

Virginia Council for the Interstate Compact on
Educational Opportunity for Military Children
Minutes: December 6, 2012

Council Members in Attendance:

Senator John C. Miller, Chair
Dr. William C. Boshier, Jr.
Professor Marlena E. Bremseth
Dr. Bobby R. Browder, Superintendent of Prince George County Public Schools
Dr. James G. Merrill, Superintendent of Virginia Beach Public Schools

Council Members not in Attendance:

Delegate M. Kirkland Cox
Dr. Patricia I. Wright, Superintendent of Public Instruction

Department of Education Staff in Attendance:

Melissa Luchau, Military Family Education Liaison
Anne Wescott, Assistant Superintendent for Policy and Communications

Senator Miller called the meeting to order and welcomed Council members and guests.

Senator Miller provided an update from the Virginia High School League (VHSL) on eligibility issues for military children. Concerns had been expressed related to military families who are deemed “key and essential” and must live on base at Langley, thus limiting their option to choose what school their children attend. If these military parents choose to send their children to a school different from their designated school, they are not eligible to participate in VHSL activities for one year. Senator Miller indicated that VHSL tabled a waiver related to this issue, and is working directly with Hampton City Public Schools to resolve this issue for families.

The meeting included a presentation from the Partnership Office for Virginia Beach City Public Schools regarding the outreach initiatives underway in Virginia Beach to ease the transition for military-connected children. A copy of the presentation is available [here](#).

Some of the outreach initiatives and programs in Virginia Beach include:

Actively Engaging the Community: *A Military Presence in Schools*

A. Partners in Education, Volunteers and Mentors

1. VASS and NMSI—Initiative for Military Families Now in Three High Schools
2. 21 Model Partnerships with Military Recognized for Best Practices

3. Hampton Road STEM Academy and Summer Camp
 4. STEM Career Conferences
 5. STEM Robotics Challenge
 6. Classroom Enrichment Opportunities – Military Parents Involved in Field Trips, Projects and Activities
- B. Parent Connection
1. Guest Columns to address topics of interest/need
 2. Welcome Packets
 3. Monthly Workshops
- C. Targeted Guidance Services
1. Deployment Groups
 2. Anti-bullying Activities/Programs
 3. Individual and Small Group Counseling
 4. SAT/ACT Test Prep Support

Grants to Support Military Students and Families

- A. Military-Connected Academic Support Program (MCASP)
1. Military Child and Families Education Graduate Certificate (ODU)
 2. Counselor Transition Training Program (ODU)
 3. Military-Connect Guidance Counselors at Six Target Schools
 - a. Student to Student (MCEC Training)
 - b. Parent Connection Centers in Schools
 4. K-12 Professional Development Program (NIA)
 5. Military Parent/Guardian Advisory Committee
- B. Strategic Foreign Language Expansion Program (S-FLEP)
- C. Two 21st Century Community Learning Center Grants
1. College Readiness and Career Workforce Focus
 2. Integrated Parent Training
 3. Tutoring and Homework Assistance
 4. Summer Programs

Council members praised Virginia Beach City Public Schools for their outreach initiatives, and asked to what extent Partnership Offices were present in other school divisions. Dr. Merrill, superintendent of Virginia Beach City Public Schools, thanked the school liaison officers for their support of these programs.

The meeting also included an update on the Interstate Commission from General Norman E. Arflack, executive director for the Interstate Commission on Educational Opportunities for Military Children. General Arflack discussed the role of the Commission as a resource for State Councils, facilitator, and training provider. The Commission is working to expand the Compact to all 50 states - the Compact has been adopted by 43 states thus far - and getting state Councils established.

Melissa Luchau, military family education liaison, updated Council members on the Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission (MIC3) Annual Meeting, which took place November 15-17, 2012. At the Annual Meeting the commission voted to

change a rule of the Compact related to kindergarten enrollment, requiring a student who does not meet the age requirement in the receiving state, to have attended kindergarten in the sending state, in order to be eligible in the receiving state. Virginia will continue to operate under a more flexible policy, allowing a child to continue their enrollment in kindergarten as long as they registered or attended kindergarten in the sending state. The Commission annual meeting also included a presentation from the Hawaii Department of Education (HIDOE) on their efforts to ease the transition for military connected children, and an opportunity for state Commissioners to share case studies, implementation status, and best practices.

Mrs. Luchau also presented the Council's Executive Summary Report for 2012, which will be sent to the Governor and General Assembly in December, per the *Code of Virginia*.

The Council then received public comment from one member of the audience. Marian Leverette, regional school liaison officer, discussed the 2012 Hampton Roads Area Military Child Education Summit at Old Dominion University November 1, 2012.

Senator Miller closed the meeting by thanking the Council members and guests.

Presentation materials from the meeting can be found at:

http://www.doe.virginia.gov/support/student_family/military/va_council/index.shtml.