



STATE OF ALASKA

PRESS RELEASE

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Alaska launches Purple Star School program to support Military children

JUNEAU – This month Alaska launched the Purple Star School program to recognize military-friendly schools that show a major commitment to students and families connected to our nation's military. To qualify for the designation, schools must meet three mandatory requirements and at least one additional activity. The mandatory requirements are:

- The school maintains a dedicated page on its website featuring resources for military families. Alternatively, the Purple Star School Advisory Board will consider a webpage maintained by the school district.
- The school has an Active Youth Sponsorship Club (Welcoming Committee).
- The school has a Military Family Point of Contact.
 - The Point of Contact (POC) completes professional development related to military children and family care.
 - The Point of Contact identifies and informs teachers of the military-connected students in their classrooms and the considerations military families and students should receive.
 - The Point of Contact is knowledgeable about the Military Interstate Compact.

The Purple Star School program is designed to help schools respond to the educational and social-emotional challenges military-connected children face during their transition to a new school. The program promotes awareness of available resources and streamlines assistance from schools and districts to improve services for military-connected students and families. The Purple Star School designation is a way to recognize the great work that many of Alaska's schools already have in place, and to encourage other schools interested in improving support available to military families.

"Alaska's military members and their families are an important part of the great state we live in," said Governor Mike Dunleavy. "By joining the Purple Star School program, our state reaffirms its commitment to the men and women who serve this country in uniform."

Alaska is the 25th state to create a Purple Star School program. Alaska's program is administered by the volunteer Alaska Purple Star Schools Advisory Board, chaired by Wayne Marquis, the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development's representative to the Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission.

The deadline for schools to apply for the first year of recognition is January 31, 2022. Successful applicants will be announced the following April, which is the Month of the Military Child. The application, complete award requirements and other resources for schools is available at <https://education.alaska.gov/purplestaraward>.



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*The Alaska Department of Education and Early Development provides information, resources, and leadership to support over 130,000 students in 505 public schools across the state of Alaska. The mission of the department is to ensure an “**Excellent Education for Every Student Every Day.**”*

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