

# Maryland Defense Forum Increasing Military Value: Strengthen the Military Family Connection

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**MCEC**<sup>®</sup>

[MilitaryChild.org](http://MilitaryChild.org)

## Mission

MCEC® supports all military-connected children by educating, advocating, and collaborating to resolve education challenges associated with the military lifestyle.

## Vision

Every military-connected child is college-, work-, and life-ready.



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# MCEC Programs

## Student Achievement

- MCEC provides support to military-connected students through peer-to-peer mentoring programs, the Frances Hesselbein Student Leadership Program, and student-focused roundtables.

## Parent Support

- MCEC empowers parents through informative and interactive workshops, webinars and podcasts addressing challenges associated with the military family lifestyle.

## Professional Services

- In education, healthcare, childcare, business, and other disciplines, MCEC trains professionals to address the unique challenges facing our military-connected children.



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# 5 Trends We Assess as Highly Concerning to Military Families & Students

- 1. Youth Mental Health and Wellness/Well-Being**
  - Connection/Loneliness/Community
  - Giving Military-Connected Children a Voice
  - Stress/Resilience
  - Equity and Inclusion
  - LGBTQ
- 2. Youth in Caregiver Roles**
- 3. Transitions** - moving, school transitions, transition out of the military, EFMP
- 4. Separations** - not only deployment related
- 5. Life Readiness** – including post-secondary preparation

## Sources:

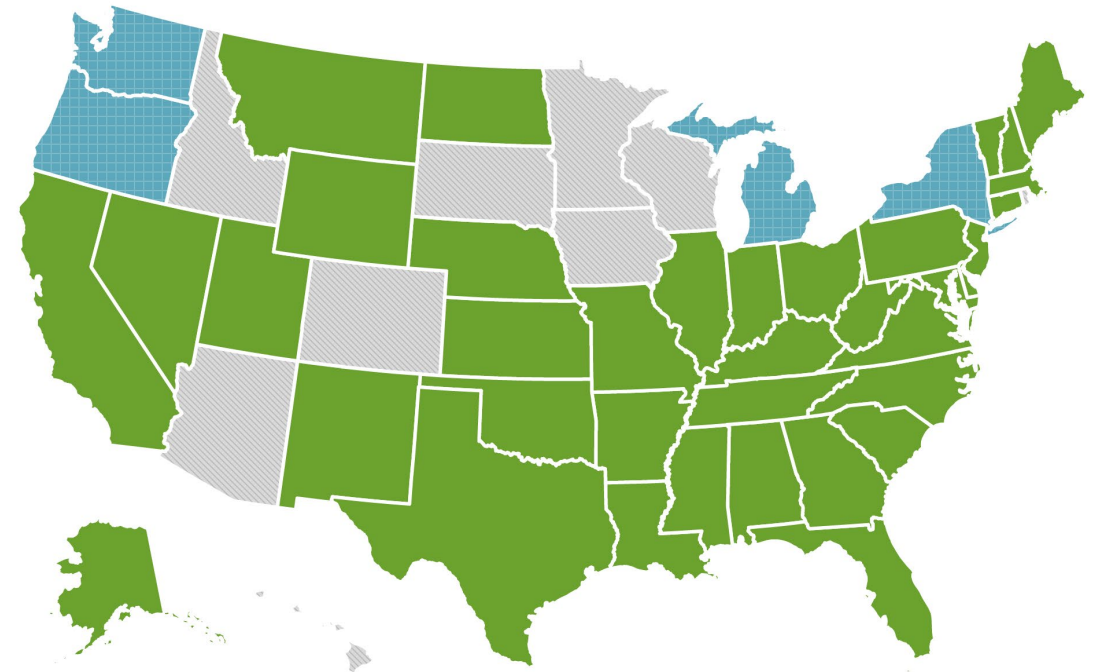
MCEC Education Survey 2020  
Blue Star Families  
National Military Family Association  
U.S. Surgeon General  
National Academies of Science  
Military Family Advisory Network

# PURPLE STAR SCHOOLS



## NATIONAL ADVOCATE™

- **37 states** – and counting – with statewide Purple Star Schools programs
- All designed to help mitigate the challenges of high mobility
- MCEC advocacy, expertise, tools & resources leveraged by districts and states for Purple Star School readiness
- Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) – Purple Star School Partners: Project ECHO®
- MCEC & Columbia University Center for Public Research and Leadership (CPRL) follow-on study



Map Source: Military OneSource Purple Star Schools Programs at <https://statepolicy.militaryonesource.mil/status-tracker/purple-star-schools-program>



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# MCEC 360 Summits

## Supports Purple Star Readiness

- Provides training in peer-to-peer program to welcome new students (MCEC Student-to-Student)
- Provides professional development for educators serving military-connected students
- Opportunity for parent workshops

## High Impact Event

Two days and one evening

Customizable

Collaborative with School Liaisons, MIC3, installation, and local community



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# MCEC Resources



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- Month of the Military Child Toolkit (April): [MilitaryChild.org/MOMC Toolkit](https://militarychild.org/MOMC-Toolkit)
- Call for the Arts: [MilitaryChild.org/programs/the-call-for-the-arts](https://militarychild.org/programs/the-call-for-the-arts)
- **Military Student Consultant:** [MilitaryChild.org/MS-C](https://militarychild.org/MS-C)
- Pete Taylor Partnership Awards: [MilitaryChild.org/programs/pete-taylor-partnership-of-excellence-awards](https://militarychild.org/programs/pete-taylor-partnership-of-excellence-awards)
- Learn more about Purple Star School Designation (PSSD) at [MilitaryChild.org/purplestarschools](https://militarychild.org/purplestarschools)
- Study of PSSD Program Report (MCEC|CPRL) at: [MilitaryChild.org/purplestarschools](https://militarychild.org/purplestarschools)
- Register for and share the SchoolQuest Transition Tool at: [SchoolQuest.MilitaryChild.org](https://schoolquest.militarychild.org)
- Helping MilKids Soar: [MilitaryChild.org/helpingmilkidssoar](https://militarychild.org/helpingmilkidssoar)
- Videos for Education Professionals [MilitaryChild.org/programs/videos-for-education-professionals](https://militarychild.org/programs/videos-for-education-professionals)
- **NEW** Military Child Well-being Toolkit [MilitaryChild.org/wellbeingtoolkit](https://militarychild.org/wellbeingtoolkit)

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**MCEC**<sup>®</sup> **GLOBAL**  
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The premier professional development opportunity for those who serve and support the educational needs of military- and veteran-connected children.

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