



West Virginia DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION

WV Council for the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children

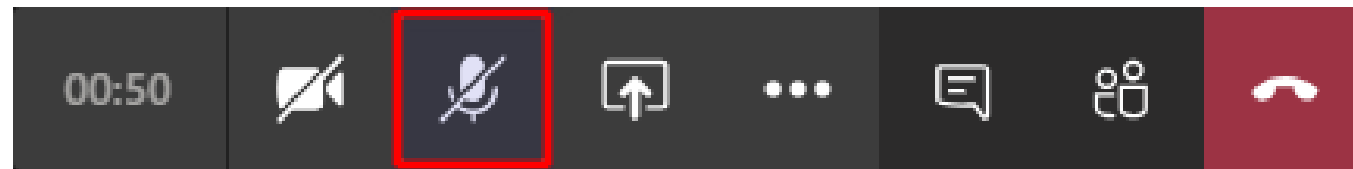
FY 2024 Meeting
Friday, January 12, 2024

Microsoft Teams Meeting Information

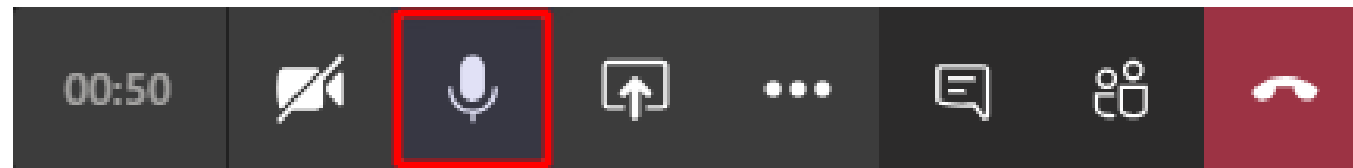
Before we begin the meeting:

- If you are using a computer or cell phone application, please note that you may use the menu bar near the bottom of your screen to:
 - Turn your camera on or off
 - Mute and unmute your microphone

Camera and microphone turned off



Camera off and microphone on



*On a telephone, *6 will mute or unmute your audio. Press *1 for a complete list of telephone options.*

Meeting Agenda

1. Welcome, Roll Call and Introductions
 - *Military Family Education Liaison, Mr. Robert Mellace*
2. Approval of Agenda/Minutes and Remarks from the State Compact Commissioner
 - *Compact Commissioner, Mr. Phillip Cantrell*
3. Remarks from the State Superintendent of Schools
 - *State Superintendent of Schools, Mrs. Michele Blatt*
4. West Virginia Board of Education Career Readiness Goals
5. Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission (MIC3) Overview
6. Common Ground Partnership Overview
7. Career Exploration for Students and Military Families
8. Roundtable Discussion on MIC3 and the Common Ground Partnership

Welcome

Office of Educator Preparation

Mr. Robert Mellace

Coordinator

Phone: 1-304-558-3119

E-mail: rmellace@k12.wv.us

Roll Call and Introductions

State Council Members:

Compact Commissioner – Mr. Phillip Cantrell

State Superintendent of Schools – Mrs. Michele Blatt

County Superintendent of Schools – Cabell County Schools – Dr. Ryan Saxe

Military Installation Representative - WVNG – CPT Brittany Watson

Executive Branch Representative – Cabinet Secretary, WVDVA – Mr. Edward Diaz

WV Senate Member – Mr. Ryan Weld

WV House of Delegates Member – Mr. Bill Anderson

Military Family Education Liaison – Mr. Robert Mellace

DOD Representative:

NRMA Regional School Liaison – Mr. Chris Hendrix

Approval of Agenda/Minutes

Remarks

State Compact Commissioner

Mr. Phillip Cantrell

- Director West Virginia Mountaineer ChalleNGe Program
- Intergovernmental and External Affairs Liaison



Remarks

State Superintendent of Schools

Mrs. Michele Blatt

- 34th State Superintendent of Schools
- Appointed in June 2023
- Previously served as the following at the WVDE:
 - Leadership Development Coordinator
 - Executive Director of the Office of School Improvement
 - Chief Accountability Officer
 - Assistant Superintendent for the Division of Support and Accountability
 - Deputy State Superintendent



West Virginia Board of Education Goals:

