

Designation Guide

COMPONENT	REQUIREMENT	RECOMMENDATIONS
<p>Designate a school employee as a military liaison</p>	<p>The role serves in the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Identifying military-connected students enrolled on campus ■ Serving as the point of contact between the campus and military-connected students and their families ■ Determining appropriate campus service available to military-connected students ■ Assisting in coordinating campus programs relevant to military-connected students 	<p>The best liaisons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Are trained in the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children ■ Have a passion for and knowledge about the military lifestyle ■ Have time to commit to the position ■ Are accessible to families 12 months of the year
<p>Establish and maintain a dedicated webpage with resources for military families</p>	<p>Website must include the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Relocation to, enrollment at, registration at and transferring records to the campus ■ Academic planning, course sequences, and advanced classes available on the campus ■ Counseling and other support services are available for military-connected students enrolled at the campus ■ The military liaison and his or her duties 	<p>Solicit family feedback to determine which resources are most relevant for inclusion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Set routines that prompt regular updates to the page ■ Leverage and link to social media channels on your page ■ For detailed guidance on resources to include, access the CPRL/MCES Report
<p>Maintain a transition program led by students</p>	<p>Transition program led by students when appropriate.</p> <p>New student transition programs help incoming students acclimate to their new campus and community, spurring ongoing connections in the school.</p>	<p>Keep programming simple and empower students to guide activities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Train Student Ambassadors ■ Encourage ongoing relationships between students ■ Find ways to involve parents
<p>Provide professional development for staff</p>	<p>Professional development for all staff helps familiarize administrators and faculty with the Compact, cultivates awareness of and empathy for military-connected students and equips staff to support families and students.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Train all staff and faculty annually, especially if there is high turnover at the school ■ Customize training content for the military populations in your areas

The Purple Star School Program

The Purple Star program is designed to help schools respond to the educational and personal challenges military-connected children face during their transition to a new school and keep them on track to be college, workforce, and life-ready. To learn more about the ongoing impact of the Purple Star program, click [here](#).

Why should my school seek designation?

A [2020 Columbia University/MCEC](#) study found that the Purple Star designation can help schools by:



Centralizing Knowledge

Purple Star programming helps schools and districts aggregate and centralize resources so that critical information is easily accessible to students, families, as well as school and district faculty and staff.

Schools noted that the designation process helped them improve and bundle existing programming into a unified suite of resources and supports.



Developing Networks

The program creates robust networks of local, state, and national stakeholders. In just a few years, the program has already spurred the development of a number of local and regional networks.

These networks can help schools and districts learn from each other and continuously improve programming.



Cultivating Competency

Purple Star program can help schools with less robust programming build the cultural competency needed to effectively serve military students.

For institutions with mature programming already in place, the designation acts as a beacon to attract incoming families by demonstrating military-friendliness.

<p>Provide at least one of the following requirements:</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. A resolution showing support for military-connected students and their families2. Recognition of the <i>Month of the Military Child</i> or <i>Military Family Month</i> with relevant events hosted by the campus3. A partnership with a local military installation that provides opportunities for active duty military members to volunteer at the campus, speak at an assembly or host a field trip.	<p>Recognize all members of the community - not only active-duty personnel but also reserve personnel, veterans military-connected students, and spouses</p>
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