

COMMON GROUND

COMPACT

1. **Purpose.** This COMPACT establishes a mutual understanding among the West Virginia Department of Education (WVDE); Earl Ray Tomblin, Governor of the State of West Virginia; West Virginia National Guard, United States Army Recruiting Battalion Richmond; Navy Recruiting District Pittsburgh, United States Marine Corps Recruiting Stations in West Virginia; West Virginia Civil Air Patrol; Military Entrance Processing Command Beckley; 12th Battalion, Eastern Sector; West Virginia Veterans Council; West Virginia Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. (WVPTA); and Adolescent Suicide Prevention and Early Intervention (ASPEN).

2. **Scope.** Whereas all parties recognize the importance of education, as well as, the development of leadership skills, life skills, serving the community, character education and the health and well-being of the young men and women of West Virginia and America, the implementation of this Common Ground Compact supports the mission of the partner institutions and organizations, to ensure that all students graduate from high school, college and career ready, being academically, socially and physically prepared for postsecondary options including college, vocational training, workforce or military service. Through these partnerships we will increase the capacity of our districts and schools to provide greater exposure to best practice strategies; help to support and engage students who may otherwise drop out, help students attain 21st century skills and a more positive future; and ensure that communities have a productive, civically active, well-educated workforce. The additional resources to West Virginia students such as knowledge, human, social and financial, made available through community involvement and partnerships, will make a significant impact on students, families, schools and communities.

Whereas, education is imperative to the nation's economic and military security, this COMPACT creates a shared role among all parties in developing our country's youth to be future leaders and humanitarians in their communities, state and nation.

Whereas, West Virginia students participating in elements of this agreement will benefit through enhanced graduation requirements and leadership training, which, in turn, will increase the graduation rate in West Virginia. Graduates who choose to participate in active Joint Services will benefit from the skill training opportunities, which include their choice of over 150 job skills, with their choice of training guaranteed. Additional benefits include Joint Services college funds, a cash bonus, choice of duty location, as well as numerous other opportunities and options which are available to them as active duty service men and women (depending on their test scores, other eligibility criteria and program availability at time of enlistment). Students participating in the West Virginia National Guard programs will benefit from most of the various skills and benefits available to full-time military personnel, while serving in their communities and earning a good part-time salary.

Whereas, the WVDE will likewise benefit by having students who become intelligent, skill-trained, and responsible young men and women who will develop good character values, and will gain valuable experience and proven leadership skills.

Whereas, parents and families will benefit from WVPTA involvement in the COMPACT. The WVPTA will support and educate members about the resources available through the Common Ground partners and promote the many resources available to support students and families, including the many programs and resources available to support military students.

Whereas, students participating in the Civil Air Patrol's **After School Program** will be involved in a number of activities, such as character development, physical fitness, aerospace education, leadership training and drug demand reduction among others, all of which will help raise the high school graduation rate. WVDE schools that host this After School Program will boost

attendance through high student morale, strengthen student discipline, offer an alternative to drugs and violence, acquire new opportunities for peer mentoring, improve student participation in community service, and provide students with a meaningful after-school activity. All parties understand that Civil Air Patrol is a volunteer organization, that it cannot be used as a form of punishment, that it does not require any military service and that it does not recruit for the military.

Whereas, all parties understand and acknowledge that endorsement of any non-federal entity by any employee or department of the federal government is strictly prohibited. Signature on this document in no way constitutes an endorsement, express or implied, of any interested entity or party by the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, or Air Force or any other federal entity. Every effort will be made to ensure that there be no appearance of endorsement on the part of any party and appropriate disclaimers will be given in all circumstances.

