



The Purple Star Schools Program (COMAR 13A.06.10) was adopted by the State Board of Education in February 2023. The aim of this initiative is to recognize and support the unique needs of students whose parents or guardians serve in our country’s armed forces. Providing a welcoming and inclusive environment for this subset of students aligns with Maryland’s commitment to providing an excellent education for all students. To be recognized as a Purple Star School, schools should complete the following application. Applications must be submitted by Monday, March 5, 2025, for consideration.

School Information

Local Education Agency:

School name:

School Address:

School Principal:

Name:

Email Address:

Phone Number:

School Contact Person:

Name:

Position:

Email Address:

Phone Number:

Military-Connected Student Population

The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) is aware of the challenges in data collection on military-connected students. "Military-connected student" means a student who is a dependent of a current member of the United States military serving in the Army, Navy, Air Force, Space Force, Marine Corps, or Coast Guard on active duty; the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Commissioned Officer Corps; the Public Health Service Commissioned Corps; the Maryland National Guard; a reserve force of the United States Military; or a member of a military or reserve force who was killed in the line of duty.

To the best of your knowledge, provide the following information.

Percentage of military-connected students in your school:

Branches represented (check all that apply):

- Air Force
- Army
- Navy
- Coast Guard
- Marine Corps
- Space Force
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Commissioned Officer Corps
- Maryland National Guard
- Public Health Service Commissioned Corps
- Army National Guard
- Army Reserves
- Navy Reserves
- Marine Corps Reserves
- Air National Guard
- Air Force Reserves
- Coast Guard Reserves

Digital Resources

1. Provide a direct link to:

The school's main webpage

The resource page for military-connected students

2. The following **enrollment** information should be available on the website. Check all elements present.

- Enrolling at the school
- Registering for classes
- Transferring records to the school
- Preparing for a move from the student's current school to the applicant school

3. The following **academic** information should be available on the website. Check all elements present.

- Academic planning information
- Course sequences
- Advanced classes
- Graduation requirements

4. The following information regarding **services** available to military-connected students should be available on the website.

Check all elements present.

- Special education and related services
- Counseling and other support services

Military Liaison

5. Who is the school's designated military liaison? (If different than "school contact person" listed above)

Name:

Position:

Email:

6. Describe any professional development activities (e.g. courses, webinars, independent research, etc.) **the military-liaison** has completed for the purpose of learning about and furthering understanding of life as a military-connected student. Be sure to include:

i. Topic

- ii. Date
- iii. Facilitator/Presenter name and title
- iv. Learning objectives
- v. Key takeaways for the military-liaison
- vi. An explanation of how the activity has impacted the military-liaison's work with military-connected students

Additionally, submit supporting documentation related to the professional development activities (e.g. marketing materials, powerpoint slides, program outlines, learning objectives, agendas) via email to DOSS.MSDE@Maryland.gov. Supporting materials may be shared directly through email or via a cloud sharing service such as Google Drive or OneDrive.



7. How are military-connected students identified?

- Student/parent is asked about military affiliation at time of registration
- Information shared by student/parent at a time other than registration
- Reported to military liaison by other student, staff member
- Other

7(a). If you selected "other" above, explain:

8. Describe how the military liaison initiates contact with the **military-connected student**.

9. Describe how the military liaison initiates contact with the **family**.

10. What process is in place to ensure continued communication with the **student** once initial contact has been established?

Check all that apply.

- A peer "buddy" system
- Regular meetings with the student
- A newsletter for military-connected families and students
- Phone check-ins with the student
- Email check-ins with the student
- Other

10(a). If you selected "other" above, explain:

11. What process is in place to ensure continued communication with the **family** once initial contact has been established? Check all that apply.

- Regular meetings with the parent/guardian
- A newsletter for military-connected families
- Phone check-ins with parent/guardian
- Email check-ins with the parent/guardian
- Other

11(a). If you selected "other" above, explain:

12. Describe how your school actively involves military-connected parents and families in school activities and decision making processes.

Peer-Led Transition Program

13. Does the school have a transition program for military-connected students?

- Yes
- No

13(a). Please explain why your school does not have a transition program for military-connected students.

14. Who leads the transition program for military-connected students at your school?

- Peers
- Faculty
- Staff
- Other

14(a). If you selected "other" above, explain:

15. Does the transition program for military-connected students offer the following required services? Check all that apply.

- Guided tours of campus
- An orientation to familiarize the new student with school information
- The option for new students to be escorted throughout campus during the first week of school during school hours

16. Provide a narrative description of the school's **transition program** for military-connected students. Be sure to include an explanation of how each activity is aimed at acclimating military-connected students to the school.

Additionally, submit supporting documentation related to the transition program for military-connected students (e.g. marketing materials, powerpoint slides, program outlines, learning objectives, agendas) via email to DOSS.MSDE@Maryland.gov. Supporting materials may be shared directly through email or via a cloud sharing service such as Google Drive or OneDrive.



