

Tennessee Purple Star School Award (PSSA) Program



The **Tennessee Purple Star School Award (PSSA)** is provided to military-friendly schools who display a major commitment to serving military-connected families and students. In order 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.

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

☆ **Required School Activities**

A school must complete **all four** 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 course or session 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

Questions Regarding the Award?

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TN.PurpleStar@gmail.com

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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: Extra-Curricular activities, testing information, state report card info, etc.
 - See document on the POC professional development page for an example
- A school must complete **one** of the following activities and provide evidence of completion through pictures, videos, flyers, registration sign in, links, etc.
 - Professional development regarding special considerations and supports available for military-connected families and students is held during a staff meeting or workshop.
 - 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.

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- Fundraiser to support military veterans and active-duty members.

☆ **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 online at the Tennessee State Board of Education/Tennessee MIC3 website from November 1 through April 1.
- Print the Application and complete all components.
- Email the application and supporting documents to TN.PurpleStar@gmail.com.
- All applications are due by April 1. **Incomplete applications will not be considered.**
- Within 7 days, you will receive a reply that your application has been received.
- Awardees will be announced on the first Monday in June*.

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

☆ **Recognition**

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

☆ **Renewal**

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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 in order to remain an awardee.

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