

Virginia Council for the Interstate Compact on
Educational Opportunity for Military Children
Minutes
September 15, 2014

All Council members were in attendance: Delegate M. Kirkland Cox (Chairman), Jill Gaitens, Dr. John B. Gordon, III, Captain Frank E. Hughlett, Dorothy McAuliffe, Senator John C. Miller, Dr. Aaron C. Spence, Dr. Steven R. Staples, and Brad Williams.

Delegate Cox called the meeting to introduce new Council members.

Given the number of new members to the Council, the meeting began with an overview of the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children and its implementation in Virginia. A copy of the presentation is available at http://www.doe.virginia.gov/support/student_family/military/va_council/meeting_materials.shtml#sep091514. Melissa Luchau, military family education liaison for the Department of Education, discussed unique aspects of military-connected children, why the Interstate Compact was developed, and key provisions of the Compact, as adopted by the Virginia General Assembly in 2009. With regard to graduation provisions, Dr. Spence asked if it was ever a problem for a student who is receiving their diploma from the sending state, to walk in graduation at the receiving state. Mrs. Luchau indicated that schools should allow the student to walk at graduation, and this has not been a problem.

The meeting continued with a presentation from Dennis Jarrett, chief financial officer for York County Public Schools. Mr. Jarrett provided an overview of impact aid and how it differs from other federal education programs. He discussed eligibility and funding categories, as well as best practices for receiving the maximum funds a school division is eligible to receive. Further, Mr. Jarrett highlighted the impact the federal budget, appropriations, and sequestration has on the impact aid program. A copy of the presentation is available at http://www.doe.virginia.gov/support/student_family/military/va_council/meeting_materials.shtml#sep091514.

Following the presentation on impact aid, the following questions were discussed:

- Senator Miller asked if the information collected on impact aid survey cards is shared with teachers. Mr. Jarrett explained that the survey cards include unique codes to identify what type of military connection each child has, and teachers may not be aware of what these codes mean. He noted that many teachers already know if children in their classroom have military connections, but there is no systematic list of military-connected children.
- Mrs. McAuliffe asked if there is a sense of why school divisions who meet the eligibility thresholds are not applying. Mr. Jarrett noted that for the most part if schools meet the eligibility threshold, they are applying for the funds. However, some schools may have trouble identifying how many military children they have, and thus not know if they meet the threshold.

At the request of the chair, Mrs. Luchau provided a presentation on military student identifier policies. The presentation noted what military student identifiers are, what states have implemented an identifier, how information is collected in those states, benefits of having an identifier and issues to consider. A copy of the presentation is available at

http://www.doe.virginia.gov/support/student_family/military/va_council/meeting_materials.shtml#sep091514.

In response to the presentation on military student identifiers, the following questions and statements were discussed:

- Senator Miller asked if there is value in the state having information about the number and location of military-connected children, or could that information be kept at the local level. Dr. Staples noted that it is more of a local matter.
- Delegate Cox noted that the issues to consider are real in terms of school reporting requirements and privacy concerns. If legislation was pursued, he noted it would be helpful to have the Joint Leadership Council on board.
- Mrs. McAuliffe noted that having an identifier may help school divisions access impact aid funding from the federal government.
- Dr. Spence asked about the prevalence of local data management systems.

Delegate Cox opened the floor for public comment. There were three speakers:

1. Nancy Evans, Regional CYP Program Manager, Navy Region Mid Atlantic: expressed support for the military student identifier as the lynchpin for identifying who needs to be served.
2. Daniel Dunham, Regional School Liaison, Naval District Washington (NDW): expressed support for the military student identifier for programmatic reasons.
3. Deborah Patch, Regional School Liaison, Navy Region Mid Atlantic: expressed support for the military student identifier as it would make accessing grants easier, since most grants require detailed data on the number of military students. She also noted military family life counselors in Virginia Beach public schools and the importance of knowing who the families are that need services so resources can be targeted.

Delegate Cox opened the floor for discussion by members of the Council:

- Dr. Gordon asked to hear from military children about the issues important to them.
- Mrs. McAuliffe announced details of the next Virginia Military Advisory Council (VMAC) meeting November 13, 2014, which will focus on education issues.
- Dr. Staples noted that the Department will collect information from high military population school divisions on their registration process.

Delegate Cox closed the meeting by thanking the Council members and guests. The next meeting of the Council is scheduled for December 2, 2014, at 2:00 pm.

The agenda, presentation materials, and video of the meeting can be found at:
http://www.doe.virginia.gov/support/student_family/military/va_council/index.shtml.