



West Virginia DEPARTMENT OF  
**EDUCATION**

# **WV Council for the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children**

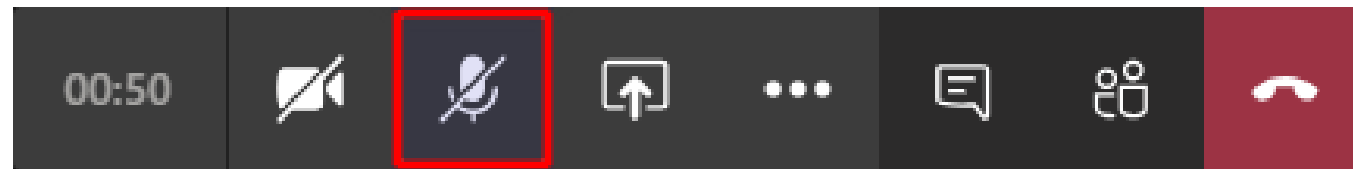
FY 2023 Meeting  
Tuesday, January 17, 2023

# Microsoft Teams Meeting Information

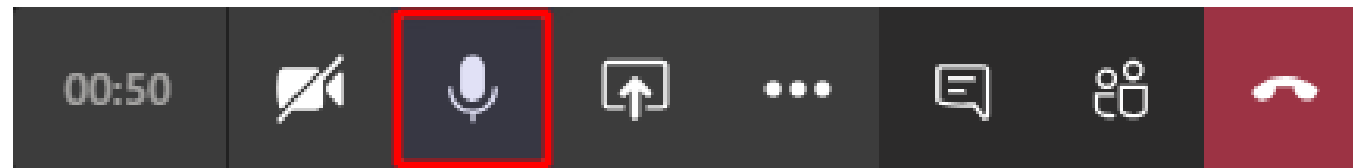
Before we begin the meeting:

- If you are using a computer or cell phone application, please note that you may use the menu bar near the bottom of your screen to:
  - Turn your camera on or off
  - Mute and unmute your microphone

*Camera and microphone turned off*



*Camera off and microphone on*



*On a telephone, \*6 will mute or unmute your audio. Press \*1 for a complete list of telephone options.*

# Meeting Agenda

1. Welcome, Roll Call and Introductions
  - *Military Family Education Liaison, Mr. Robert Mellace*
2. Approval of Agenda/Minutes and Remarks from the State Compact Commissioner
  - *Compact Commissioner, Mr. Phillip Cantrell*
3. Remarks from the State Superintendent of Schools
  - *State Superintendent of Schools, Mr. David L. Roach*
4. WVBE Goals, Agency Relationship Map
5. Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission (MIC3) Overview
6. Common Ground Partnership Overview
7. Additional Supports for Military Families
8. Roundtable Discussion on MIC3 and Additional Supports for Military Families

# Welcome

Office of Educator Development and Support

Mr. Robert Mellace

Coordinator

Phone: 1-304-558-3119

E-mail: [rmellace@k12.wv.us](mailto:rmellace@k12.wv.us)

# Roll Call and Introductions

## **State Council Members:**

Compact Commissioner – Mr. Phillip Cantrell

State Superintendent of Schools – Mr. David Roach

County Superintendent of Schools – Cabell County Schools – Dr. Ryan Saxe

Military Installation Representative - WVNG – CPT Brittany Watson

Executive Branch Representative – Cabinet Secretary, WVDVA – Mr. Edward Diaz

WV Senate Member – Mr. Ryan Weld

WV House of Delegates Member – Mr. Bill Anderson

Military Family Education Liaison – Mr. Robert Mellace

## **DOD Representative:**

NRMA Regional School Liaison – Mr. Chris Hendrix

# Approval of Agenda/Minutes

## Remarks

### State Compact Commissioner

Mr. Phillip Cantrell

- Served as Director of the West Virginia Military Authority at West Virginia National Guard until Summer of 2022



# Remarks

## State Superintendent of Schools

Mr. David L. Roach

- 33rd State Superintendent of Schools
- Appointed in August 2022
- Served as Executive Director of the School Building Authority, April 2018 – August 2022



