

MINUTES

STATE COUNCIL ON EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY FOR MILITARY CHILDREN

October 26, 2009

9:30 a.m.

Submarine Force Library and Museum

Members present: Captain Marc Denno, Valerie Nelson, Senator Andrew Maynard, Doreen Fuller, Elizabeth Gianacoplos, Bob Ross.

Non-voting members: Laura Anastasio, Miranda Chapman, Shelia McKay.

Also in attendance: Liz Murphy, Education Consultant, Submarine Force Library and Museum

1. Discussion and approval of the minutes of the February 23rd meeting.
2. Discussion of the Military Family Education Liaison's role and responsibilities: Captain Denno introduced Miranda Chapman, School Liaison Officer at the Submarine base. Ms. Chapman will serve as the State Liaison. Currently, her duties include working with the families of school-aged children to assist with transitioning children into schools, maintaining contact with the schools and providing guidance to school employees regarding the needs of military families, contacting other community services that military families may need to access, etc. Generally, there are approximately three to four hundred families that will be transitioning into or out of Connecticut. These families may be associated with any one of the military branches serving in the state.

The Council discussed the responsibilities of the State Liaison:

- The Liaison will be the point person for military families with respect to facilitating enrollment in public schools and answering questions regarding the Interstate Compact.
 - The Liaison will reach out to families of Reservists and the National Guard to the extent possible.
 - The Liaison will also conduct outreach to other community services that military families would contact.
 - The Liaison will communicate with the State Department of Education designee (Attorney Anastasio) regarding any problems, complaints or clarifications that need to be addressed.
 - The Liaison is not responsible for enforcement of the Compact. Any issues regarding a district's non-compliance with the Compact should be addressed to Attorney Anastasio at the State Department of Education.
3. Review of Interstate Commission's Proposed Rules:
 - Enrollment vs. attendance: there should be a definition of "enrollment" in the rules because there exists some confusion as to whether a child may attend once enrolled even if the child does not have proof of immunization. The Council would like to explore the

concept of an exception to the 30-day rule that would allow a child to attend school before obtaining the required immunizations.

- Physicals can be difficult to schedule when a family moves. As with the immunizations, the Council would like to explore permitting a child to attend school and have the appropriate physical examination within 30 days.
- Data collection: PSIS currently does not have a field element for military children. If the Interstate Commission wishes to track the movement of military children, the SDE will need to revise the PSIS system to include this element.
- The rules do not include the Department of Defense schools—was this exclusion intended?
- Graduation requirements: the provision allowing LEAs to waive state specific requirements or LEA specific requirements should not be problematic. While some states have state specific requirements such as a history class dedicated to the state's history, Connecticut does not have at this time any requirements that would be unique to this state. LEAs could waive LEA specific requirements that are not mandated by statute.

4. Items to discuss for annual business meeting of the Commission: The Council would like to discuss a requirement that children be allowed to attend school during the 30-day period for immunizations and physicals.

5. Liz Murphy briefly discussed the upcoming activities at the Museum that will be available for schools and for the general public.