

MINUTES

STATE COUNCIL ON EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY FOR MILITARY CHILDREN

October 29, 2015

9:30 a.m.

Marine Science Magnet High School
Of Southwestern Connecticut
Groton, CT

Members present: Cathy Patterson, Ledyard Public Schools; Valerie Nelson, Groton Public Schools; Beth Giancopoulos, CAFE Representative; and Laura Anastasio.

Non-voting members present: Miranda Chapman and Captain Carl Lahti.

Also attending: Dr. Andrea Ackerman CAFE Representative (elect), Dr. Nicolas Spera, Representatives from the U.S. Coast Guard, CAPT David Burns- Commanding Officer of Enlisted Personnel, and CMC Joseph Smith- Command Master Chief of Enlisted Personnel

1. Since there was no quorum, the approval of the minutes from the meetings on April 4, 2014, and October 17, 2014, and April 2, 2015 was deferred until the next State Council meeting.
2. Presentation on the Interstate Compact Implementation in Connecticut. Captain Lahti presented a background on the Compact in Connecticut and then discussed areas where the Compact was implemented, including the implications and lessons learned. Case studies included issues of assessments for graduation, partial credits, absences due to deployment, vacation following deployment, Kindergarten entrance age.
3. Proof of Residency. The group discussed the proof of residency issue. Districts must determine whether a family actually resides in the town prior to enrollment. One barrier for military families is the proof of residency. Many districts require a driver's license with a town address, a utility bill, a lease, a mortgage, or a property tax bill. However, many military families do not change their driver's licenses, do not pay property tax, or have moved in a short period of time so that they do not have any utility bills. Also, many families live in military housing and do not have a lease. (One district required all five documents.) Captain Lahti is consulting with Bob Ross (State Office of Military Affairs) to draft a sample letter that can be used to show the family is residing in military housing. Laura Anastasio suggested a communication from the Commissioner to school districts explaining the criteria for determining residency, which may include the sample letter once it is drafted.
4. Awarding of Partial Credits. Some districts do not have a practice of awarding partial credits for students who leave during the school year, which can pose a problem for students transferring to districts that do not award credits based on the full school year. The Compact does not directly address this issue. However, districts could devise some practices to allow for flexibility. The SDE may be able to provide some guidance to districts—Attorney Anastasio will discuss this issue further with the Academic Office.

5. CABE/CAPSS Convention and Outreach Activities. Miranda Chapman has secured a table for the Convention for the purpose of providing more outreach to board members and superintendents throughout the state.
6. Annual Meeting of the MIC-3. MIC-3 will be meeting in Seattle this year. The break out groups will be discussing issues such as end of year assessments and partial credits, which may provide some clarity to the issues raised in recent months.