17. List and describe all school services and support programs available to military-connected students at your school **beyond their initial transition**. For each, include:

- i. Name of service/support program
- ii. Purpose of service/support program

- iii. Person in charge of service/support program
- iv. Process by which military-connected students are made aware of/invited to participate in service/support program

Additionally, submit supporting documentation related to the services and support programs provided to military-connected students (e.g. marketing materials, powerpoint slides, program outlines, learning objectives, agendas) via email to DOSS.MSDE@Maryland.gov. Supporting materials may be shared directly through email or via a cloud sharing service such as Google Drive or OneDrive.

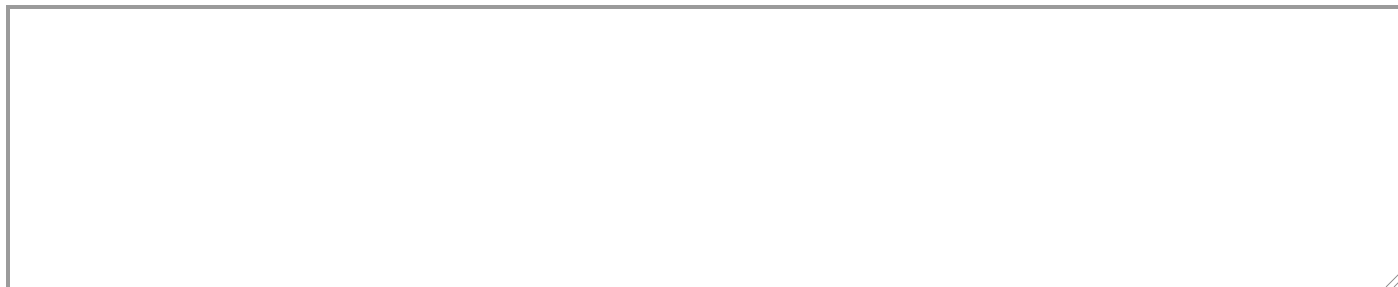
Staff Training

18. Provide a list of all **completed** professional development opportunities offered **to faculty and staff** at your school for the purpose of fostering an understanding of life as a military-connected student. For each training, share:

- i. Topic
- ii. Date

- iii. Facilitator/Presenter name and title
- iv. Learning objectives
- v. Attendance information (i.e. which groups of stakeholders were present and how many were in attendance)
- vi. Results of participant evaluation of the professional development opportunity
- vii. Specific examples of how lessons learned from the activity have been or will be incorporated into the school's programming for military-connected students

Additionally, submit supporting documentation related to the professional development activities (e.g. marketing materials, powerpoint slides, program outlines, learning objectives, agendas) via email to DOSS.MSDE@Maryland.gov. Supporting materials may be shared directly through email or via a cloud sharing service such as Google Drive or OneDrive.



19. Please outline your school's plan for **continued** professional development for faculty and staff related to fostering an understanding of life as a military-connected student, beyond the

completed professional development activities previously described.

Additional Information

20. Describe any training or information sessions for parents and/or community members regarding the challenges facing military-connected students and families, or other topics related to military-connected students.

21. Describe your school's plans for the next three years to continue/improve its intentional and personal focus on supporting military-connected students.

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22. Describe if/how your school collaborates with **local military installations or organizations** to support military families.

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23. How does the school ensure that its support programs for military-connected students are **effective**? Describe the process(es) for gathering feedback from military-connected students, their families, and school staff regarding the effectiveness of your support programs.

24. Many schools engage in activities not captured in the questions above to support military-connected students. Does your school offer/participate in any of the following initiatives? Check all that apply.

- Celebration of the Month of the Military Child in April
- Celebration of the Month of the Military Family in November
- Military Child of the Year Program
- LEA resolution publicizing the school's support for military students and families
- U.S. Army Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) Program
- Military appreciation night at an extracurricular event
- Projects to support military veterans and active duty members
- A public military display (e.g. a memorial for veterans, a bulletin board for military-connected students, a special Purple Star room, etc.)
- School welcome video or photo slideshow on military-connected student resource webpage
- School participation in an annual Memorial Day or Veteran's Day parade
- A common read for faculty/staff related to the needs of military-connected students
- Other

24(a). List any additional measures your school takes to support

military-connected students.

Documentation Submission Acknowledgement

Applicants should submit all supporting documentation requested throughout this application to DOSS.MSDE@Maryland.gov.

Supporting materials may be shared directly through email or via a cloud sharing service such as Google Drive or OneDrive. If supporting documentation is not received, the application will be considered incomplete.

Acknowledge

Affirmation

By submitting this application, our school affirms that the information provided is accurate and that our school meets the Purple Star School criteria outlined in COMAR 13A.06.10. We understand that, if recognized as a Purple Star School, our school commits to upholding the program's standards and actively supporting our military-connected students.

Agree

Principal Endorsement: By selecting "agree," the school affirms that the principal reviewed and approved the Purple Star Schools Application prior to submission.

Agree

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