

C450L23 (Purple Star Award)

Budget Language

\$73,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2024 and \$72,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2025 are provided solely for implementation of Substitute House Bill No. 1346 (purple star award).

Proviso Purpose

Children of military parents and their families move as frequently as every 2-3 years resulting in educational, social, and emotional difficulties. The Washington State Purple Star Award recognizes districts that provide educational and social-emotional supports to these students and their families as they transition to new schools. The Purple Star Award is issued every two years to districts meeting specific criteria.

Services Provided

The Purple Star Award honors school districts that meet established criteria for supporting military-connected students by eliminating barriers to educational success and providing families with clear guidance on districts offering comprehensive academic and social-emotional support during school transitions.

Criteria for Receiving Services/Grants

The districts must meet the following criteria to receive the Washington State Purple Star Award (no services or grant funding is provided):

- A school district must maintain a dedicated page on its website featuring resources for military families. The school district must also have a staff point of contact for military students and families that:
 - Works jointly with the state military family education liaison of the Interstate Compact Council to serve military families;
 - Serves as the primary liaison between military families and the school district;
 - Completes professional development on special considerations for military students and families under relevant state and federal law; and
 - Identifies and informs teachers of military-connected students in their classrooms and the special considerations military families and students should receive under the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children.
- To receive the designation, a school district must also complete one or more of following optional activities:
 - Provide professional development for additional staff on special considerations for military students and families;
 - Pass a resolution publicizing the school district's support for military children and families; or



- Host a military recognition event that demonstrates a military-friendly culture.
- Beneficiaries in the 2024-25 School Year

Number of School Districts: 5

Number of Schools: 0

Number of Students: 0

Number of Educators: 0

Are Federal or Other Funds Contingent on State Funding?

No.

State Funding History

Fiscal Year	Amount Funded	Actual Expenditures
2025	\$72,000	\$67,436
2024	\$73,000	\$73,000

Number of Beneficiaries Per Fiscal Year (e.g. School Districts, Schools, Students, Educators, Other)

Fiscal Year	Number of Beneficiaries
2025	5 Districts
2024	14 Districts

Programmatic Changes Since Inception (If Any)

Military Child Education Coalition (MCEC) currently has thirty-six states as Purple Star Designated Programs, seven states recently approved, five states proposing or pending legislation, and two states with no current programs or legislation. No major changes have occurred in the MCEC Purple Star Program since Washington State joined in 2024.

Program(s) Evaluation or Major Findings

The Purple Star Award designation has made it easier for military families to identify districts that provide the educational and social-emotional supports necessary as their children transition to new schools.

Major Challenges Faced by Program(s)

One challenge identified during program implementation is the misalignment of interest between schools and their districts: while some individual schools are eager to pursue the Purple Star Award, their respective districts have chosen not to apply for the designation.

An additional, recently identified challenge is that since this is a district-level award, individual schools residing in a Purple Star district do not receive individual Purple Star designations.

Future Opportunities

There is an opportunity to expand the Purple Star Award program to include schools that serve military children, resulting in military families being better equipped to identify these critical supports at the school level.

Other Relevant Information

[Click here to see a list of all Purple Star District Award recipients in the 2025 Fiscal Year.](#)

Schools/Districts Receiving Assistance

[Click here to see a list of all OSPI grant recipients in the 2025 Fiscal Year.](#)

Program Contact Information

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