



February 26, 2024

Military members and families sacrifice for the security and safety of our nation, specifically military children during their K-12 careers. In April, the Tennessee Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission (TN-MIC3), along with many other organizations, non-profits, and public entities will celebrate the important role of military children. Across the nation, states, communities, and schools celebrate in various ways, including wearing the color purple. This year, the Commission has selected **Wednesday, April 17th as our official "Purple Up! For Military Kids" day.**

Tennessee is committed to military children and providing a high-quality education for all students in our public schools. Please join me in thanking our military children for their strength and sacrifice by supporting **"Purple Up! For Military Kids"** this month – they deserve our support!

I know that 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 promotion through your communication channels (website, newsletters, media), stakeholders, and partners
2. Sponsoring a Proclamation or Resolution for **April Month of the Military Child** and read it on the floor of your legislative body. ***Please let me know when you plan to do this so that I can attempt to attend.***
3. Record a video message for **April Month of the Military Child.**
4. **Purple in Power.** Encourage your policy-making body to wear purple at its April meeting. Take pictures and post them on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, or in the local newspaper.
5. **Paint the Town Purple.** Encourage local businesses and government agencies (city hall, county courthouse, etc.) to participate by:
 - a. Displaying purple wreaths, ribbons, bows, etc. on their buildings or
 - b. Posting a message on their business signs or marquees during **Purple Up Month.**
 - c. Post support of **"Purple Up! For Military Kids"** on their websites, social media platforms, etc.
 - d. Light their buildings up in **Purple**
 - e. Coordinating a **Purple Up!** day within their business or organization
6. **Local Businesses & Governments to do a Web Site Feature.** Promote the Month of the Military Child on their website and social media platforms.
7. **Dress Up Theme Day.** Have a dress-up theme for each week in April. Ideas include favorite service logo day, patriotic day, etc.

When posting to social media for Month of the Military Child please use the following hashtags **#TNMIC3, #MIC3TN, #MIC3Compact, and #purpleup4militarykids**

Additional information and resources can be found in the Purple Up! Toolkit or website:
<https://mic3.net/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/5d-2024-Purple-Up-Ideas.pdf>

Should you have any questions on the Compact, please contact me at (931-326-4251 dmclau9499@bellsouth.net) or visit www.mic3.net.

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

Tennessee has been a Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission (MIC3) member since 2011. The Compact membership includes all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the Department of Defense Education Activity schools. The Compact addresses the key educational transition issues encountered by military-connected students.

In 2019, we (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 that display a major commitment to serving military-connected families and students. Please help us spread the word

to schools across the state. For more information about PSSA visit <https://www.tn.gov/sbe/committees-and-initiatives/military-interstate-children-s-compact-tennessee-s-tate-council--mic3-/pssa.html>

As Tennessee's Compact Commissioner, I am responsible for overseeing the military compact administration in our state and ensuring compliance with the rules and regulations. 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-s-tate-council--mic3-.html>

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

Follow us on Facebook at **MilitaryInterstateChildrensCompactCommissionInTN**

Thank you very much.

Deanna M. McLaughlin

Deanna M. McLaughlin
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Did You Know? In 2023 the State of Tennessee reported having 10,230 Active Duty Military & 14,560 Guard & Reserve Children grades K-12.