This COMPACT is non-binding, but is intended to establish expectations for cooperation among COMPACT parties as per agreements below:

A. The West Virginia Department of Education will:

- Promote schools providing the opportunity for students to take the **Career Exploration Program** either at their home school or a school nearby, for the purpose of career assessment, exploration and development.
- Encourage West Virginia schools to partner with all of the military partners, including West Virginia Civil Air Patrol, to provide career and post-secondary education information to interested students in West Virginia schools.
- Encourage schools to offer space on school campus for static displays of equipment or other displays/materials as approved by West Virginia schools.
- Communicate and coordinate with schools and the West Virginia National Guard, United States Army Recruiting Battalion Richmond, Navy Recruiting District Pittsburgh, United States Marine Corps Recruiting Stations in West Virginia, West Virginia Civil Air Patrol, Military Entrance Processing Command Eastern Sector, WVPTA and school systems.
- Incorporate a voluntary **Student Exit Process** that makes available the opportunity for the West Virginia National Guard, United States Army Recruiting Battalion Beckley, Corps Recruiting Stations, West Virginia Civil Air Patrol, Military Entrance Processing Command Eastern Sector, WVPTA and ASPEN personnel to provide guidance about the benefits of graduating from high school to any students considering dropping out of school.
- Promote WVDE/military collaborations to support their mutual goals of all students graduating and being career and/or college ready.
- Create a **Communication Plan** to educate students, parents, and faculty, administration and community members about the intent, purpose and benefits of this Common Ground Compact.
- Support and encourage all efforts to make available **Career and Mentoring Programs** to all students in West Virginia provided through this MOU.
- Explore the development of **Middle School Programs**.

- Ensure that all requirements of the Floyd D. Spence National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2001, Federal Law 106-398 are met in public schools in West Virginia.

The West Virginia Department of Education understands that the West Virginia National Guard, United States Army Recruiting Battalion Beckley, Navy Recruiting District Pittsburgh, West Virginia Civil Air Patrol, Military Entrance Processing Command Eastern Sector, West Virginia Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. (West Virginia PTA) and Adolescent Suicide Prevention and Early Intervention (ASPEN), personnel service obligations may include many types of service, including weekend drills, annual training, additional duty training, search and rescue missions and deployments within the United States or to foreign locations that temporarily impede or interrupt services to schools.

B. The West Virginia National Guard, United States Army Recruiting Battalion Richmond, Navy Recruiting District Pittsburgh, United States Marine Corps. Recruiting Stations in West Virginia will:

- Provide resources to schools in West Virginia such as publicity items, career information, media materials and personal involvement.
- Provide one-on-one or group **Career Counseling Services** to students in West Virginia schools.
- Provide military trained personnel to conduct presentations in a **Speaker Series on Dropout Prevention, Substance Abuse, Suicide Prevention, Bully Prevention** and other topics specific to the different branches and organizations.
- Work closely with counselors, faculty and administration to assist them in increasing the graduation rates for all students.
- Provide **tutors or access to Tutoring Programs** to assist students on a voluntary basis.
- Provide **Career Mentors** (when human resources allow) to inspire, advise and enlighten students interested in various career fields. **Career Mentors** will mentor students about various careers, provide information about training and educational opportunities associated with that career field, provide career exploration interpretations and provide information about the value of education.
- Foster opportunities to provide information, **presentations and/or demonstrations** of available **Career Programs, Tutoring Programs, Physical Fitness and Student Wellness Programs**.
- Provide guidance in reference to the benefits of graduating from high school and future opportunities available to any student thinking about dropping out of school.
- Provide support to develop **Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC)** programs and/or Civil Air Patrol programs in West Virginia schools.
- Cooperate with educators and district personnel to establish **military clubs** in selected schools that do not have existing JROTC programs.
- Provide a variety of free and relatively inexpensive resources for schools to use, like the **Career Exploration Program and March2Success Online Tutoring Program** and other programs available from the individual branches.

- Provide schools, students and parents access to **March2Success Tutoring Program**, a free web based tool that provides educational content to help anyone improve his or her knowledge in language arts, math and science. The program also provides study aids to improve student performance on standardized tests like the SAT, ACT, and the career exploration exam.
- Explore the development of **Middle School Programs**.
- Provide **Educator Tours** (as funds are available) to allow counselors, faculty and administration an inside look at the training and educational opportunities available to students who enlist in the Joint Services after high school graduation.

