
TO: Members of the State Board of Education

FROM: Carey M. Wright, Ed.D., Interim State Superintendent of Schools

DATE: April 30, 2024

SUBJECT: Recognition of Maryland's 2024 Purple Star Schools



Purpose

The State Board and State Superintendent will recognize the 2024 Purple Star School designees.

Background

The Purple Star Schools Program was established by Education Article §7-129, approved by the Maryland General Assembly and signed by Governor Hogan on April 12, 2022. Along with 37 other states, Maryland joined this nationwide initiative aimed at recognizing and supporting the unique needs of students whose parents or guardians serve in our country's armed forces.

The Maryland State Board of Education adopted [Code of Maryland Regulation \(COMAR\) 13A.06.10 Purple Star Schools Program](#) in February 2023. At a minimum, schools seeking Purple Star designation must demonstrate that they have:

1. A military liaison who serves as the point of contact for military-connected students and their families;
2. An easily accessible resource webpage for military-connected students and their families containing information that facilitates a smooth transition to the school;
3. A peer-led transition program tasked with orienting military-connected students to the school's physical and academic environments; and
4. Appropriate training for school staff aimed at fostering an understanding of life as a military-connected student.

2024 Purple Star Schools

The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) released the inaugural Purple Star Schools application in September 2023. In addition to the criteria outlined above, schools seeking Purple Star distinction were required to demonstrate that they had taken additional measures above and beyond COMAR requirements to support military-connected students and their families. Of the applications received, eight schools earned Purple Star designation. Maryland's first Purple Star Schools are:

- Bellows Springs Elementary School, *Howard County Public Schools*
- Captain Walter Francis Duke Elementary School, *St. Mary's County Public Schools*
- Kent Island High School, *Queen Anne's County Public Schools*
- MacArthur Middle School, *Anne Arundel County Public Schools*

- Meade High School, *Anne Arundel County Public Schools*
- Mt. Harmony Elementary School, *Calvert County Public Schools*
- Queen Anne’s County High School, *Queen Anne’s County Public Schools*
- West Meade Early Education Center, *Anne Arundel County Public Schools*

These eight schools will maintain Purple Star distinction for the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 school year.

Action

The State Board and State Superintendent will recognize each Purple Star School.