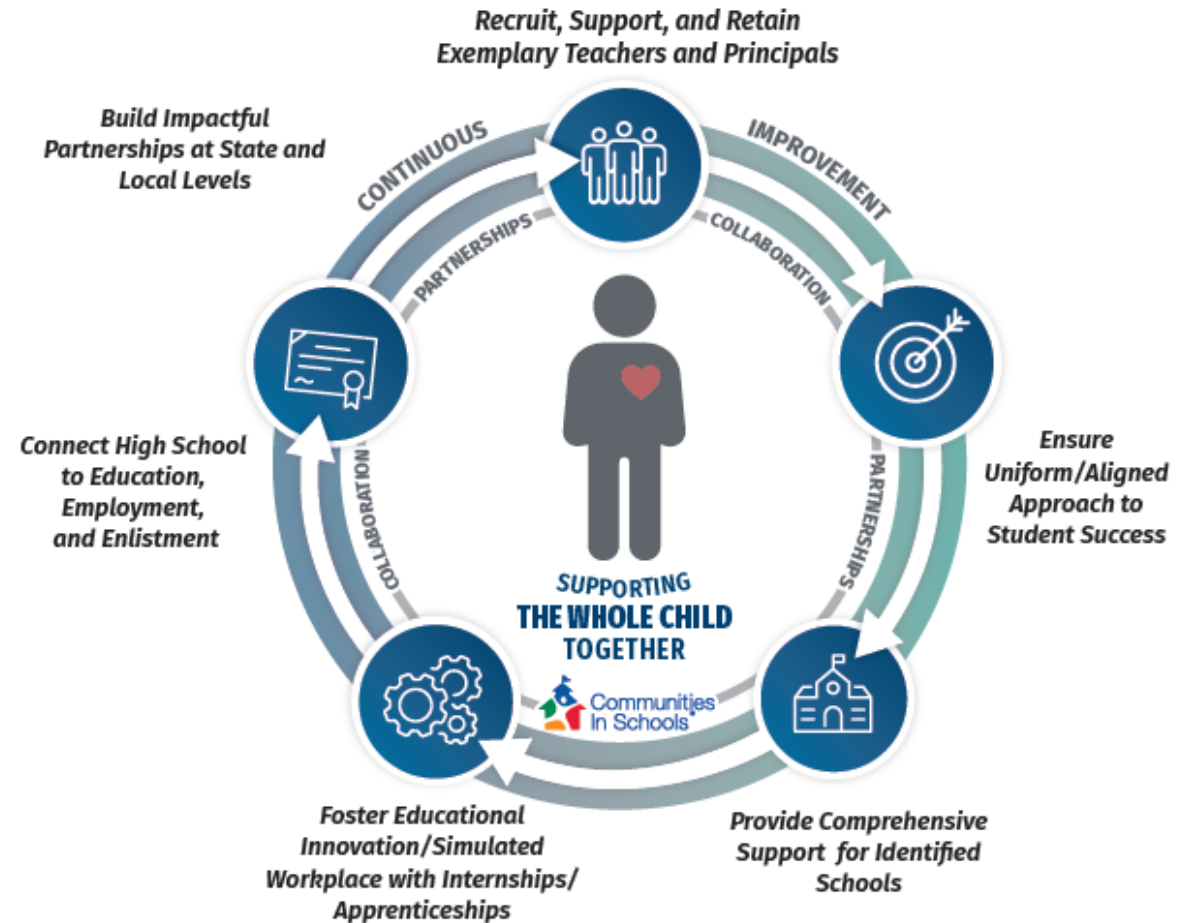
Every Student Prepared for Success:

Education, Employment, or Enlistment



Improve student outcomes by prioritizing reading, writing, and mathematics while maintaining continuous support and focus on student development and well-being.

ACTIONS:





MILITARY INTERSTATE
CHILDREN'S COMPACT
COMMISSION

Overview

Summary Information

National Annual Business Meeting Update

West Virginia Case Update



MILITARY INTERSTATE
CHILDREN'S COMPACT
COMMISSION

The Military Interstate Children's Compact was developed in 2006 and has been adopted by all 50 states, the District of Columbia and the Department of Defense Education Activity. The Compact eases the educational challenges that military children encounter, and supports uniform treatment as they transfer between school districts.

The Compact only applies to public schools.

Compact Quick Fact Guide

Goal of the Compact

To overcome transitional issues experienced by military families when their children move to a new school in another state.

Member States

All states and the District of Columbia.

Applies to

Active duty members of uniformed services including the National Guard and Reserve members on active duty orders pursuant to 10 U.S.C. §1209 and 1211, as well as veterans who are severely injured and medically discharged for one year after medical discharge or retirement, and veterans who die on active duty for a period of one year after death.

Educational Records

Receiving member states must accept unofficial records for initial enrollment and then the sending member state must submit official records within 10 days of receipt of the request for records.

Immunizations

A child who is unable to provide official documented proof of at least one dose of each required vaccination must be automatically enrolled and/or homebound services will be provided within 3 days, to ensure educational services are immediately provided while the first dose(s) of all required immunizations are confirmed. Note: Tuberculosis testing is currently not required for enrollment in WV schools.

Kindergarten and 1st Grade

Entrance Age

A student who moves may continue in the same grade in the receiving state regardless of the entrance age requirements of the receiving state.