C. The West Virginia National Guard Family Programs will:

- Help to create networks of people, organizations, and other resources to help support military children.
- Help children better understand and cope with military life, family member deployment and reintegration, as well as the unique challenges facing their families.
- Offer a wide array of recreational, social, and educational programs for military youth living in civilian communities.
- Educate and increase community awareness of the impact of the deployment cycle on service members, families, kids, and the community as a whole.
- Provide in-service training for educators on the impact on students of being a member of a service related family and their educational process.

D. The West Virginia Civil Air Patrol will:

- Provide information to interested schools upon request and appoint a project officer/mentor when appropriate.
- Provide recruiting materials to help gain student interest in the **Cadet Program**.
- Upon the start of the **Cadet Program**, provide instructor guides, lesson plans, activity books, and other program resources at no cost.
- Provide textbooks, uniforms and additional training materials to student members.
- Conduct an FBI background check at no cost on all adult members.
- Foster all opportunities to ensure the accomplishment of the joint goals of all parties to this MOU.

E. Beckley Military Entrance Processing Station will:

- Provide the opportunity for every student in West Virginia who participates in the **Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB)**, the interpretation services at their home school or a school nearby, for the purpose of career assessment, exploration and development.
- Provide professional development and technical assistance to principals, school counselors and teachers with the **ASVAB** and its benefits to students.

F. West Virginia Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. will:

- Provide education and resources outlined in the Common Ground Compact to its members of students, parents, faculty, administration and community members about the positive supports, including career development and tutoring services, available through military personnel through bulletin articles and displays/materials at WVPTA conventions.
- Work as a member of Common Ground to create networks of people, organizations, and other resources to help support military children.
- Support and encourage all efforts to make **ASVAB** available to all students in West Virginia provided through this Common Grounds Compact.
- Educate WVPTA members and increase community awareness of others about the impact of the deployment cycle on service members, families, kids, and the community as a whole.
- Encourage military personnel who are parents to become actively involved in their community schools as **Career Mentors**.

G. The West Virginia Governor's Office will:

- Support partnerships between the institutions and organizations involved in Common round.
- Support the mission and efforts of Common Ground through this COMPACT.
- Promote Common Ground by emphasizing the crucial role education plays in developing leadership skills needed in the 21st Century West Virginia workforce.
- Promote Common Ground efforts as part of Governor Tomblin's My State My Life campaign.

H. The West Virginia Veterans Council will:

- Serve as a liaison to the West Virginia Department of Veterans Assistance and advise the Cabinet Secretary of ways the department can support Common Ground.
- Provide information about Common Ground to West Virginia Department of Veterans Assistance veteran service officers and social workers.
- Provide students and teachers with information about state and federal veteran's benefits upon request.
- Invite Common Ground partners to participate in quarterly Veterans Council meetings wherein they can share information and raise awareness among veteran's groups of their various programs.

I. The Adolescent Suicide Prevention and Early Intervention (ASPEN) project will:

- Provide for **Train the Trainer** opportunities for associated parties.
- Provide **Suicide Prevention** classroom trainings.
- Provide for technical assistance regarding **Suicide Prevention** initiatives.
- Promote **Common Ground** in schools and communities throughout the state.
- Provide **Consultation Services** for identification and referral of at-risk youth.

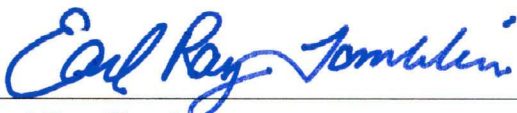
J. The West Virginia Board of Education will:

- Support the partnerships between the institutions and organizations involved in the Common Ground Initiative.
- Support the WVDE and their commitment to the Common Ground Initiative
- Promote the Common Ground Initiative by providing the support of the West Virginia Board of Education in the educational facets included in the initiative
- Promote the Common Ground Initiative by providing a West Virginia Board of Education member, when able, to participate in Common Ground Initiative events

3. Termination. Any party hereto may terminate this COMPACT upon a 30 days' notice to the other parties.

4. Participation. The Common Ground Compact in no way obligates the United States Government or the West Virginia Government to any financial or contractual obligations.

