

Purple Star Schools FAQ

Q. How many states have Purple Star Schools?

A. There are 44 states that have Purple Star School programs.

Q. What does the designation of a Purple Star School Mean?

A. It is a school that has been recognized for having resources, training and programs in place to help assist students of military families mitigate the challenges that military-connected children face. These schools work with military

Q. What is a Purple Star School?

A. A Purple Star School is a designation awarded by the Utah State Board of Education (USBE) to K-12 schools that have created a supportive environment tailored to the unique needs of military-connected students and their families.

Q. What specific things do these schools do for students?

A. They provide a soft landing for moving families by:

- Assigning a dedicated Military Liaison to help with enrollment.
- Running Student-Led Transition Programs (like "Peer Ambassadors") to welcome new kids.
- Training teachers and staff to recognize the emotional and academic impacts of deployment and relocation.

Q. How does a Utah school earn the Purple Star designation?

A. Schools must apply through USBE and meet five core requirements: designating a liaison, creating a military-friendly webpage, establishing a transition program, conducting staff professional development, and hosting at least one military recognition event per year.

Q: How are children affected by having a parent on active duty?

A. Military children face "high mobility," often changing schools every 2 to 3 years. This can cause gaps in their education, social anxiety, and the stress of "re-starting" their lives frequently. Additionally, the deployment of a parent can lead to increased responsibilities at home and emotional strain.

Q: How does USBE specifically support these students?

A. USBE administers the Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission (MIC3) in Utah. This "Compact" is a set of rules that ensures:

- Credits Transfer: High school credits from other states are accepted so students stay on track for graduation.
- Placement: Students are placed in the correct grade level and honors/AP courses immediately.

- Eligibility: Students are given flexibility to participate in extracurricular activities even if they miss tryout deadlines due to a move.

Q: What other resources are available through USBE?

- A. USBE provides a centralized Military Families Resource Page that links to School Liaison Officers (SLOs) at Hill Air Force Base, specialized special education (IEP) support, and mental health resources like the SafeUT app.

Q: Why is April significant for military families?

- A. April is the Month of the Military Child. It is a month dedicated to recognizing the resilience of the 1.6 million military children worldwide who support their parents' service.

Q: What is "Purple Up! Day"?

- A. Usually held in mid-April, Purple Up! Day is a day when everyone is encouraged to wear purple. Purple is the "joint" color of the military—representing a combination of Army green, Coast Guard blue, Air Force blue, Marine red, and Navy blue.

Q: How can I support military students in my community?

- A. You can support them by:
- Participating in Purple Up! Day.
 - Advocating for your local school to become a Purple Star School.
 - Being mindful and inclusive of new students who may have arrived new to your school or mid-semester.
 - Recognizing the "silent service" of these children during school assemblies or community events.

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