **House Bill 7123 discussion:** This bill proposes a change to the special education statutes, providing that military students with IEPs shall be reevaluated within 30 days of enrollment. The Commissioner testified against this bill and is currently working with the Veterans’ Affairs Committee to draft language to require that the IEP be reviewed and implemented within 30 days of attendance. Members noted that in Connecticut, such implementation is already taking place for all students transferring into the districts. The Commission is also suggesting that the proposed changes to Section 10-186 be amended to clarify the specific

rights of military children with a separate subsection. With respect to the provision concerning the right to remain in school through the end of the school year, the districts generally allow this if the servicemember receives orders within a specified time period before the end of the school year. Captain Curtin noted that the phrase “and any other documents from the armed forces indicated a change of residency from such town during the school year . . .” was problematic. There are documents that will reference a new address when service members choose to move for personal reasons rather than professional.

Bob Ross noted that the DSLO Office of the Department of Defense, which initiated this provision, is currently being scrutinized for possible elimination.

8. State Council concerns, issues, other items

- A. Will need to seek a replacement on the council for Ms. Holy Cheeseman
 - B. Fitch High School has changed their process and will now grant a half credit with grade on the transcript for yearlong classes. This is a great benefit for military families moving mid-year, but also provides an opportunity for students who struggled in the beginning to still gain credit during the year.
 - C. Mentioned Pennsylvania case where a high school would not calculate a GPA for a transfer student impacting the student’s ability to apply for scholarships/colleges as they required a GPA.
9. Gregory Kane from Central Connecticut State University gave a presentation on **Seaperch and Drone program**. Both programs has competitions that schools/programs can get involved in. They offer teacher workshops to train teachers how to support their program at their locations. Links to competitions to learn more about the programs:
2025 SeaPerch Challenge <https://youtu.be/5pNWiiK8Dw>
Ariel Drone Competition 2025 <https://youtu.be/yO7SCcY5Qfg>
10. Month of the Military Child- April. Districts should have their PurpleUp! day selected. Photographs of any activities would be greatly appreciated! There are some banners available if you need one or yours is damaged.
11. Local school updates - round table
- CAPT Curtin-** The USS Indiana will be coming into port today at 2:00 pm, which may impact students. The sailors serving on the USS Indiana will be leaving the state within the next 90 days and relocating, which will also be impacting the students and schools. The USS Iowa, which is the newest submarine, will be commissioned on April 5th, which will be a big event at the base.
- Susan Austin-** Presented to Subvets about career pathways in Groton; continuing the conversation with the state to have enlistment recognized in accountability index.
- Kate Ericson-** deadline for magnet applications due by April 1, lottery will be pulled in April. Grade reconfiguration at TFS and RMMS effective 2025-26 SY. Office of teaching and learning continuing curriculum writing with CG museum.
- Kristea Francolino-** magnet application deadline April 4th. There is an info session for year round school (K-5) in April. New London offered their frontline staff de-escalation training which was successful.
- Susan Lessard-** Shared the “Voice of Democracy” scholarship, grades 9-12, essay and recording; “Patriot’s Pen” essay contest, grade 6-8; check your local VFW for more information.

Sarah Huband/Beth Mosier- April is Month of the Military child. Several events occurring- April 4- Military Kids Ball, April 11- Family Game night, April 18- Family movie night, April 25- Teen Lock In/Operation Megaphone.

Peter Bass- In February did a partnership program with Deloitte and General Dynamics employees. The True believers Robotics Program helped middle school student learn to build and problem solve. In March, Groton MS held its first career day; it was successful.

Jay Hartling- Ledyard MS is also doing a career day. They are adding a K-5 STEM program. Ledyard initiated a new intervention program and is seeing success. Beginning the transition process for 5th graders, math and literacy night are coming up.

Jennifer Bourque- Offering a summer camp program through Groton Parks and Rec at Esker Point; April 19th is Family Day at the museum from 10:00-2: 00 PM

Bob Ross- May 16th will be a ribbon cutting for the water taxi dock at the Subforce Library Museum.

12. Upcoming military-related programs, initiatives, or resources - NTR
13. Announcements -NTR
14. Adjournment