

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE



Purple Star Schools

<https://statepolicy.militaryonesource.mil>

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Purple Star Schools

- Guests
 - **Pete LaPiba** - The Ohio Commissioner for the *MIC3* since 2012
 - Pete is the Founder of *The Purple Star Award* for Military family-friendly honors, as a school designation in 2016-17
 - The Ohio Deputy Director for the Office of Budget and Management
 - He also served on active duty in the United States Navy – where he deployed to Iraq in 2006
 - Pete is an Alumnus of The Ohio State University and the University of Southern California
 - **Dan Dunham** – Virginia DOE Military Student and Families Specialist
 - The Virginia Purple Star Designation falls under Dan’s purview
 - Worked professionally with students for over 30 years as a coach, teacher, high school administrator and Navy school liaison officer
 - Dan is an Alumnus from Virginia Commonwealth University and has a Master Degree from the University of Virginia.
 - He also served seven years in the United States Naval Reserves



Purple Star Schools

- Guests
 - **Abby Rodriguez** – State Coordinator, Military Connected Students and At-Risk Students at the Texas Education Agency (TEA)
 - Abby joined the TEA in 2017
 - Developed and implemented the first state education program for military-connected students
 - She is also the proud daughter of a Marine Veteran.
 - **Jack Ballantyne** - Senior Vice President & Chief Operating Officer, Military Child Education Coalition (MCEC)
 - Has been with MCEC since 2013
 - He is US Army retired after 30 years of service
 - Jack is a 3rd generation Army “brat” with two sons – one a middle school teacher and the other a Major in the Army Reserves

The logo is circular with a blue border. Inside, there are three white stars at the top, a red silhouette of a family (two adults and a child) in the center, and three white wavy lines at the bottom. The text "Military Community & Family Policy" is written in yellow around the inner edge of the circle.

Purple Star Schools

- Military-connected children live with perpetual challenges presented by frequent moves, parental and sibling deployments, and a host of other life transitions that include reintegration and dealing with profoundly changed parents.
- The Purple Star Designation is awarded to military-friendly schools that have demonstrated a major commitment to students and families connected to our nation's military.



Purple Star Schools

- Purple Star Campuses should have multiple enduring qualities and functionalities that are highly desired by military families and students:
 - Has a designated school staff member serving as a military liaison;
 - Has dedicated page(s) on the school website that includes resources for military-connected students and their families;
 - Maintains a transition program led by students, that assists military-connected students in transitioning into the campus;
 - Has school staff members who have received professional development training on issues related to military-connected students.



Purple Star Schools

- Purple Star designations can also recognize schools that connect their student body to the meaning and importance of military service:
 - Hosts an annual military friendly program or parade on Memorial Day, Veterans Day or Patriot Day (9/11)
 - Has a public military display, such as a tribute wall for military-connected students and families, a memorial, a bulletin board, a special Purple Star room or other recognition of the military.
 - Hosts a military appreciation night at a sporting event
 - Has special celebration activities for the Month of the Military Child Holds fundraisers to support veterans and active duty members
 - Has a Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) program



Discussion

- How do we best use resources to make headway? Such as, if MCEC gets a positive response from an administrator or a legislator, to have that information shared with us to follow-up.
- If we have a need to explain the importance or operational benefits/concerns to legislators or State DOE's, could Abby, Pete or Dan assist?
- Who do we need to bring into the conversation within a State – both heavily impacted by military and also with only a small military population?



Discussion

- How will we make this program attractive to states with small active duty populations?
- Many of the states' Purple Star programs have been assigned to the state MIC3 councils to execute, in states with many schools, raises the question of how to fund the manpower required to evaluate large numbers of schools. Award the program by districts vice schools (South Carolina)?
- This initiative can provide substance to what is otherwise a group of uncoordinated activities that may happen within school without parents knowing that these functions exist.



Current Status

- States with existing programs:
 - Arkansas, Georgia, Indiana, Montana, North Carolina, Ohio, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and Virginia
- Various ways to create the program:
 - Texas (SB1557)
 - Virginia by Department of Education policy



Examples

- **Ohio – Purple Star Program**
<http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Other-Resources/Ohio-Network-for-Military-Families-and-Veterans/Supporting-Ohio-s-Military-Families/Purple-Star-Award>
- **Texas – HB1557**
<https://capitol.texas.gov/tlodocs/86R/billtext/html/SB01557I.htm>
- **Virginia – Purple Star Designation**
http://www.doe.virginia.gov/support/student_family/military/va-psdp/index.shtml
- **Tennessee – Purple Star Programs -**
<https://opi.mt.gov/Portals/182/MIC%203/Purple%20Star%20Designation%20Rules.pdf?ver=2020-07-14-104552-413#:~:text=The%20Purple%20Star%20School%20Designation,Star%20recognition%20to%20display%20onsite.>



Examples (con't)

- **Georgia** – Military Flagship School Award (added academic component to criteria)
<https://www.gadoe.org/External-Affairs-andPolicy/communications/Pages/PressReleaseDetails.aspx?PressView=default&pid=658>
- **Arkansas** – Purple Star School Award - Each Purple Star school holds its designation for two years.
http://dese.ade.arkansas.gov/public/userfiles/Legal/Purple_Star/Arkansas_Purple_Star_School_Award.pdf
- **Indiana**– Purple Star Schools - <https://www.doe.in.gov/wf-stem/purple-star-school-designation>
- **Montana** – Purple Star Schools - <https://opi.mt.gov/Portals/182/MIC%203/Purple%20Star%20Designation%20Rules.pdf?ver=2020-07-14-104552-413#:~:text=The%20Purple%20Star%20School%20Designation,Star%20recognition%20to%20display%20onsite.>