# West Virginia Board of Education Goals:

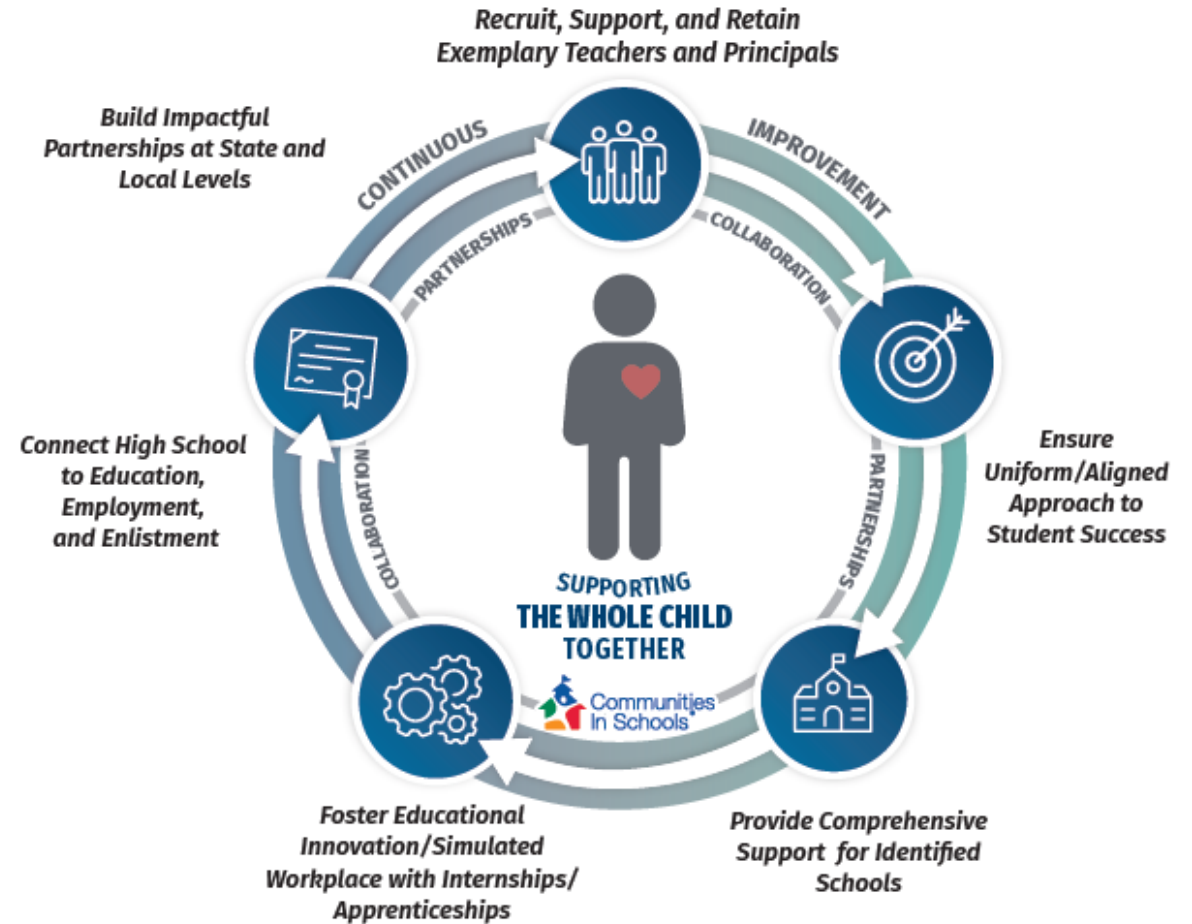
## Every Student Prepared for Success:

Education, Employment, or Enlistment



Improve student outcomes by prioritizing reading, writing, and mathematics while maintaining continuous support and focus on student development and well-being.

