



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF **Public Instruction**

Wisconsin State Council of the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunities for Military Children (MIC3)

Commissioner [Shelley Joan Weiss](#)

Minutes - August 13, 2024, 2:00 p.m.

1. Call to Order - Shelley Joan Weiss
 - a. Welcome
 - i. Please join me in welcoming our newest members.
 - ii. [Col Sheyla Baez-Ramirez, Garrison Commander, Fort McCoy](#), Military Representative to the WI State Council. Col Baez Ramirez is the first woman to command garrison at Fort McCoy.
 1. [Appointment letter](#) received JULY 2024.
 2. Thank you to Col Stephen Messenger for his excellent service to our Council and to military children. Col Messenger has moved to his new assignment teaching at the Army Senior Service College. Col Messenger shared his leadership website [themaximumstandard.com](#).
 - iii. Amanda Venske, Education Benefits Program Manager, University Veteran Services, University of Wisconsin-Madison. Amanda has been supportive in communicating and supporting military children and other military members at the University level.
2. Approval of Agenda
 - a. Motion made by Erica Christensen. Second by Samuel Russ. Approved.
3. Approval of [Minutes from February 29, 2024](#)
 - a. Motion made by Andi Krizan. Second by Samuel Russ. Approved.
4. Comments from WI State Superintendent Dr. Jill Underly
 - a. Thank you all for your support, your sacrifice and your service. I appreciate that we can come together to support students from military families.
 - b. Our educators and staff need to understand the sacrifices made by military families in their everyday lives, including relocating, deployment. The DPI is

deeply committed to supporting our military children every day. Offering flexible scheduling, emotional supports, opportunities for military families to connect and more.

- c. If you know of military families who are not receiving support, please reach out directly to the Office of the State Superintendent (OSS)
 - d. DPI's overarching priorities will be included in the next biennial budget: we need to fully fund our public schools; the increasing need to support mental health; make sure no students go hungry; stand up for schools so they are not used for political battle grounds.
 - e. Last year DPI worked with the legislature to pass Act 20, to increase literacy. Read to learn. Every child should feel supported, welcomed, and as though they belong in WI schools.
5. Sharing the 2024-25 WI State Council Member Listing
- a. [2024-25 WI State Council Member Listing](#)
 - i. We may have other individuals included in our meetings from time to time, who aren't official members of the council. We welcome them to join us.
6. Resources from MIC3
- a. [MIC3](#) has resources available. DPI links to MIC3 on the website.
7. Update on Commissioner activities.
- a. Agendas and minutes submitted to the MIC3 office.
 - b. End of Year Report submitted to the MIC3 office.
 - c. Dues paid by Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction.
 - i. Many thanks to Andrea Donegan for her timely submission of the dues.
 - d. All required forms completed (e.g., Code of Conduct, Conflict of interest)
 - e. Actively participated in Compliance Committee meetings.
 - f. If you have any questions, please contact Shelley.
8. Contacts/questions addressed.
- a. Out-of-state family requesting support to attend WI School. Not supported/covered by the compact. Shelley connected them with the Commissioner for the state where the family resides.
 - b. Family requesting exceptions for family not notifying school/district of absences not related to military duty. Not supported or covered by the compact. Shelley provided the family and the school district with the language from the compact and the WI DPI on reporting absences when the student is attending a public school.
 - c. Family requesting information on MIC3 resources. Shelley provided the information requested.

- d. Individual requesting information on Purple Star School status in WI. Shared information from Council meeting minutes. Met with Thomas McCarthy, DPI.
9. Purple Star School status.
- a. Deputy State Superintendent Thomas McCarthy and Shelley met in March to discuss and outline the process needed to advance this effort. Shelley has continued to provide Thomas with updates from the national activities of Purple Star Schools. Shelley gets information regularly from the neighboring states and national level and has been forwarding the information.
10. Input from DPI Liaison, Andrea Donegan
- a. Wisconsin Guarantee ([ACT 95](#)) - please see the [Wisconsin Guarantee resource](#) created by the Universities of Wisconsin. For additional information about ACT 95 or any new or revised admission processes, please contact the [Universities of Wisconsin](#) or the specific UW institution. The WI DPI is in close communication with the UW. Univ Information from the Universities of Wisconsin webpage was shared - "The Wisconsin Guarantee offers guaranteed admission to all Universities of Wisconsin (UW) universities for all who qualify. First-year applicants from Wisconsin high schools who are in the top 10 percent of their class at the end of 11th grade, or Wisconsin residents who are homeschooled and receive an ACT score in the national 90th percentile ranking or higher, or are a National Merit Scholarship finalist will be guaranteed admittance to all UW universities except UW-Madison. Additionally, first year applicants from Wisconsin high schools who are in the top five percent of their class at the end of 11th grade, or Wisconsin residents who are homeschooled and receive an ACT score in the national 98th percentile ranking or higher or are a National Merit Scholarship finalist will be guaranteed admission to UW-Madison provided that they apply on or before the Early Action deadline."
 - b. [Direct Admit](#) - Much discussion around Direct Admit for students who move between schools, and even out-of-state. Universities of Wisconsin can be contacted to inquire about unique circumstances. Schools had to opt in, then parents opted in. The class of 2025 started receiving letters last week; will continue to roll out in the next few weeks. Have to be on track to graduate from a Wisconsin high school in 2025. The traditional pathway is open as well. Many UWs are doing rolling admissions. Be sure to check with your local school district.
 - c. Andrea Donegan, DPI has also shared American School Counselor Association (ASCA) Position Statement, [The School Counselor and](#)

[Military-Connected Students](#), on how to support the military-connected student. ASCA is aware of the special and unique needs. Statement gives some best practices.

- d. A reminder of the resources available on [DPI Military Child webpage](#), If members have current, relevant statewide resources to share, they can request to have them posted on the webpage.

11. Celebrating Military Families

- a. Please let Shelley know if you have information to share about your November activities and she will share with Council members.
- b. November is Military Family Appreciation Month & Veterans Day Links to sites where you can get more information below.
 - i. [DODEA Information](#)
 - ii. [National Military Family Association](#)
 - iii. [Military Child Education Coalition](#)
 - iv. [Veterans Day](#)
 - v. [WI DPI Veterans Day](#)
- c. Planning for APR 2025, Month of the Military Child
 - i. Superintendents Michael Hansen and Sam Russ.
 - 1. Much appreciation for the early planning. On 4/28/25 the Sparta American Legion will be hosting the Month of the Military Child Luncheon. Tomah and Sparta. First time in a long time it has been held in Sparta. Always looking for ways to support military children and their families. Looking for keynotes. Becky offered her support if Sam needs anything.
 - a. Might want to put that on your calendars and await invitations from Sam and Mike.

12. Upcoming [MIC3 Annual Business Meeting](#)

- a. October 16-17, 2024
 - i. Shelley is registered and will bring back information.

13. Input from Members.

- a. Members are always invited to reach out to Shelley with good news, agenda items, or questions.

14. Adjourn

- a. Please enjoy the rest of the summer. Thanks again for everything that you do!
- b. Final good wishes from State Superintendent Jill Underly for a successful school year.