

Military Impacted Schools Association Fall 2022 Newsletter

Fall MISA Breakfast Meeting

The fall breakfast meeting during the NAFIS conference was held Monday, September 19, 2022. **Kyle Fairbairn**, MISA Executive Director, and **Keith Mispagel**, MISA President, welcomed everyone and introduced the MISA Executive Board. Additionally, they recognized retiring MISA Superintendent, **Jim Sarruda**, Northern Burlington County Regional School District, New Jersey. Keith Mispagel also reviewed the handouts with attendees.



The following presenters spoke to the group:

- **Barbara Adams**, MISA Education Consultant, updated the group on the last round of MISA scholarships awarded in May of 2022. She also reviewed the scholarship requirements and provided a summary of all of the colleges/universities where recipients have or are attending.
- **Becky Porter**, President/CEO of MCEC, provided an overview of MCEC's mission, vision and current projects. She highlighted the findings from a 2020 MCEC study showing that there are 5 areas of concern to military-connected students and their families: mental health/wellbeing, youth in caregiver roles, transitions, separations, and life readiness. Dr. Porter also explained the Purple Star Schools Project ECHO.
- **Jermaine Sullivan**, DoEd Military Affairs Team Lead, summarized the uses of money allocated through the American Rescue Plan (ARP). He also updated the group on recent activities of the Military Affairs Team including work with MIC3, NMFA and loan forgiveness.
- **David Kennedy**, Local Defense Community Cooperation Project Manager, updated the group on the Public Schools on Military Installations (PSMI) initiative. To date, fifty-nine schools have been invited to participate (six projects were consolidated with other schools and 1 declined to participate), twenty-two have been completed, nine are under construction, and twenty-one are in the pre-award/planning phase.
- **Caitlin Hamon**, Deputy Director of Governmental Relations for NMFA, explained a new program called BLOOM-Empowering Military Teens and the results of a second teen study conducted by NMFA. Teens reported again in a 2022 study that they continue to struggle with their mental well-being and food insecurities. NMFA is supporting a move to remove BAH from the qualification factors to determine free/reduced lunches through the USDA.
- **Kathy Facon**, DoDEA, gave an update on the grant programs. The department awarded eleven World Language Advancement & Readiness Grants for \$15M and twenty-one Military Connected Support and Academic Program grants for \$30M. She also told the group that the department has been charged to look at the application and cost threshold associated with the IA Special Education funding. They will look to some MISA district special educators to help study the application process and criteria to ensure that all of the money allocated is awarded.
- **Dianna Ganote**, Office of Military Family Readiness Policy Program Analyst, summarized aspects of the School Liaison Program. There are currently 235 School Liaisons serving around the world. Additionally she explained how school district personnel can use Military One Source as service providers and shared a new app called My Military Life that is available.
- **Laura Anastasio**, MIC3 Chairman, provided an overview of on-going work of MIC3. She reminded the group of the MISA/MIC3 partnership that will continue to offer training at the local school district level. She also explained a new issue that MIC3 will begin to address regarding the inclusion of all National Guard and Reserve in the compact.
- **Nicole Russell**, Executive Director of NAFIS, reviewed the priorities for NAFIS this Congressional session will be to push for full funding of IA, keep supporting NDAA funding, and to find a new Champion for Impact Aid. She encouraged members to invite their representatives to visit in the district. There is no better way to demonstrate how the district uses IA than to show representatives in person.
- **Mark Gillman**, MISA Consultant, and **Kyle Fairbairn**, reminded the group to thank their representatives for the DoD IA for FY22 of \$50/20M. Additionally Kyle shared the cards included in the packet to ask representatives to support a \$55M increase of DoEd IA for FY23 which would take the program over 100% of LOT. Kyle reminded districts that during this time of teacher shortage how essential it is to support teachers who move into MISA districts from other MISA districts through communication.
- **Kyle Fairbairn** alerted districts that he will be updating the MISA Briefing Book and will send out requests later this year for updated information for how each district uses DoD Impact Aid.
- **Kyle Fairbairn** announced to the group that the summer meeting 2023 will be held in Tacoma, Washington hosted by Bremerton, Central Kitsap and Clover Park School Districts.

Reminder: All handouts from the MISA meeting are available on the MISA website.

Spring NAFIS Conference - Washington, DC
MISA Breakfast

March 12-14, 2023
March 13, 2023