

# SOP – ARIZONA PURPLE STAR SCHOOL DESIGNATION



## BACKGROUND

A Purple Star School is a military-friendly school dedicated to helping highly mobile, military-connected students and their families succeed in their children's academic careers. Arizona joins over 40 other states through legislative action, creating a Purple Star School program overseen by the Arizona Department of Education. Any school within the state may apply to become a designated Arizona Purple Star School.

## PURPOSE

Every state is a member of the Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission (MIC3), which sets standards for military-connected students who transfer schools between states or from Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) global locations. Statistically, highly mobile, military-connected students transfer schools every three years. The Purple Star School program focuses on the overall wellness of highly mobile, military-connected students and their families through school-based support systems, recognition, and resources. Being designated a Purple Star School indicates the school's commitment to the US Armed Forces and their families and has agreed to the program requirements outlined below.

## REQUIREMENTS *(site based)*

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 training 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 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 Arizona Department of Education Arizona Purple Star School Professional Development Training. Training is available at [www.azed.gov](http://www.azed.gov).
  - 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. Educate attendees about military service in the United States and the state of Arizona.
- e. Create a unique website or update the school's preexisting webpage 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.

## APPLICATION

**Any** school within Arizona may apply to become an Arizona Purple Star School (AZPSS). The AZPSS application may be submitted throughout the year. The application will be made available online at [www.azed.gov](http://www.azed.gov) and shall be completed by each school. The site administrator, principal, or superintendent shall digitally, where available, sign the completed application attesting that all requirements have or will be met as prescribed and return all pages to the Department's K12 Military Community Liaison. Applicants will receive an acceptance letter within 45 days or a denial letter indicating discrepancies in the program requirements.

## NEWLY DESIGNATED ARIZONA PURPLE STAR SCHOOLS – 90-DAY REVIEW

Schools initially designated as Arizona Purple Star School (AZPSS) will be verified 90 days from the date of the AZPSS designation using the Department's "90-day Review – Arizona Purple Star School Rubric". Schools will receive the rubric along with their AZPSS designation certificate. The Department may amend the rubric to ensure the program's integrity is consistent with norms as outlined by the Military Child Education Coalition (MCEC), the national advocate for the Purple Star School program. The rubric will be available online at [www.azed.gov](http://www.azed.gov).

## ARIZONA PURPLE STAR SCHOOL DESIGNATION PERIOD

All Arizona Purple Star Schools (AZPSS) will have such designation for no more than two years. The designation is renewable.

## COMPLIANCE AND REPORTING

The Department will check for Arizona Purple Star School (AZPSS) compliance at the end of the first year. Only official AZPSS logos shall be used and displayed. Designated schools must submit an annual report provided by the Department on or before June 30<sup>th</sup> of each school year. Failure to meet AZPSS requirements or reporting may result in loss of the AZPSS designation.

### REQUIRED TRAINING - POINT OF CONTACT

As outlined in the "REQUIREMENTS" section, an Arizona Purple Star School must have identified a Point of Contact (POC) for US military families transferring into that school's respective boundary. All identified school POCs must complete the Department's Arizona Purple Star School Professional Development Training. The training can be found at [www.azed.gov](http://www.azed.gov). After completing all professional development training modules, a certificate of completion will be emailed to the individual.

### REQUIRED PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT TRAINING\* - (70%) OF STAFF

Newly designated Arizona Purple Star Schools (AZPSS) must provide **in-person** professional development training to 70% of the school's staff, including site administrators. Subsequent training for new staff may be delivered in person or virtually as determined by the school's administration. Schools are encouraged to contact the School Liaison at the closest Arizona military installation as a resource or for AZPSS professional development needs. They are considered subject matter experts for military-connected students and families. The School Liaison can determine the availability and level of support provided. Other third-party professional development providers are allowable under state statutes. The Department's K12 Military Community Liaison can direct individuals to the appropriate resource.

**Note:** School liaisons are located at each installation and are the main contacts for military families, local school systems, and work closely with installation leadership for school-related matters pre-K through 12th grade. School liaisons are experienced professionals who support, advise, and build partnerships with the civilian and military community to help address common education challenges of military families.

### \*PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

At a minimum, IN-PERSON professional development training shall be at least 55 minutes. Additional time or sessions are highly recommended. The closest military installation School Liaison has developed successful professional development for Arizona Purple Star Schools based on the school's geographic area.

Professional development must cover the following topics:

- Military Culture
- Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission (MIC3)
- Identifying Highly Mobile, Military-Connected Students
- Supporting Military-Connected Students During Transitions
- Arizona Purple Star School Requirements And Arizona's Military Community

AZPSS professional development or training should be reviewed and modified to meet the unique needs of the school's community or due to relevant global situations. The Department recommends additional AZPSS professional development, covering in-depth topics to help highly mobile, military-connected students succeed academically. The Military Child Education Coalition ([www.militarychild.org](http://www.militarychild.org)) provides additional on-demand training for education professionals, parents, and students.

## ARIZONA PURPLE STAR SCHOOL STUDENT PEER-TO-PEER REQUIREMENT

An Arizona Purple Star School (AZPSS) shall implement and promote a student peer-to-peer program. School administrators are responsible for selecting and training student mentors. The AZPSS Point of Contact (POC) should oversee the student-led peer-to-peer program. The primary goal of this requirement is to bring military, civilian, and identified students together to ease transitions and support newly arriving students. AZPSS student-led peer-to-peer programs create positive environments for all, support educational opportunities, and build connections through service, leadership, academics, climate and culture, relationships, and 100% acceptance ([S2S Advisor Training](#)). Base School Liaisons have additional resources to help create a successful mentor program.

## ARIZONA PURPLE STAR SCHOOL LOGO

The Department's AZPSS logo shall be used to advertise a school's designation. The AZPSS logo should not be modified or altered without approval from the K12 Military Community Liaison.

## ARIZONA PURPLE STAR SCHOOL DESIGNATION RENEWAL

Designated Arizona Purple Star Schools (AZPSS) are valid for two years. A designated school shall submit a statement of continued compliance with the prescribed requirements at least thirty (30) days before AZPSS designation expires. Expired AZPSS designations must submit a new AZPSS application and complete all initial requirements.

## QUESTIONS

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