



Arizona Purple Star School Program



DESIGNATION

The Arizona Department of Education is proud to offer the Arizona Purple Star School program (AZPSS) designation for military-friendly schools in the state. AZPSS recognizes a school's commitment to supporting students and families connected to our nation's armed forces. Designated schools acknowledge the unique obstacles military families may encounter when a change of duty assignment occurs and are committed to providing essential transition support to military-connected students. A Purple Star School designation indicates the awardee has met all national and state requirements and may display Arizona's Purple Star School program logo, certificate, and banner in their building and on social media platforms.

WHO CAN APPLY?

All Arizona schools, including private schools for grades K through 12.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

Schools must submit the online application to Lee.Fernwault@azed.gov, attesting that all requirements have been met or will be met. The application shall be signed by the Principal/Site Administrator or Superintendent. Completed applications may be digitally signed. Arizona Purple Star School program applicants will receive an acceptance letter within 45 days or a denial letter indicating discrepancies in the program requirements.

Required items

1. Provide professional development (PD) to at least seventy percent of school staff, including administration, covering the unique needs of highly mobile military-connected students. The initial (PD) training must be in person. Subsequent (PD) training for new employees and annual continuing education training may be provided virtually or electronically. A school may accept in-kind donations of materials, equipment, or services for this required training from others, including the DoD (Department of Defense) or MCEC (Military Child Education Coalition). All trainings must be politically neutral.
2. Designate an employee, preferably with a military background, such as a veteran, military spouse, or individual with other relevant experience who understands the unique needs of a military family. This designated employee will serve as the school's liaison or primary point of contact. The employee may be a counselor, administrator, teacher, or other support staff.
3. The Liaison/Primary Point of Contact (POC) shall:
 - a. Complete the Military Child Education Coalition's (MCEC) Professional Development (PD) for School Professionals. Training is available at www.militarychild.org.

- b. Oversee the school's Arizona Purple Star School's Peer Mentorship program, whereby school administrators shall select and train student mentors in support of military students transitioning into the school.
- c. Coordinate with school administrators to ensure that at least seventy percent (70%) of the school's staff meet professional development (PD) requirements as stated above.
- d. Organize a patriotic event to be held at least once per school year, that both:
 - i. Recognizes the service and commitment of military members and their families, and
 - ii. Educates attendees about military service in the United States and the state of Arizona.
- e. Create a unique website or update the school's preexisting website with information about the Arizona Purple Star School's (AZPSS) program as often as needed but at least once during the school year. Online information should include:
 - i. AZPSS Liaison/point of contact contact information;
 - ii. Available military resources, including but not limited to: MIC3, Military One Source, Arizona Coalition for Military Families, and AZPSS;
 - iii. Information about the AZPSS Peer Mentorship Program and how to participate;
 - iv. Patriotic assemblies or events; and
 - v. Other relevant information to assist the transition of military-connected students
- f. Foster partnerships with Arizona's military and DoD personnel, including school liaisons assigned to military installations about opportunities for active-duty parents to volunteer at their child's school.

2. Recognition

Arizona Purple Star School program (AZPSS) designees will receive a signed certificate by the Superintendent of Public Instruction to be displayed in the building and listed as an AZPSS designee on the department's website. Schools may also promote its designation on social media and at any of Arizona's military installations where permissible.

3. Reporting & compliance

The Arizona Department of Education will check for compliance at the end of the first year. An annual report is due on or before June 30th of each school year. The Arizona Department of Education will provide the report format listing all statutory requirements. A designated school shall use the department's official Arizona Purple Star School program logo.

4. Renewal

The AZPSS program designation is renewable and valid for two years. A designated school shall submit a statement of continued compliance with the prescribed requirements at least thirty days before the end of the second year. Expired Arizona Purple Star School designations must submit a new application.



Arizona Purple Star School Program 2024-2025 APPLICATION



SITE INFORMATION

Date:

School Name:

School Address:

City:

Zip
Code:

School District/Charter/Entity:

Principal/Site Administrator:

Principal/Site Administrator
Email:

Phone:

AZPSS POC/Liaison Name:

Liaison Title:

Liaison Email:

Liaison Phone:

Optional – Alternate
POC/Liaison Name:

POC/Liaison Title:

POC/Liaison Email:

POC/Liaison Phone:

Pursuant to ARS 15-249.01, Each school must agree to meet all requirements to maintain the Arizona Purple Star School (AZPSS) designation.

1. As described in Requirement #1, The first AZPSS Professional Development (PD) training will be in person to at least seventy percent (70%) of the school's employees, including Administrators.
2. As described in Requirement #2, An AZPSS Program Liaison or Primary Point of Contact (POC) has been selected.
 - a. The Liaison/POC will have a military background or other relevant experience?
3. As described in Requirement #3a through 3f, the Liaison or Primary Point of Contact (POC) will meet all Liaison/POC requirements.
4. The Arizona Department of Education will check for compliance at the end of the first school year.
5. A complete AZPSS Annual Report will be submitted by June 30th for each school year.
6. Failure to meet all program requirements may result in the loss of the Arizona Purple Star School program designation.

I attest all program requirements have been or will be met within 90 days of being designated as a Arizona Purple Star School (AZPSS).

Signature of Principal/Site Administrator or
Superintendent: