

The Arkansas Purple Star School Award

The Arkansas Purple Star School Award for military-friendly schools recognizes schools that show a major commitment to serving students and families connected to our nation's armed forces. Purple Star awardees receive a special Purple Star recognition to display in their building and are recognized on the Arkansas Department of Education website.

HOW TO QUALIFY

Schools must fulfill all the required activities, plus one optional activity, listed below.

Required activities

1. The school must have a staff point of contact for military-connected students and families. The point of contact serves as the primary liaison between them and the school. This contact could be a counselor, administrator, teacher or another staff member;
2. The liaison completes professional development on special considerations for military-connected students and families as required by federal law. The liaison may contact john.kaminar@arkansas.gov or nora.h.peloquin.ctr@mail.mil to arrange for the professional development;
3. The liaison identifies and informs teachers of the military-connected students in their classrooms and the special considerations military-connected students and families should receive; and
4. The district school board passes a resolution of the school or district's support for military-connected students and families; and
5. The school keeps a dedicated page on its website featuring resources for military families.

Optional activities

1. The liaison coordinates professional development on federally identified special considerations for military-connected students and families in the areas of a) records and enrollment, b) placement and attendance, c) eligibility, and d) graduation; or
2. The liaison coordinates awareness training for military-connected family members; or
3. The school hosts a military recognition event to demonstrate a military-friendly culture at the school.

HOW TO APPLY

Application is made online on the Arkansas Department of Education website at [Purple Star School Application](#). Applications may be submitted semi-annually by midnight on June 30 or December 31. Applications will be reviewed by a committee consisting of a representative of the Arkansas Council of the Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission, the Little Rock Air Force Airmen and Family Readiness Office, and a representative of the Family and Youth Program Office of the Arkansas National Guard during the next meeting of the Arkansas State Council of the Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission.

RECOGNITION

Schools to be awarded Purple Star status will be announced within thirty (30) days following approval by the review committee. Each school awarded the distinction of Purple Star School will receive a certificate signed by the Commissioner of Education, the Commissioner of the Arkansas Council on Military Children, and the Executive Director of the Arkansas Activities Association. The Arkansas Activities Association will also provide a sign for display at the school. A list of current Purple Star Schools will be posted on the Arkansas Department of Education website.

RENEWAL

Each Purple Star school holds its designation for two years. The Arkansas Council of the Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission will check for compliance at the end of the first year. At the end of the second year the school must reapply by submitting a statement of continued compliance.