

September 5th, 2024



State Administration and Veterans' Affairs and Interim Committee

# MIC3 REPORT

## Family Engagement

The Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission's (MIC3) purpose is to remove barriers to educational success imposed on children of military families. Through the Interstate Compact key educational transition issues encountered by children of military families are addressed.

# MIC3 Commission Members for 2023/2024 School year

- Ray L. Shaw, Ret. Sergeant (USAF), Compact Commissioner
- Col. Ciro E. de la Vega, 341st MSG Commander, Malmstrom AFB, USDOD Representative
- Lisa Sapp, School Liaison, Malmstrom Air Force Base
- Elsie Arntzen, State Superintendent, Montana Office of Public Instruction
- Brian Michelotti, Executive Director, Montana High School Association
- Tom Moore, Superintendent, Great Falls Public Schools (retired 07/01/2024 and new Superintendent is Heather Hoyer)
- Representative Ed Buttrey, Montana House of Representatives
- Brad Livingston, Brigadier General (BG) Ret.

## Why is MIC3 & Supporting Military-Connected Children Important

- Montana is home to nearly **3,800** active duty military members in Montana and over **5,700** National Guard and Reserve members.
- Roughly **6500** military-connected students who have at least one parent who is serving in Active-Duty, National Guard, or Reserve Status.
  - **2247** children of active-duty service members in Montana.
  - **4224** children of guard and reserve members in Montana.

**Montana has military-connected families all over the state, however, the counties with the highest number of military-connected families:**

- Cascade County
- Lewis and Clark County

# Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission Initiatives

- Expand our reach in an effort to receive more nominations for Purple Star Awards.
- Bringing discussions to a state level in an effort to reach more rural areas with military awareness and opportunity.
- Expanding Purple Star Awards to award middle school and high school students to honor their character, merit, and academics.
- Reaching out to more schools across the state to invite different military branches in to explain the opportunities the military has to offer high school students.

## **Montana's 2023-2024 Purple Star School Awardees:**

Valley Christian School, Missoula, MT (renewal)

Loy Elementary School, Great Falls, MT (renewal)

North Middle School, Great Falls, MT (renewal)

CMR High School, Great Falls, MT (renewal)

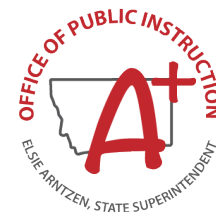
Washington Middle School, Glendive, MT

## **The 2023- 2024 Purple Star Champion Awardees:**

Nick Budeski, CMR High School Counselor in Great Falls

Jamie Williams, CMR High School Librarian and  
Instructional Coach in Great Falls

Lisa Sapp, Malmstrom Air Force Base School Liaison in Great  
Falls



**New nomination applications will be accepted through October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024.**