### ACTIONS:





# Agency Relationship Map

## WVDE, WVNG, WVDVA



### West Virginia Department of Education

- Prioritize Reading, Writing and Mathematics
- Focus on Student Development and Well-being
- Ensure Uniform/Aligned Approach to Student Success
- Foster Educational Innovation
- Connect High School to Education, Employment, and Enlistment
- Build Impactful Partnerships at State and Local Levels
- Support Military Families in School Setting
- Facilitate Educator Licensure Opportunities:
  - » Reciprocity for Military Families
  - » Recruit Veterans as Educators



### West Virginia National Guard

- Serves State and Federal Levels
- Secures State and Nation
- Facilitates Community and School Supports
- Supplies Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Kits
- Promotes Exploration of Career Opportunities (Technology, STEM, Public Service, etc.)
- Drive Economy through State Military Resources
- Relies on a Healthy & Educated Workforce
- Benefits from School Support to Family Members



### West Virginia Department of Veterans Assistance

- Aids and Benefits Veterans
- Allocates 2 Billion Federal Dollars Annually to Veterans
- Works to Retain and Increase Veteran Population
- Promotes and Benefits from Military Friendly Policies and Programs
- Encourages Strong Citizenship and Community Support
- Benefits from Quality of State's Educational System





MILITARY INTERSTATE  
CHILDREN'S COMPACT  
COMMISSION

## Overview

Summary Information

National Annual Business Meeting Update

West Virginia Case Update



MILITARY INTERSTATE  
CHILDREN'S COMPACT  
COMMISSION

The Military Interstate Children's Compact was developed in 2006 and has been adopted by all 50 states, the District of Columbia and the Department of Defense Education Activity. The Compact eases the educational challenges that military children encounter, and supports uniform treatment as they transfer between school districts.

The Compact only applies to public schools.

# Compact Quick Fact Guide

## Goal of the Compact

To overcome transitional issues experienced by military families when their children move to a new school in another state.

## Member States

All states and the District of Columbia.

## Applies to

Active duty members of uniformed services including the National Guard and Reserve members on active duty orders pursuant to 10 U.S.C. §1209 and 1211, as well as veterans who are severely injured and medically discharged for one year after medical discharge or retirement, and veterans who die on active duty for a period of one year after death.

## Educational Records

Receiving member states must accept unofficial records for initial enrollment and then the sending member state must submit official records within 10 days of receipt of the request for records.

## Immunizations

A child who is unable to provide official documented proof of at least one dose of each required vaccination must be automatically enrolled and/or homebound services will be provided within 3 days, to ensure educational services are immediately provided while the first dose(s) of all required immunizations are confirmed. Note: Tuberculosis testing is currently not required for enrollment in WV schools.

## Kindergarten and 1st Grade Entrance Age

A student who moves may continue in the same grade in the receiving state regardless of the entrance age requirements of the receiving state.

## Course and Educational Program Placement

School districts must initially honor equivalent course enrollment or program placement (ex. Gifted, AP, etc.), if available. Then, evaluation may occur to ensure appropriate placement. Space must be available, and member states must demonstrate reasonable accommodations.

## Special Education

Receiving schools must use the sending state's IEP until a new IEP may be conducted/evaluated.

## Placement Flexibility

The Compact encourages schools to waive course prerequisites as appropriate to the content, when similar coursework was completed (ex. Requirement to pass Geometry before taking Algebra).

## Absence Related to Deployment

The Compact establishes guidelines for enhanced flexibility with excused absences for military families on active duty orders (one month before deployment and six months after return).

## Enrollment

During deployments it may be necessary for students to stay with a non-custodial parent or someone in loco parentis. Guardianship of a student under these circumstances should not prevent or negatively impact enrollment (a power of attorney is sufficient). The family may keep their school as long as the guardian provides transportation.

## Extracurricular Participation

Deadlines for application are not grounds for disqualification. The school must demonstrate reasonable accommodation, but is not required to hold open or create additional space on teams.

## Course Waivers

Substituting equivalent coursework is required (ex. West Virginia History for Ohio History). Reasonable justification is required for denial of a course waiver.

## Transfers as a Senior in High School

The receiving state works with the sending school district to issue a diploma, if the student is a senior in High School (ex. using a memorandum of understanding between schools).



