



March 15, 2023

Dear State Council Members and Stakeholders:

Military members and families sacrifice for the security and safety of our nation, specifically military children during their K-12 careers. In April, the Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission (MIC3) – along with many other organizations, non-profits, and public entities – will celebrate the important role of military children. Across the nation, states, communities, and schools celebrate in various ways, including wearing the color purple. This year, the Commission has selected **Wednesday, April 19th as our official "Purple Up! For Military Kids" day.**

Tennessee has been a member of the Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission (MIC3) since 2011. The Compact membership includes all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the Department of Defense Education Activity schools. The Compact addresses the key educational transition issues encountered by military-connected students.

I know that you are committed to children and providing a high-quality education for all students in our public schools. I ask for your support in April for **"Purple Up! For Military Kids"** by:

1. Drafting a letter/memorandum to your schools/organizations encouraging them to consider sponsoring an activity (this includes businesses and organizations within your local community)
2. Coordinating a month or day within your respective organizations
3. Coordinating a promotion through your communication channels (website, newsletters, media), stakeholders, and partners
4. Promoting support through your communication channels (website, newsletters, media), State Council, stakeholders, and partners by tagging **#TNMIC3, #MIC3TN, #MIC3Compact,** and **#purpleup4militarykids**
5. Attending a school district or school-level event
6. Draft a letter to businesses and organizations within your local community to encourage them to do some of the below;
  - a. Businesses and organizations can post support of **"Purple Up! For Military Kids"** on their websites, social media platforms, marquees, signs, etc.
  - b. If their building has color-changing lights they can light their buildings up in **Purple**
  - c. Coordinating a month or day within their business or organization

Additional information and resources can be found in the Purple Up! Toolkit or website:

<https://www.mic3.net/motmc.html>

Should you have any questions on the Compact, please contact me at (**931-326-4251 or dmclau9499@bellsouth.net**) or visit [www.mic3.net](http://www.mic3.net).

Tennessee is committed to military children and providing a high-quality education for all students in our public schools. Please join me in thanking our military children for their strength and sacrifice by supporting **"Purple Up! For Military Kids"** this month – they deserve our support! Sincerely yours,

Please email pictures and a recap of “Purple Up! For Military Kids” activities that take place in your school system or organization to [dmclau9499@bellsouth.net](mailto:dmclau9499@bellsouth.net).

As you know, in 2019, we (the Tennessee MIC3 State Council) launched the Purple Star Schools Award (PSSA) Program. The Tennessee Purple Star School Award is provided to military-friendly schools that display a major commitment to serving military-connected families and students. Please help us spread the word to schools across the state. For more information about PSSA visit <https://www.tn.gov/sbe/committees-and-initiatives/military-interstate-children-s-compact-tennessee-state-council--mic3-/pssa.html>

As Tennessee's Compact Commissioner, I am responsible for overseeing the military compact administration in our state and ensuring compliance under the rules and regulations. For more information on the compact, please contact me directly at [dmclau9499@bellsouth.net](mailto:dmclau9499@bellsouth.net), or visit <https://www.tn.gov/sbe/committees-and-initiatives/military-interstate-children-s-compact-tennessee-state-council--mic3-.html>

Please join me in thanking our military children for their strength and sacrifice by supporting “Purple Up! For Military Kids” during April – they deserve our support!

Follow us on Facebook at [MilitaryInterstateChildrensCompactCommissionInTN](#)

I look forward to interacting with you during our soon-to-be-scheduled Annual State Council Meeting.

Thank you very much for your commitment to our mission,

*Deanna M. McLaughlin*

Deanna M. McLaughlin  
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**Did You Know? According to the Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC) Active Duty Family Report, as of July 2020, there were 1,001,559 military-connected children aged 5-18 years old in the U.S.**