MONTANA PURPLE STAR Schools

2027 Purple Star School Designation Rules

The Montana Office of Public Instruction and the Montana Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission are accepting Purple Star School Designation applications from July 31, 2026, to October 31, 2026. Award recipients will be announced in November 2026.

The Purple Star School Designation for military-friendly schools recognizes schools that show a major commitment to students and families connected to our nation's military. Schools that earn the award will receive a special Purple Star recognition to display onsite.

A school will be honored with the Purple Star School Designation if it completes all the required activities, plus one optional activity, listed below. The Purple Star Advisory Board, formed by the Montana Office of Public Instruction, Superintendents, Military Representatives, and Montana Legislators helps decide a school's eligibility for the award.

REQUIRED ACTIVITIES

Military Family School Point of Contact (POC)

- The school must have a point of contact for military students and families who serves as the primary liaison between them and the school.
- The Military Family School POC completes professional development on special considerations for military students and families. The Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission has training available online or in person which may be used to complete this requirement. Access this free training by emailing mic3info@csg.org or calling 859-244-8000. The Military Child Education Coalition has training programs available at https://www.militarychild.org/.
- The Military Family School POC identifies and informs teachers of the military-connected students in their classrooms and the special considerations military families and students should receive.

Military Support Resources

- The school maintains a dedicated page on its website or in the school newsletter featuring resources for military families.

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

- The school provides professional development for additional staff on special considerations for

military students and families.

- The local school board passes a resolution publicizing the school's support for military children and families.
- The school hosts a military recognition event that demonstrates a military-friendly culture.
- Other activities approved by the Montana Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission'

QUESTIONS

- If you have any questions, please contact OPIMIC3@mt.gov .