



Tennessee Purple Star School Award (PSSA) Program 2023-2024

The **Tennessee Purple Star School Award (PSSA)** is provided to military-friendly schools that display a major commitment to serving military-connected families and students. For a school to be honored with the Tennessee Purple Star School Award, the school must complete all of the Required School Activities and one of the Optional School Activities which are listed below.

☆ **Required School Activities**

A school must complete **ALL FIVE** of the following activities and provide evidence of completion through pictures, videos, flyers, registration sign-in, links, etc.

- The school must have an assigned staff Point of Contact (POC) for military-connected students and families.
 - The POC serves as the primary liaison between the family and the school. The POC can be a counselor, administrator, teacher, registrar, or another staff member who is well-equipped to support incoming and exiting military students and their families.
- The school-based POC must complete a professional development component that covers topics outlined by the Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission (MIC3) or special considerations for military-connected families and students.
- The school maintains a dedicated webpage with support materials and information for military-connected families and students. The link needs to be easily located on the school's home page. All information must be current and contain the POC contact information.
 - Topics may include:
 - Registration and Orientation information.
 - What to bring from the previous (sending) school.
 - Special Needs documents including parental rights documents.
 - Special situations.
 - MIC3 Rules and Regulations (State and Federal)
 - Other topics: Extracurricular activities, testing information, state report card info, etc.
 - See the document on the POC professional development page for an example.
- Provide professional development to the staff regarding special considerations and supports available for military-connected families and students is held during a staff meeting or workshop.

- A school must complete **ONE** of the following activities and provide evidence of completion through pictures, videos, flyers, registration sign-in, links, etc.
 - A resolution passed by the school board publicizing the school's support for military students and families.
 - Host an annual military-friendly program. (Memorial Day, Flag Day, Armed Forces Day, Veteran's Day, 9/11, Patriot Day, etc.).
 - Host a military appreciation event.
 - Celebration of the Month of the Military Child (April).
 - Form military family/committee/counseling groups to offer support (the groups must have a focus on supporting military-related learners).
 - Fundraiser to support military veterans and active-duty members.
 - Other activities that show support for military-related learners.
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★ How to Apply

The application is for an individual school building, not an entire district.

- Review this document and implement the components in a manner that best fits your school and community.
- Document the activities with pictures, videos, registration sheets, flyers, etc.
- Applications for the Tennessee Purple Star School Award are available on the course in Google Classroom from September 15, 2023 through January 15, 2024.
- The course and all application items will be available on Google Classroom. (This change is due to Schoology removing their free portion of the LMS). Access can be found at the following site:
 - The course can be accessed by going to <https://bit.ly/TNPSSAward>
 - If you are asked for a course code: [gwawsr4](#)
 - The application will be in the final module.
- Email the evidence of the activities (no application will be available outside of Google Classroom) in a PDF format to TN.PurpleStar@gmail.com.
- All applications are due by January 15, 2024. **Incomplete applications will not be considered.**
- Within 7 days, you will receive a reply that your application has been received.
- Awardees will be announced within three (3) days after the TN MIC3 Meeting*.

**The Tennessee MIC3 State Council is responsible for reviewing all award applications.*

Questions Regarding the Award?

Contact Deb Munis, Tennessee MIC3 Military Family Education Liaison @
TN.PurpleStar@gmail.com

Updated September 2023

★ **Recognition**

Awardees will be announced after the TN MIC3 Board meeting in April/May. Schools that earn the award will receive a special Tennessee Purple Star School Award certificate to display in their building and a banner provided by the TN State School Board. A list of all current Purple Star Awardees will be posted on the Tennessee State Board of Education/Tennessee MIC3 website.

★ **Renewal**

All schools earning the Purple Star School Award will maintain the status for two years. At the end of year two, the school must reapply to remain an awardee.

The Purple Star School Award is a partnership between the Tennessee State Board of Education and the Tennessee Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission (TN-MIC3).

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