

**MSLC/State Council for Military Children**  
**Joint Meeting**  
**November 21, 2024**  
**Meeting at Beacon Point Homes Community Center**  
**100 Tern Road, Groton, CT 06340**

## **MINUTES**

Attendees State Council: Captain Curtin, Jason Hartling, Rep. Holly Cheeseman, Bob Ross, Laura Anastasio, Miranda Chapman, Susan Austin

Attendees MSLC: Groton-Susan Austin, Seth Danner, Matt Brown, Peter Bass, Lauren Cassini ; Ledyard- Jay Hartling; LEARN- Kate Ericson; New London- Kristea Francolino; Navy CYP-Dianna Scuncio, Miranda Chapman; US Navy-Captain Curtin; US COAST GUARD- LT Jaskot, Anna Johnson; CT National Guard- Carrie Joseph; CT Office of Military Affairs- Bob Ross; Subforce Museum Educator-Jennifer Bourque, PO Austin German

1. Welcome and introductions
2. Review, amend and approve MSLC/MIC3 minutes from the May 2023 meeting. Motion to approve the minutes by Jay Hartling was seconded by Kristea Francolino. The minutes from the May meeting were approved by unanimous vote.
3. Update on **2024 MIC3 ABM**: finance, possible virtual ABMs. Next ABM is in Indianapolis. The main discussion point during the ABM was the dues increase. Dues have not increased in many years, however, due to inflation in recent years, the costs of operating the Commission have significantly increased. Dues for Connecticut will likely double in the next four years given the budget projections and the proposed increases in the dues. Dues are paid by the SDE, and at this point, we do not believe that the increase will impact the SDE. Therefore, Connecticut was in favor of raising the dues. 2025 ABM will be in Indianapolis, Indiana.
4. **MIC3 Rule amendment proposal**: Awarding credits  
The MIC3 Rules Committee met and reviewed the feedback and comments regarding the proposed amendment. After lengthy discussion, the Rules Committee voted to table the amendment for a year to allow the Commission time to receive feedback on the utilization and clarification provided to the current Rule language through legal advisory 1-2024 Scope of SEC. 5.104 Placement Flexibility. The advisory opinion allows broad flexibility that addresses a wide scope. This rule may again be considered next year.
5. Raising **Compact Awareness in Connecticut** (Cases: student transfer from Japan to CT; student transfer to Grasso Tech)  
Two cases concerning students transferring into Connecticut: both cases were resolved in favor of the student. The group discussed different ways to continue educating districts that do not have many military children about the Compact and how districts can accommodate military children.
6. **State Council concerns, issues, other items**  
No other items were introduced.
7. **Proposed legislation: Advanced enrollment and open enrollment**

The proposed bill from Washington was presented to the group. It may be introduced this upcoming session. It basically allows military students to register for school prior to arrival in the state based on orders with the intent to move, and prior to have a residential address in the receiving state. States have usually added that families need to provide documentation of residence within the school district within 14 or 30 days (depending on the state) of arrival.

Many states have passed similar legislation, with additional requirements. If there is a move to introduce similar legislation in Connecticut, it would be helpful to have discussions about what would work given Connecticut's structure.

Members noted that currently, districts in the southeastern region have policies in place to allow families time to secure a residence. If the family needs to move, there are accommodations to allow for the student to complete the school year under certain circumstances.

The group discussed the **open enrollment flexibility** discussion points:

- (1) **military clause** which exempts application deadlines and other requirements or prohibiting districts from denying transfers by military children. Bob Ross noted that this type of legislation, while well-intended, can create resentment among non-military members of communities, as it creates a benefit for military children that other children would not have.
  - (2) **Placement stability**: allows a military child to enroll in and attend school outside of the attendance zone of their temporary housing based on an anticipated move or allows the student to remain in the current school despite a change of residence prior to the end of the school year or graduation if they are a junior or senior. Again it was noted that this provision is problematic given the funding structure in CT and granting rights that the general public do not have with respect to staying in the current school.
  - (3) **Military Priority Category**: including military student as a priority group within the prioritization systems for interdistrict and intra district magnet and charters. With the funding structure for magnets and charters, such provisions would be difficult to put in place in CT. The group noted the same issues with points 1 and 2.
8. **STEM-related** school opportunities
- Jennifer Bourque and PO German from the Subforce Library Museum discussed STEM opportunities with the Museum. They partner with the Seaperch program and are able to support local schools. Greg Kane – who will present at a future meeting- also supports a Drone program and Competition.

Bob Ross shared that Linda Darcy- who is involved in the development of the CG museum- is planning STEM outreach and utilizing cadets in STEM programming. Anna is working on accessing a STEM POC for the CG Academy. If interested in future tours of the Eagle connect with the CGA public affairs at [public-affairs@uscga.edu](mailto:public-affairs@uscga.edu)

9. Local school updates

- A. Anna Johnson- asked about information on application and lottery deadlines; Miranda will collect dates from local schools and send along dates. Shared the SCRA license portability provision.
- B. Bob Ross thanked Holly Cheeseman for her participation with the team and support of military students.
- C. Kate Ericson- School choice fair on Dec 5<sup>th</sup> for grades 6-12, from 5-7 PM. There will be twelve schools from across the region. January 16<sup>th</sup> will be the elementary school choice fair at RMMS- more information to follow. LEARN will be hosting the Disability Summit at Mohegan Sun on February 8<sup>th</sup> 10 AM- 3 PM.
- D. Holly Cheeseman shared she enjoyed her time on the Council supporting and advocating for military students.
- E. Kristea Francolino- New London public schools has a magnetized PreK program , families can apply via the Welcome Center at Shaw's Cove

10. Upcoming military-related programs, initiatives, or resources- NTR

11. Announcements – 2025 meetings are TBD

12. Adjournment