

Notes from KMIC3 Conference Call - Held March 13, 2013

Participating:

Craig Neuenswander, KSDE
Sherry Root, KSDE
Craig Wilford, USD 260 Derby
John Armbrust, Executive Branch

Keith Mispagel, USD 207 Ft. Leavenworth
Ron Walker, USD 475, Geary Co./Ft. Riley
Eric Childs, School Liaison, Ft. Riley
Amy L. Jensen, School Liaison, McConnell AFB

Update from the National MIC3 meeting (held Nov/2012):

- **Kindergarten Enrollment**
The primary action of the Compact clarified eligibility of an out-of-state kindergarten student to start school in a new state. Compact commission rules had stated that if a child was enrolled in kindergarten in one state, they would be eligible to attend kindergarten in the new state after moving. The term “enrolled” has been changed to “enrolled and attending” as it is in Kansas statute.
- **National Guard**
The subject of the National Guard will likely be discussed at future Compact meetings. Should children of National Guardsmen be included in the military count and the Compact?
Thoughts discussed by the KMIC3 included:
 - Most guardsmen wouldn’t move their family unless they are activated, in which case the child may move in with a relative.
 - If they are active duty, a non-resident student will be accepted to enroll and attend in Ft. Leavenworth and Ft Riley.
 - On federal property, enrollment is 93% active military in Ft Leavenworth.
- **MIC3 Membership**
Arkansas is now the 44th state to join the Compact. Washington, DC has also joined the Commission. Kansas is proud to have been the first state to join, having done so on April 9, 2008.

Are there MIC3 training needs for superintendents, teachers, counselors?

Neighboring districts could use some education. As you move further from a military base, the need for knowledge and training increases.

Time is an issue. Online options might be a good choice. Good website resources are available through the National MIC3 (www.mic3.net) and the Military Child Education Coalition (www.militarychild.org/). The KSDE website will be updated soon with more MIC3 materials and contact information (<http://www.ksde.org/Default.aspx?tabid=4491>).

School Liaison Officers are a great resource for information to schools. They are willing to meet with counselors and principals to help military families.

Ron Walker formed a Military Child Coalition with 18 districts surrounding Ft Riley and has trained them on how to deal with military students and families. They now meet once or twice a year. The USD 475 website has materials used for the compact training. http://rileymwr.com/main/?page_id=268?nav=NewArrivals
Ron also shared that KSU has a program to provide teachers with professional development who work with military children. More details about that program: In 2012, Geary County Schools was awarded grant titled “Steam into STEM” which targets secondary schools with high numbers of military children. USD 475 is contracting with KSU with the goal of training teachers to raise student achievement levels and increase enrollment in science, technology, engineering and math-related (STEM) curriculum. STEM grant award announcement: <http://www.k-state.edu/today/announcement.php?id=4070&category=news&referredBy=todayRSSFeed> and Summer STEM Institute: <http://www.k-state.edu/today/archive/?year=2012&month=06>

Amy Jensen (McConnell) has trained 14 districts around Derby. It can be difficult to get into some of the outlying districts to communicate and educate them on the struggles military families face.

Identifying Military Dependent Students

Craig Neuenswander shared that at the state level, the Kansas Individual Data System (KIDS) has a check box where the district can identify a military dependent student in their student record. However, it would be up to the district to ask each parent at enrollment in order for the student record to show it. Again, if a military base is not nearby, districts may not be consistently asking this question when enrolling new students. Military dependent children could have moved in with relatives and aren't necessarily being identified by the district. To get the word out to school districts, Craig Neuenswander will emphasize the importance of identifying and tracking military dependent students during the budget workshops this summer.

Amy Jensen shared that Texas has introduced a bill that may be helpful in identifying and tracking students from military families.

Ron Walker – Signs can be prominently displayed during enrollment indicating the district's support of military families. It helps parents feel proud to identify themselves. Because Ft Riley/Geary Co has so many children of military families, they have to be careful not to discriminate against the civilian population in his district.

Other Issues

- **Boundaries**
District policies of not enrolling students until they actually move into the district can be a problem for military families. Locating appropriate housing can be a multiple week process and the child needs to be in school. This issue can also be mentioned at the budget workshops. While we cannot mandate local district policy in this area, a suggestion that allowances be considered for military dependent students will be made.
- **Military Second Count**
House Bill 2109 to renew the second count date for military students through 2017-18 is scheduled for a hearing in Senate Committee Friday morning, March 15, 2013.
Update: Senate final action - Passed; Yea: 28 Nay: 12. On March 19, this bill was enrolled and presented to the Governor.
- **Federal Sequester**
Impact Aid has been cut 5.1% effective March 1, a loss of \$1,329,770. This is the only federal education program to be cut immediately – everything else begins July 1. Ron Walker has met with the Secretary and he says he will work to restore it. Congressman Lynn Jenkins said there is a resolution to restore Impact Aid and she thought it could be done. However, it was also noted that many organizations will ask to have their funding restored.

Ron Walker said the federal grant money awarded to build schools for military bases could be cut by \$30 million. This could lead to the elimination of funding for the new elementary school at Ft. Riley. The middle school project appears to be safe. Senator Robert's staff indicated that if money was not encumbered, it would be sequestered. He thought the Department of Defense could have some of the sequestered money restored with a 3 month delay.

###