

Delaware Purple Star School Designation Program



Why do we need Purple Star Schools



- ▶ 80% of America's military-connected children attend public schools.
- ▶ Delaware has at least one military-connected child in every district and charter school in the state. Some are home to over a hundred military-connected students.
- ▶ Purple Star Schools:
 - ▶ Help military service members identify schools who are committed to supporting their children.
 - ▶ Strengthen the goal of the Military Interstate Compact to ensure military children transition successfully into new schools and remain on track to graduate.
 - ▶ Support state revenue because the U.S. military includes the quality of the K12s school near military facilities in their basing and personnel decision making calculations. Communities with Purple Star Schools help retain bases and attract military families.

What is a Purple Star School?



- ▶ A public or charter school that has demonstrated a commitment to supporting the unique educational and social-emotional needs of military-connected children.
- ▶ The schools recognize that military-connected children move an average of six to nine times from kindergarten through high school.
- ▶ The main goal is to ensure school staff can help manage the challenges military-connected children face when they change schools (cultures, curricula, standards, course offerings, schedules, graduation requirements, etc.)
- ▶ They are also sensitive to the fact that military-connected students have left behind friends and support systems and may be dealing with a parent who is away from home on deployment.

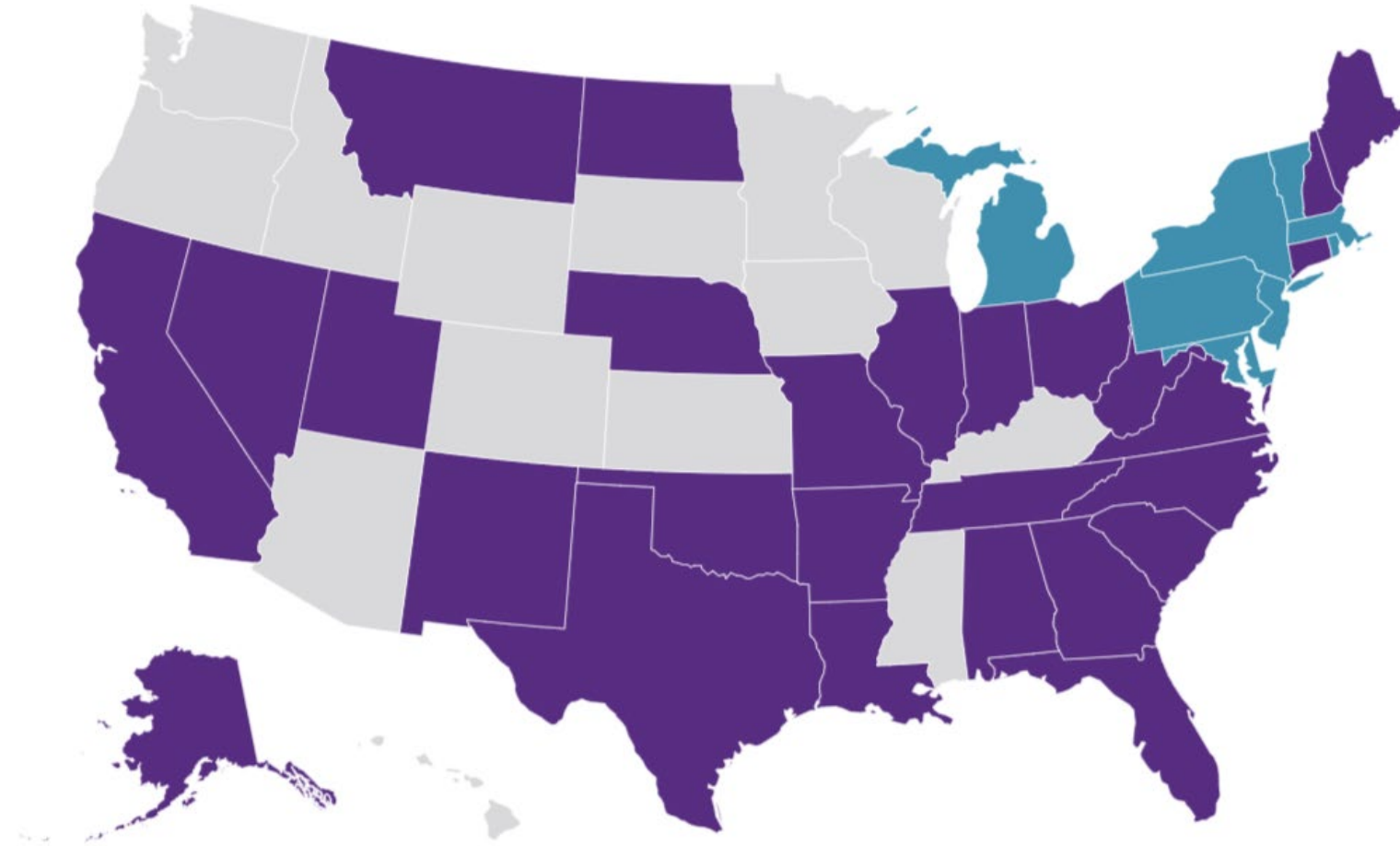
Minimum requirements



- ▶ The school must:
 - Designate a staff point of contact for military students and families. The POC serves as the primary link between the military family and the school. The individual can be a counselor, administrator, teacher, or other staff member.
 - Establish and maintain a dedicated page on its website featuring information and resources for military families.
 - Maintain a student-led transition program to include a student transition team coordinator.
 - Provide professional development for additional staff on special considerations for military students and families.

- ▶ States may establish additional requirements in addition to these criteria.

PURPLE STAR SCHOOLS



● Purple Star Designation Programs

● Legislation Pending

● No Current Programs/Legislation





Delaware's Process

- ▶ Established a group of stakeholders including representatives from DOE, the National Guard, the Air Base, local schools, and parents of military-connected children.
- ▶ Examined what other state's are doing and identified elements to incorporate.
- ▶ Developed an Overview and Application process.

At the same time...

- ▶ In June of 2021, Senate Bill No. 117 as amended by Senate Amendment No. 1, was passed. This bill established the Delaware Purple Star School Designation.

<https://legis.delaware.gov/json/BillDetail/GenerateHtmlDocument?legislationId=68613&legislationTypeId=1&docTypeId=2&legislationName=SB117>



Designation Qualifications

Point of Contact

- ▶ The school must have a staff point of contact (POC) for military students and families. The POC is identified by the building principal and serves as the primary link between the military family and the school. This contact could be a counselor, administrator, teacher or another staff member. The POC duties include:
 - ▶ Identifying military-connected students enrolled at the school;
 - ▶ Serving as the point of contact between the school and military connected students and their families;
 - ▶ Determining appropriate school services available to military-connected students; and
 - ▶ Assisting in coordinating school programs relevant to military-connected students.
- ▶ The school based POC will be specially trained to support various challenges that face military families, such as relocations, loss, deployment and academic planning.
- ▶ The POC works with school administration and or military program partners to conduct a school wide professional development that informs staff of the unique needs of military-connected students and on resources available to support these students. Evidence of this training would include copies of sign in sheets and training materials presented.



Website Information

- ▶ The school keeps or links to a district-wide page dedicated to military student and family support. This web page must include the following information.
 - ▶ **Military Families: Planning your Arrival to (Insert School):**
Information on Enrollment and the registration process. Remote registration is permissible under Title 14 Del. Code §202(g) and §402(1).
 - ▶ **Military Families: Preparing your Move from (Insert School):**
Information on educational records requests and transfers. This includes a review of school and/or linked district webpages for supporting military families to determine if the page contains clear and concise information on the district or charter school's remote registration process for incoming military connected students.
 - ▶ **Academic Planning for Military Families:**
Information on advanced academic programs (i.e. Advanced Placement, Honors, Dual Enrollment, etc.) and application deadlines, graduation requirements, diploma options, School Choice, etc.
 - ▶ **Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunities for Military Children:**
Information on the Compact Rules and their application.
 - ▶ **Special Needs Navigation and Parental Rights:**
This includes information on Special Education services and parental rights to include parental consent, or legal guardianship/power of attorney, or equivalent documents. This section may also include links to other school/district pages addressing this topic, as long as military specific content is included when applicable.
 - ▶ **Other matters of Importance:**
This must include, counseling and other support services, and may include student-parent surveys, PTA, PTO and PTSA, extra-curricular activities and local community supports, social media links, etc. This section may also include links to other school/district pages addressing these topics, as long as military specific content is included when applicable.



Central Office Designee

- ▶ The school district has assigned a central office staff member to be the contact for the school-based liaison and military families. Charter schools shall designate a member of the school leadership team to be the contact for the school-based liaison and military families.



Student Led Transition Team

- ▶ The school maintains a student led transition program to include a student transition team coordinator. This program should provide peer support for newly enrolled and withdrawing students to include those that are military connected. Evidence could include; calendar of events, a narrative of activities conducted, flyers, photos or student welcoming or training materials.



School-wide Activities

- ▶ School Wide Activities - The school must complete one of the following activities and provide evidence of completion through pictures, videos, flyers, registration sign in, links, etc.
 - ▶ Host a military recognition event designed to demonstrate a military-friendly culture across the school community. In addition to the event summary please provide copies of marketing materials, news articles or photographs.
 - ▶ Public military display in the school (memorial, tribute wall, bulletin board, a Purple Star room, etc.)
 - ▶ Host a military appreciation event.
 - ▶ Form military family/committee/counseling groups to offer support.
 - ▶ Fundraiser to support military veterans and/or active-duty members
 - ▶ A resolution showing support for military-connected students and their families
 - ▶ Recognition of the Month of the Military Child (April) or Military Family Month (November) with relevant events hosted by the school.
 - ▶ A partnership with a local military installation that provides opportunities for military members to volunteer at the school, speak at an assembly, or host a field trip



Application and Selection

- ▶ Applications are accepted between November 1st and February 1st of each school year.
- ▶ DOE identified a small group of reviewers including representatives from DOE, the National Guard, the Air Base and a parent of a military connected student.
- ▶ The committee determined that one school met the criteria for the award.
- ▶ The designation is good for 3 years, including the year in which it was awarded.
- ▶ DOE is developing a press release and a banner to present to the school.



Thank you.



Resources

- ▶ [MCEC Purple Star School Program](#)
- ▶ [DE Senate Bill 117](#)
- ▶ [Regulation 931: Purple Star Schools](#)

Questions?

Jennifer Davis, M.Ed.

Education Associate, Student Services &
Special Populations
Delaware Department of Education

Jennifer.Davis@doe.k12.de.us