



Month of the
Military Child

MIC3

March 1, 2020

Dear School District Superintendents and Directors of Schools:

Military families help sustain our fighting force, on whom we depend on for the security and safety of our nation. April is designated as the **Month of the Military Child** or **"Purple Up! For Military Kids"**, and across the nation, states and school districts will celebrate the important role of military children while their service member parents serve our country through **special events and wearing the color purple**. This year, the Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission (MIC3) has selected **Wednesday, April 22nd as our official "Purple Up! For Military Kids" day**.

Tennessee is a proud member of the MIC3 – which includes all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the Department of Defense Education Activity (DODEA) – which addresses the key educational transition issues encountered by military students as the move throughout the world.

As educators, you are committed to children and providing a high quality education for all students in our public schools. I ask for your support in April for **"Purple Up! For Military Kids"** by:

1. Coordinating a district-wide month or day and promotion through your communication channels (website, newsletters, media), stakeholders, and partners
2. Drafting a letter/memorandum to your schools encouraging them consider sponsoring an activity
3. Attending a district or school event
4. celebrating **"Purple Up! For Military Kids"**

Please email pictures and a recap of "Purple Up! For Military Kids" activities that take place in your school system to dmclau9499@bellsouth.net.

As Tennessee's Compact Commissioner, I am responsible for overseeing the military compact administration in our state and ensuring compliance under the rules and regulations. Please inform me of any district or school level **Purple Up! For Military Kids** promotion. For more information on the compact, please contact me directly at dmclau9499@bellsouth.net, or visit

<https://www.tn.gov/sbe/committees-and-initiatives/military-interstate-children-s-compact-tennessee-state-council--mic3-.html>.

In 2019, the Tennessee MIC3 State Council launched the Purple Star Schools Award (PSSA) Program. The Tennessee Purple Star School Award is provided to military-friendly schools who display a major commitment to serving military connected families and students. We would love to issue this award to schools across the state of Tennessee. For more information about PSSA visit

<https://www.tn.gov/sbe/committees-and-initiatives/military-interstate-children-s-compact-tennessee-state-council--mic3-/pssa.html>

Please join me in thanking our military children for their strength and sacrifice by supporting **"Purple Up! For Military Kids"** during the month of April – they deserve our support!

Sincerely yours,

Deanna M. McLaughlin

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Did you Know? According to the Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDIC) Active Duty Family Report - As of September 2019, there are 568,349 military-connected children aged 5-18 years old in the U.S.