



# Purple Star School Program

The Purple Star Program is a state-sponsored recognition designed to emphasize the importance of assisting military children with school transition, and developing programs that recognize the value of military service and civic responsibility.

## Discussion Points:

1. Military children face issues such as gaps and overlaps in curriculum, different graduation requirements, and course placement disruption, as well as difficulties related to socially and emotionally connecting with a new school and community.
2. State-sponsored Purple Star programs primarily designate schools as **military friendly** once they demonstrate a major commitment to students and families connected to our nation's military. States such as Ohio, Texas and Virginia have recognized schools meeting criteria that:
  - Designate school staff as a point of contact for military students and families
  - Require professional development for staff assigned as a POC for the military
  - Designate a page on its website featuring resources and information for military families
  - Add at least one supplemental activity such as additional professional development, or the school board passing a resolution in support of military children
3. Through the Purple Star Program, states have also recognized schools with few military families that have used the criteria to emphasize military service and recognize veterans and active members of the National Guard and reserves in their community. Schools have established programs that:
  - Recognize the accomplishments of veterans and active members
  - Sponsor special events recognizing military service
  - Celebrate class members who commit to serving in the military



**The average military-connected child will experience six to nine different schools during their K-12 education experience. With more than 1.1 million such students attending schools, issues surrounding school transition have become a top priority for families and some schools.**