# Importance of MIC3 in WV

- Military children transition between 6-9 times during K-12.
- Soldiers experiencing deployments can focus on missions knowing provisions protect their families.
- The participation of every state in the Compact supports military readiness across the nation.
- Soldiers with families transitioning from other states into West Virginia receive reasonable accommodations provided by Compact.
- Soldiers from West Virginia transitioning into other states for the completion of their active-duty military orders are supported by other states participating in the Compact.

# **West Virginia's Approach:** Proactive Communications with Educators and Military Families Statewide

Including -

- Annual State Superintendent's update message
- Development of a brochure and guidance document for West Virginia
- WV Common Ground Partnership Activities
  - WVDE MIC3 page on the Common Ground website
  - Purple Star School Military Family Points of Contact receive MIC3 training
  - MIC3 professional development

# MIC3 Annual Business Meeting (ABM) Updates

- Expansion of the Compact to additional NG and Reserve soldiers denied
- Technical correction to existing MIC3 Compact language in 50 states discussed
- Procedural votes on the national strategic plan, rules amendments, etc.
- Identification of military connected children discussed
- Record keeping of cases and requests from the national office discussed



MILITARY INTERSTATE  
CHILDREN'S COMPACT  
COMMISSION

## **Cases Reported to the State and Qualifying for Provisions of MIC3:**

FY 2020 – 1

FY 2021 – 0

FY 2022 – 0 (1 inquiry reported, did not qualify)

FY 2023 - 0





MILITARY INTERSTATE  
CHILDREN'S COMPACT  
COMMISSION

### Qualifying Inquiry – Occurring FY 2020

**Issue:** A student moved from WY to WV with a high school level integrated science course completed, but high school equivalency was not identified on the transcript and the name of the course did not match Earth and Space Science, which was a required prerequisite in WV for the student to begin Biology I at the appropriate grade level.

- The parent contacted the WV State Compact Commissioner and the WVDE contacted the WV school district. A phone conference was facilitated to find resolutions.
- As a result of the conversation, the WV school district's central office staff member analyzed the transcript further and contacted the WY school district to seek clarity.

**Resolution:** The student received course credit equivalent to Earth and Space Science at the high school level in WV, allowing enrollment in Biology I at the appropriate grade level.

# MIC3

MILITARY INTERSTATE  
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COMMISSION



# Overview: Common Ground Partnership



Supporting the Success of All Students



### **19 Partnering Organizations:**

- Office of the Governor
- West Virginia Board of Education
- West Virginia Department of Education
- WV Department of Veterans Assistance
- Military Recruiting Stations (Active/Reserve)  
from the Army, Navy and Marines
- West Virginia Air and Army National Guard
- West Virginia Task Force Minor
- Military Entrance Processing Command Beckley
- West Virginia Wing – Civil Air Patrol
- West Virginia Congress of Parents and Teachers
- Prevent Suicide WV
- Military Officers Association of America for WV
- West Virginia American Legion
- West Virginia Veterans of Foreign Wars

**A Group of Community Organizations Providing Services and Resources to Schools**



## **Mission: Supporting the Success of All Students**

- Online Resources at <https://wvde.us/commonground>
- Online Educator Request System for the Speaker Series
  - Military Signing Week



**Supporting the WVBE's Three E's for Career Readiness:**  
*Employment, Education, and Enlistment*



# Speaker Series

Topics include:

- Promoting literacy
- Substance abuse prevention
- Bullying prevention
- Importance of staying in school and graduating
- American flag ceremonial instruction
- Patriotic holidays or events
- Career exploration