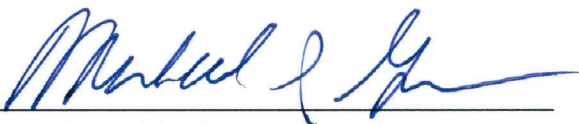
5. Effective Date. This COMPACT will become effective on the date signed by the West Virginia Department of Education (WVDE); Earl Ray Tomblin, Governor of the State of West Virginia; West Virginia National Guard, United States Army Recruiting Battalion Richmond; Navy Recruiting District Pittsburgh, United States Marine Corps Recruiting Stations in West Virginia; West Virginia Civil Air Patrol; Military Entrance Processing Command Beckley; 12th Battalion, Eastern Sector; West Virginia Veterans Council; West Virginia Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. (WVPTA); and Adolescent Suicide Prevention and Early Intervention (ASPEN) project and be reviewed two years after the effective date and, if deemed necessary by Common Ground partners, be re-signed.



Earl Ray Tomblin
Governor, State of West Virginia



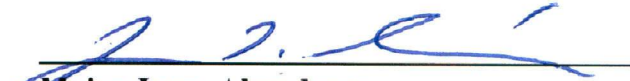
Dr. Michael J. Martirano
State Superintendent of Schools, West Virginia Department of Education



Mr. Michael I. Green
President, West Virginia Board of Education



Major General James A. Hoyer
The Adjutant General, West Virginia National Guard



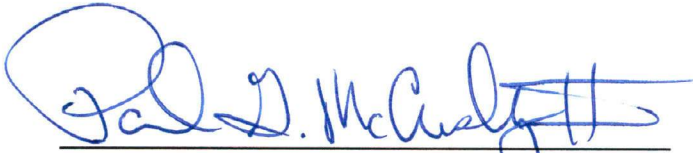
Major Jorge Almodovar
Commander, Beckley Military Entrance Processing Station



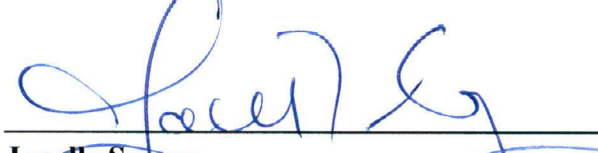
Tommy D. Baker
Education Services Specialist, Beckley Military Entrance Processing Station



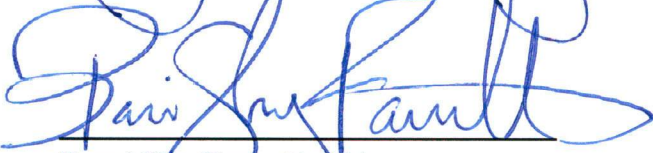
Commander John J. Calvert, Jr. USN
Commanding Officer, Navy Recruiting District Pittsburgh



Col Paul G. McCroskey II, CAP
WV Wing Commander, West Virginia Civil Air Patrol



Janelle Sperry
President, West Virginia Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc.



Barri Sky Faucett, MA
Project Director, Adolescent Suicide Prevention and Early Intervention Project



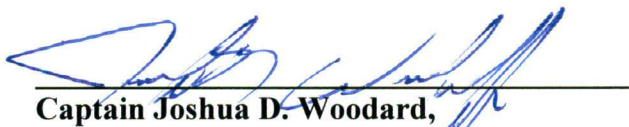
Col Harrison Gilliam
Chairman, WV Council of Veteran Affairs



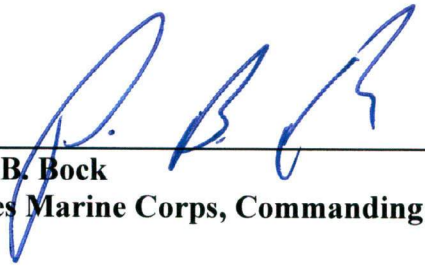
Lieutenant Colonel Clifton C. Harris
Commander, United States Army Recruiting Battalion Richmond



Major Gabriel Diana
United States Marine Corps, Commanding Officer Recruiting Station Charleston, WV



Captain Joshua D. Woodard,
Company Commander, Charleston Army Recruiting Center, also representing The United States Army Recruiting Battalion Ohio



Major Paul B. Bock
United States Marine Corps, Commanding Officer Recruiting Station Frederick, MD