



SOP 100-PSS Statement of Purpose and History

The **Utah Purple Star Schools Program** is a designation that recognizes Utah schools demonstrating excellence in supporting the educational needs of military-connected students and their families.

Mission

Utah Purple Star Schools partner with families, educators, military installations, and communities to ensure military-connected students experience smooth transitions, equitable educational opportunities, and school environments where they feel welcomed, supported, and prepared for success.

Vision

To create a statewide support network where every military-connected student and family is welcomed, understood, and valued, receives consistent support through every transition, and is empowered to achieve their highest potential without disruption.

Utah's Purple Star Schools History

Utah adopted the **Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children (MIC3)** in 2009, with the Compact codified into Utah law through **House Bill 386** during the 2010 General Legislative Session.

In 2021, the Utah State Board of Education amended **Rule R277-929, State Council on Military Children**, establishing Utah's Purple Star Schools designation program. That same year, Utah recognized its first Purple Star Schools through the leadership of MIC3 Commissioner Ben Rasmussen in partnership with the Utah Department of Veterans and Military Affairs.



By 2025, Utah had significantly expanded the program, increasing the number of designated Purple Star Schools from just over 100 to **177 officially designated schools**, reflecting the state's growing commitment to serving military-connected students and their families.

Utah remains committed to supporting the families of active-duty service members, National Guard members, and Reserve personnel by helping ensure smooth educational transitions for military-connected students. As part of this commitment, Utah proudly recognizes Purple Star Schools—joining a growing number of states that honor schools demonstrating exceptional dedication to military families. Purple Star Schools go beyond meeting designation requirements by creating welcoming school communities and providing intentional supports that help military-connected students thrive academically, socially, and emotionally throughout periods of transition.

I have one additional recommendation. Since this appears to be the opening section of the Purple Star Schools webpage or handbook, I would consider changing **"Utah's History of Purple Star Schools"** to **"About Utah Purple Star Schools."** Then organize it like this:

1. Statement of Purpose
2. Mission
3. Vision
4. About Utah Purple Star Schools (history + legislative authority + commitment)

That structure feels less like a chronology and more like an introduction to the program, which I think will read better for parents, educators, and school administrators.

For concerns or feedback, please contact cassie.hays@schools.utah.gov or complete [this form](#).

Rvsd. 8/24/26