



STATE OF ALABAMA  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



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State Superintendent of Education

Alabama  
State Board  
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Governor Kay Ivey  
President

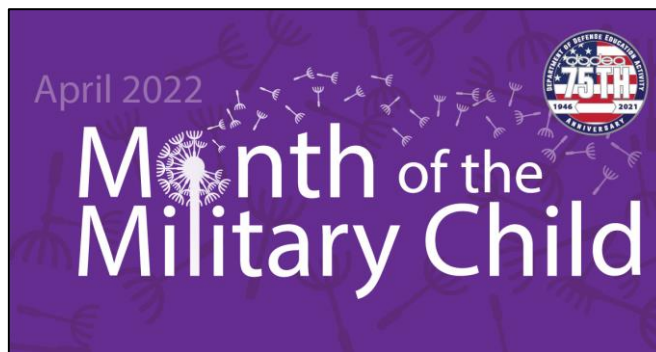
## ALABAMA CELEBRATES AMERICA'S MILITARY STUDENTS AND FAMILIES THIS MONTH

*State Honors Military Families and Highlights Purple Star School Program*

Jackie Zeigler  
District I

**Montgomery, Ala.** – The month of April is truly special – it has officially been designated as the *Month of the Military Child!* This national celebration is significant, because it underscores the vital and important role military families have in our nation.

Tracie West  
District II



The Alabama State Department of Education proudly joins the Department of Defense and America's entire military community in celebrating this wonderful event.

Our military families make many sacrifices. They ensure we continue to have the many great freedoms that we enjoy. A recent survey from the Military Child Education

Stephanie Bell  
District III

Coalition reports there are nearly 1.65 million military-connected children enrolled in schools in the United States and abroad.

Yvette M. Richardson, Ed.D.  
District IV  
Vice President

Sponsored by the Department of Defense Military Community and Family Policy, the Month of the Military Child is a time for all to applaud military families and students. We proudly encourage all residents of our Great State, local schools, and school districts to join us in celebrating military students and families. This school year is the official *35th Anniversary of The Month of the Military Child celebration.*

Tonya S. Chestnut, Ed.D.  
District V

### Alabama's Purple Star School Program

Cynthia McCarty, Ph.D.  
District VI



The Alabama Purple Star Schools Program and Committee, established by the *Legislative Act 2021-7*, recognizes the efforts of our K-12 schools to support military students and families through their transitions into new communities and school environments.

The Purple Star School program was designed to help families mitigate the challenges of mobile-military life by setting standards, which assist students in adjusting to their new school locations.

Belinda McRae  
District VII

Wayne Reynolds, Ed.D.  
District VIII  
President Pro Tem

Eric G. Mackey, Ed.D.  
Secretary and  
Executive Officer

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The Purple Star Award recognizes schools that show a real commitment to students and families connected to our nation's military. Schools that earn this award receive a special Purple Star recognition to display on site.

As of today, a total of 58 Alabama Purple Star School applications have been submitted statewide. At the current time:

- *Exactly 53 awards for Purple Star School designations have been approved – this includes 12 high schools, 11 middle schools, and 30 elementary schools statewide.*

Alabama school systems that have Purple Star School locations currently are:

- Autauga County
- Dale County
- Enterprise City
- Homewood City
- Hoover City
- Madison City
- Madison County
- Montgomery County
- Ozark City
- Phenix City
- Pike Road City
- Russell County

To learn more about our state's Purple Star School Program visit:

<https://www.alabamaachievers.org/alabamas-purple-star-school-program/>

***Additional Information about the Month of the Military Child Celebration***

Throughout this month, the Alabama State Department of Education encourages all local schools and communities to consider planning special events to honor our military students and families.

In March, The White House issued the following proclamation recognizing this event:

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2022/03/31/a-proclamation-on-the-month-of-the-military-child-2022/>

Many local communities are also hosting “*Purple Up! For Military Kids Day*” to further commemorate this event. See this list of creative ways that schools are celebrating - <https://mic3.net/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/5d-2022-Purple-Up-Ideas.pdf>

The entire 2022 Month of the Military Child celebration will focus on encouraging students and supporting them throughout their full educational experience.

See the official *Month of the Military Child* PSA video at <https://youtu.be/357lyQ6y2Cg>

**Learn more** about this year's Month of the Military Child celebration at [www.DoDEA.edu](http://www.DoDEA.edu).

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