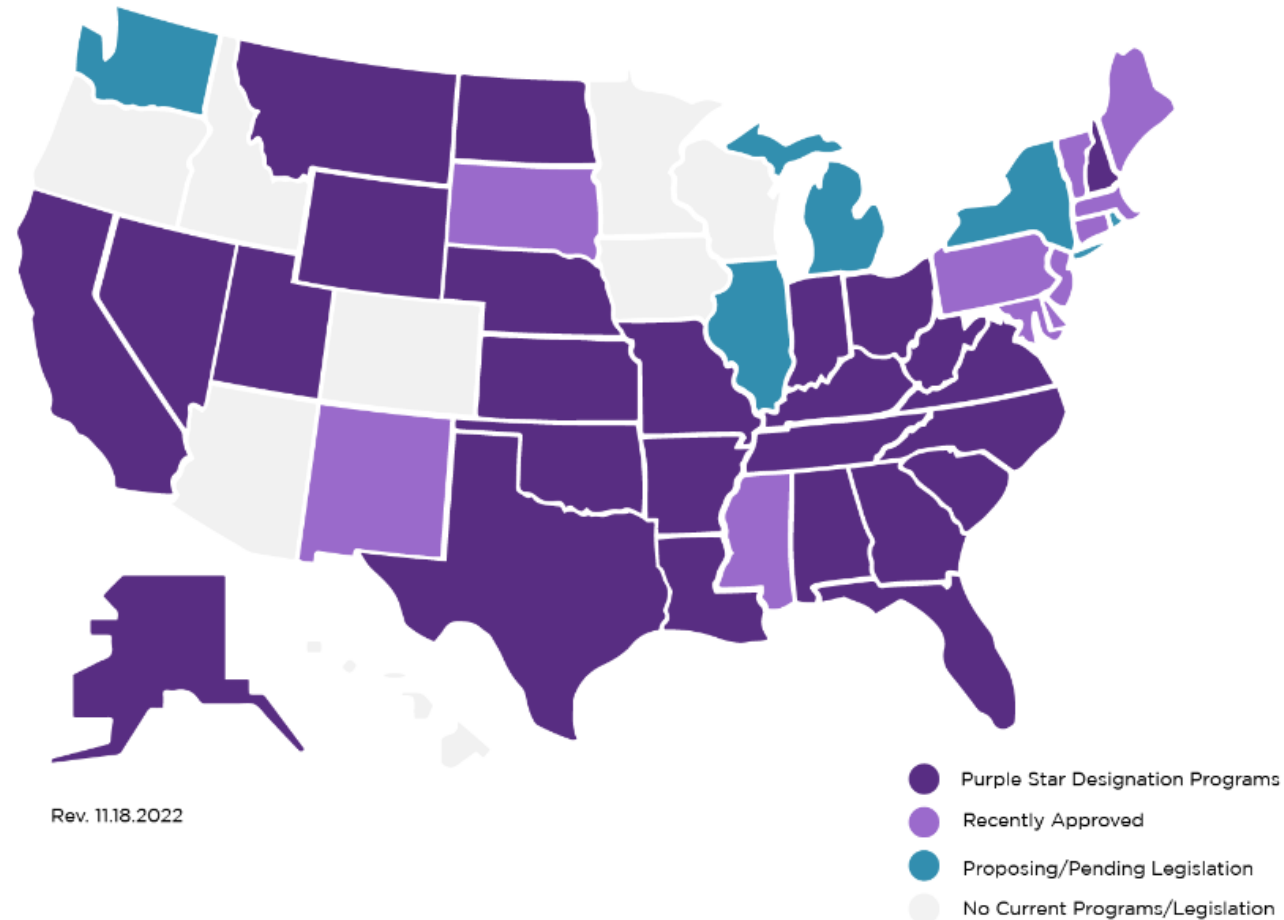


# PURPLE STAR AWARD

WEST VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



# Purple Star Awards Programs Across America



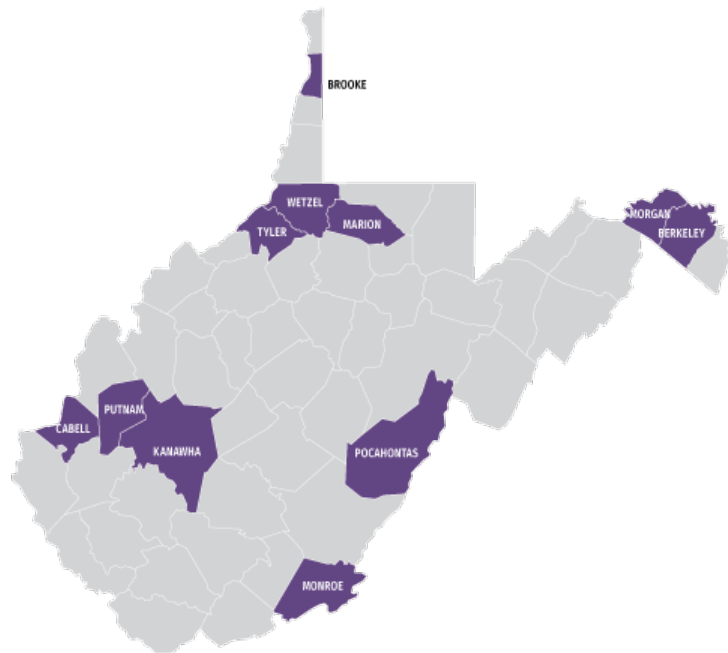


# Purple Star Award in West Virginia: 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Class

11 County Board  
Resolutions/Actions

9 of 55 Counties are  
Purple Star Districts

198 of 637 Public  
Schools are Purple  
Star Schools



2 Mountaineer  
Challenge Academies  
are Purple Star  
Schools

# MIC3 Professional Development – Military Family Points of Contact

- The West Virginia Department of Education and Compact Commissioner collaborated with the Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission (MIC3) to offer a free learning session for West Virginia educators covering the basics of MIC3.
- Over 50 educators registered for the training.
- A video of the training may be accessed: <https://wvde.us/commonground/purplestaraward/>

Phillip Cantrell  
MIC3 Compact Commissioner West Virginia

“Successful Educational Transitions”

West Virginia Compact 101 Training Feb. 2022



# MILITARY SIGNING WEEK



**Events in 22 locations held across the state during 2022**



Gov. Jim Justice spoke at James Monroe High School for a Military Signing Day ceremony honoring five JMHS and Monroe County Technical Center students on Friday, April 29.

## **NEXT GENERATION OF HEROES**

*First-ever WV Military Signing Week a success*

The inaugural state Military Signing Week celebrated and recognized students making a commitment to military service. Much like student athletes signing with their next collegiate team, these students will serve the United States in the Armed Forces. The modern military is involved in a variety of missions ranging from combatting COVID-19, to conducting search and rescue activities during national emergencies, to national security duties. This event provides communities an excellent way to show their support for the aspirations of these students.

Twenty-four schools held an event recognizing students enlisting into the military. These celebrations were the product of the Common Ground Partnership, a collaboration between military and community-based organizations focusing on the success of students and promoting assistance for military-connected families in schools.



**ABOVE:** Evan Large, of University High School in Monongalia County, commits to the U.S. Air Force.

# Collaboration with Communities in Schools

## WVDE Representatives: Cynthia Sorsaia and Tracy Komorowski

- Program designed to prevent dropouts and support the physical, psychological, and social needs of students
- Provides for partnerships which bring resources into schools and help remove barriers to student learning
- Site Coordinators tailor services to the needs of individual students. Services may encompass academic help, provision of health care, counseling, transportation, donated goods, mentoring, afterschool programs, and much more.
- List of site coordinators provided to Common Ground Partners on an annual basis

Complete information about this program may be accessed at:

<https://wvde.us/cis/>



# New Resources: Care Packages for Elementary School Staff with Military Connected Children

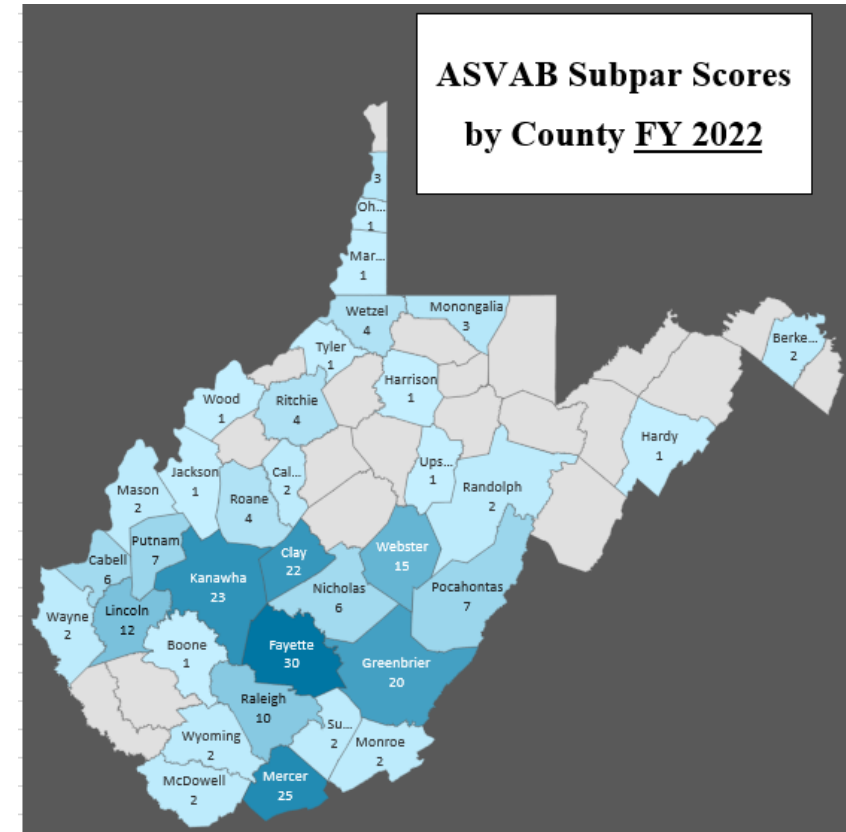


# New Resources:

Coming in Early 2023

*Request System for ASVAB Mentors from the following...*

**Military  
Partners**



**228 Total Not Passing**  
32 Adults and 196 High School Students  
51% Weakest in Math

# New Resources:


Collaborating with WVDE/WVU STEAM Technical Assistance Center to explore enhancing communications about the following STEM kits, available to West Virginia educators:

- Civil Air Patrol Aerospace Education Program
  - Aviation, Space and Cyber kits for Middle School or High School
  - Aerospace Connections in Education (ACE) kits for K-6
- Navy Talent Acquisition Group (NTAG) Pittsburgh
  - SeaPerch kits
- WV National Guard
  - Tetrax robotics kits



# Additional Supports for Military Families

## Veteran Teacher Recruitment




Become a Teacher | Explore the Profession | Stories | Contact Us

### Discover your potential. Find your purpose. Become a teacher.

Whether you're a high school student, a college graduate, a certified teacher from out-of-state, returning to the classroom, or somewhere in-between, there is a pathway for you. Let us help you get there!

Choose your education level

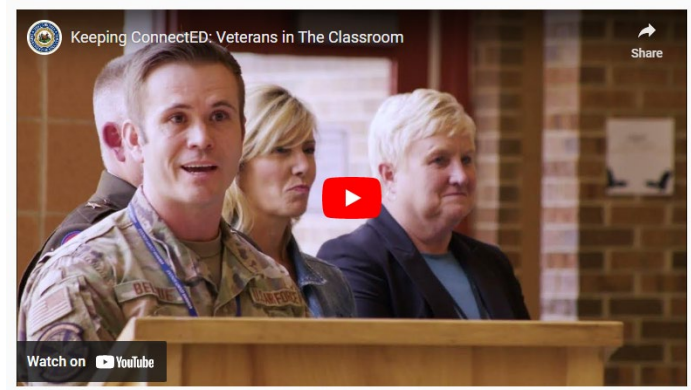
No Degree or Diploma



### Veterans in the Classroom

West Virginia recognizes veterans' unique qualities in the classroom and provides specialized career counseling that can aid in transitioning veterans into a career in education.

[Military Resources](#)



### Keeping ConnectED: Veterans in The Classroom

Highlighting the impact of West Virginia teachers who previously were in military service.



# Roundtable Discussion:



& Additional Supports  
for Military Families

# Closing Remarks

## **Compact Commissioner:**

Mr. Phillip Cantrell

[pcantrell07@gmail.com](mailto:pcantrell07@gmail.com)

## **Military Family Education Liaison:**

Mr. Robert Mellace

[rmellace@k12.wv.us](mailto:rmellace@k12.wv.us) or 1-304-558-3119