

Purple Star FAQs:

Q: Is the Purple Star Award a school or district recognition?

A: In Washington State, the Purple Star Award is a district recognition. At this time, a school that is interested in applying for the Purple Star Award needs to work with the district and the district must apply.

Q: Is the Purple Star Award indefinite or does the district need to reapply and how often?

A: This is a 2-year recognition. At the end of the 2-year cycle, the district will need to re-apply.

For example, a district that receives the Purple Star Award in 2024-2025 school year will maintain the award through 2025-2026 school year and will need to reapply again for 2026-2027 school year. Assuming the award application opens during the summer of 2026, that would be the optimal time for the district to reapply to ensure maintenance of the Purple Star District Award for another 2-year cycle.

Q: When will the Purple Star Award application open again?

A: This next application cycle is scheduled to open in early September 2026 and remain open through November 2026. The application is accessible on [OSPI](#) and [WASA](#) websites. Purple Star Award recipients will be announced in December 2026 or January 2027.

Q: What is the application process?

A: Interested districts complete the online application. Once the application closes, the WASA team reviews each application to determine if the applying districts meet the requirements, as outlined in SHB 1346. Once all the applications are reviewed, OSPI and WASA will announce the Purple Star Award district recipients for the next 2-year cycle.

Q: What are the requirements each applicant needs to meet to receive the Purple Star Award?

A: The eligibility requirements for each applying district are identified in [SHB 1346](#) and include:

Designation Eligibility: To be considered for the designation, 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;
 - Acceptable training includes [PennState Clearing House for Military Family Readiness](#) (directions are also located on the [OSPI Military Connected Students](#) page) and [MCEC 2-Day Virtual Training](#) (use the email link on their webpage to request upcoming training dates).

- 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 the 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.

Q: Can private schools in Washington state apply for the Purple Star Award?

A: Unfortunately, no. In Washington state, the Purple Star Award is a district designation and since private schools are independent and operate outside of district guidance and oversight, they are ineligible for the Purple Star Award.

Q: What are the training requirements for the Purple Star District Award and where can districts go to receive the training?

A: Districts applying for the first time must complete training through the PennState Clearing House for Military Family Readiness:

There are 40 modules, 10-15 minutes each, that can easily be completed over ~5-8 business days if you focus on 6-8 modules per day.

It can be accessed here: [Military-Connected Students \(Purple Star Schools\) – School Resources to Support Military-Connected Students.](#)

For ease of access, once you open the link above:

1. Scroll down the webpage until you see module 1, *Readiness to Support Military-Connected Students*.
2. Click 'view' on the right of module 1 and, in the same tab, it will open to *Learning Modules 'Military-Connected Families'*.
3. Scroll down to 'Open Module' and click to open.
4. A new webpage tab will open. Click 'Start Training' to begin.
5. After you complete each training, save the training certificate at the end of each module. You will need these to show you have completed this training series
6. When each module is complete, return to the previous webpage tab, *Learning Modules 'Military-Connected Families'*, and click the back arrow. This will bring you back to the Penn State ClearingHouse 40 module series.
7. Continue with the next training in the series following the directions above.

Districts reapplying for the Purple Star Award – Those who have previously held the designation and are reapplying must complete the MCEC training below:

[MCEC Online Learning - Military Child Education Coalition® \(MCEC®\)](#)

- Once on the MCEC Learning Hub, scroll down to the bottom of the “Professional Development” section and click on “Visit the Learning Hub”.
- Move through the prompts to sign up.
- When that is complete, you will arrive at the course catalogue.
- There are two categories on top of the page, “Professional Development” and “Students”. Enter the Professional Development modules.
- There are eight modules you will need to complete.
- At the end of each module, you will be prompted to complete a survey. It is only after you have completed each module survey that you will have access to the training certificate.
- You will receive a certificate for five of the eight modules.
 - Save all of the certificates.

Both training series will meet the professional development requirement as established in [SHB 1346](#).

Q: How many staff at a school and district need to complete professional development to qualify for the Purple Star Designation?

A: To meet the Purple Star Award designation, at a minimum the staff point of contact (POC) for the district must complete the required professional development. It is, however, beneficial for military students if other staff, including educators working with military-connected children, also complete the professional development.

Q: As a recognized Purple Star District, do you have anything such as a flag/insignia/plaque that we could display at our schools that identifies them as part of the program? We would love for military families touring our schools to see that we honor them and provide services.

A: At this point, we do not have anything formally to put in schools residing in a Purple Star Award District. However, each awarded district receives a Purple Star logo to display on their website. This logo can be used in schools to identify they reside in a recognized Purple Star District.