



Purple Star Schools Newsletter

Volume 1 | Summer/Fall 2026

Utah is committed to supporting military-connected students and their families by reducing the educational challenges that can accompany military service. To help ensure smooth school transitions, Utah adopted the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children (MIC3), which removes barriers to educational success caused by frequent relocations and parental deployments for Active Duty, National Guard, and Reserve families. Utah's Military Interstate Children's Commission (MIC3) Commissioner is Ben Rasmussen.

<http://www.mic3.net>

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As part of this commitment, Utah proudly recognizes Purple Star Schools—schools that demonstrate an ongoing dedication to serving military-connected students through intentional support, transition assistance, and family engagement. Purple Star Schools go beyond basic requirements by creating welcoming environments and providing ongoing resources that help military-connected students thrive academically, socially, and emotionally.

Purple Star Schools.

<https://www.schools.utah.gov/parentfamilyengagementeducators/purplestarschools>

Applying to be a Purple Star School

Becoming a Purple Star School helps military-connected students experience smoother transitions. It supports children who move frequently as they adjust to new academic environments while providing ongoing, targeted support.

Purple Star Schools assign a dedicated point of contact and establish a peer-led team to guide and support new military families and students.

In addition, Purple Star Schools provide a dedicated website featuring various resources for families and offer professional development for staff. Most schools also hold an annual school-wide military event and/or pass a resolution publicizing their support for military students and families.

To become a Purple Star School, visit the Utah State Board of Education's [updated website](#), which includes all the information needed to apply.

This year, we have created clear guidance to help schools more easily complete the application process. We are also providing support to help existing schools reapply and strengthen the growth and quality of their programs. Here is an [overview of requirements](#).



Applications for New and Existing Schools

New School Applications

[Live Application link to become a new PSS](#) (live on January 15th)--This will not become public until January 15th of 2027. For a sample of the questions asked, please see our training resources for required components. See the Existing School Sample Application for Reference. See the New School Sample Application for Reference. (coming soon)

Annual Report for Existing Schools

[Live Application for Annual Report Renewal for PSS](#) (live on January 15th)--This will not become public until January 15th of 2027. For a sample of the questions asked, please see our training resources for required components. See the Existing School Sample Application for Reference. (coming soon)

[Current Purple Star Schools Link](#)

Calendar Items

Utah Purple Up:

April 15th of every year. Purple Up Day is officially recognized on this date as a part of Month of the Military Child. Citizens, schools, and communities wear purple to show visible support and appreciation for military children.

Month of the Military Child:

Always in the month of April every year.
Meaning of Purple: It blends the colors of the Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marine Corps, Navy and Space Force.