Course and Educational Program Placement

School districts must initially honor equivalent course enrollment or program placement (ex. Gifted, AP, etc.), if available. Then, evaluation may occur to ensure appropriate placement. Space must be available, and member states must demonstrate reasonable accommodations.

Special Education

Receiving schools must use the sending state's IEP until a new IEP may be conducted/evaluated.

Placement Flexibility

The Compact encourages schools to waive course prerequisites as appropriate to the content, when similar coursework was completed (ex. Requirement to pass Geometry before taking Algebra).

Absence Related to Deployment

The Compact establishes guidelines for enhanced flexibility with excused absences for military families on active duty orders (one month before deployment and six months after return).

Enrollment

During deployments it may be necessary for students to stay with a non-custodial parent or someone in loco parentis. Guardianship of a student under these circumstances should not prevent or negatively impact enrollment (a power of attorney is sufficient). The family may keep their school as long as the guardian provides transportation.

Extracurricular Participation

Deadlines for application are not grounds for disqualification. The school must demonstrate reasonable accommodation, but is not required to hold open or create additional space on teams.

Course Waivers

Substituting equivalent coursework is required (ex. West Virginia History for Ohio History). Reasonable justification is required for denial of a course waiver.

Transfers as a Senior in High School

The receiving state works with the sending school district to issue a diploma, if the student is a senior in High School (ex. using a memorandum of understanding between schools).



Importance of MIC3 in WV

- Military children transition between 6-9 times during K-12.
- Soldiers experiencing deployments can focus on missions knowing provisions protect their families.
- The participation of every state in the Compact supports military readiness across the nation.
- Soldiers with families transitioning from other states into West Virginia receive reasonable accommodations provided by Compact.
- Soldiers from West Virginia transitioning into other states for the completion of their active-duty military orders are supported by other states participating in the Compact.

West Virginia's Approach: Proactive Communications with Educators and Military Families Statewide

Including -

- Annual State Superintendent's update message
- Development of a brochure and guidance document for West Virginia
- WV Common Ground Partnership Activities
 - WVDE MIC3 page on the Common Ground website
 - Purple Star School Military Family Points of Contact receive MIC3 training
 - MIC3 professional development

MIC3 Annual Business Meeting (ABM) Updates

- Revisited the need for technical corrections to existing MIC3 Compact language (see handout)
- Procedural votes on bylaws and rules amendments, etc.
- Reviewed Department of Defense priorities
- Discussed the possibility of saving funds by holding the annual business meeting every other year
- Highlighted best practices of West Virginia and other states
- Record keeping of cases and requests from the national office discussed



MILITARY INTERSTATE
CHILDREN'S COMPACT
COMMISSION

Cases Reported to the State and Qualifying for Provisions of MIC3:

FY 2020 – 1

FY 2021 – 0

FY 2022 – 0 (1 inquiry reported, did not qualify)

FY 2023 – 0

FY 2024 – 0 (1 inquiry reported, did not seek qualification)



MILITARY INTERSTATE
CHILDREN'S COMPACT
COMMISSION

Qualifying Inquiry – Occurring FY 2020

Issue: A student moved from WY to WV with a high school level integrated science course completed, but high school equivalency was not identified on the transcript and the name of the course did not match Earth and Space Science, which was a required prerequisite in WV for the student to begin Biology I at the appropriate grade level.

- The parent contacted the WV State Compact Commissioner and the WVDE contacted the WV school district. A phone conference was facilitated to find resolutions.
- As a result of the conversation, the WV school district's central office staff member analyzed the transcript further and contacted the WY school district to seek clarity.

Resolution: The student received course credit equivalent to Earth and Space Science at the high school level in WV, allowing enrollment in Biology I at the appropriate grade level.

MIC3

MILITARY INTERSTATE
CHILDREN'S COMPACT
COMMISSION



Overview: Common Ground Partnership



Mission Established in 2011:
Supporting the Success of All Students

Supporting the West Virginia Board of Education's Three E's of Career Readiness:
Employment, Education, and Enlistment



20 Partnering Organizations:

- Office of the Governor
- West Virginia Board of Education
- West Virginia Department of Education
- WV Department of Veterans Assistance
- Military Recruiting Stations (Active/Reserve) from the Air Force, Army, Navy and Marines
- West Virginia Air and Army National Guard
- Military Entrance Processing Command Beckley
- West Virginia Wing – Civil Air Patrol
- West Virginia Congress of Parents and Teachers
- Prevent Suicide WV
- Military Officers Association of America for WV
- West Virginia American Legion
- West Virginia Veterans of Foreign Wars
- West Virginia Task Force Miner

Speaker Series

15 of 18 Educator Requests Met

Topics:

- Career exploration
- Promoting literacy
- Substance abuse prevention
- Bullying prevention
- Importance of staying in school and graduating
- American flag protocols
- Patriotic holidays or events
- Other



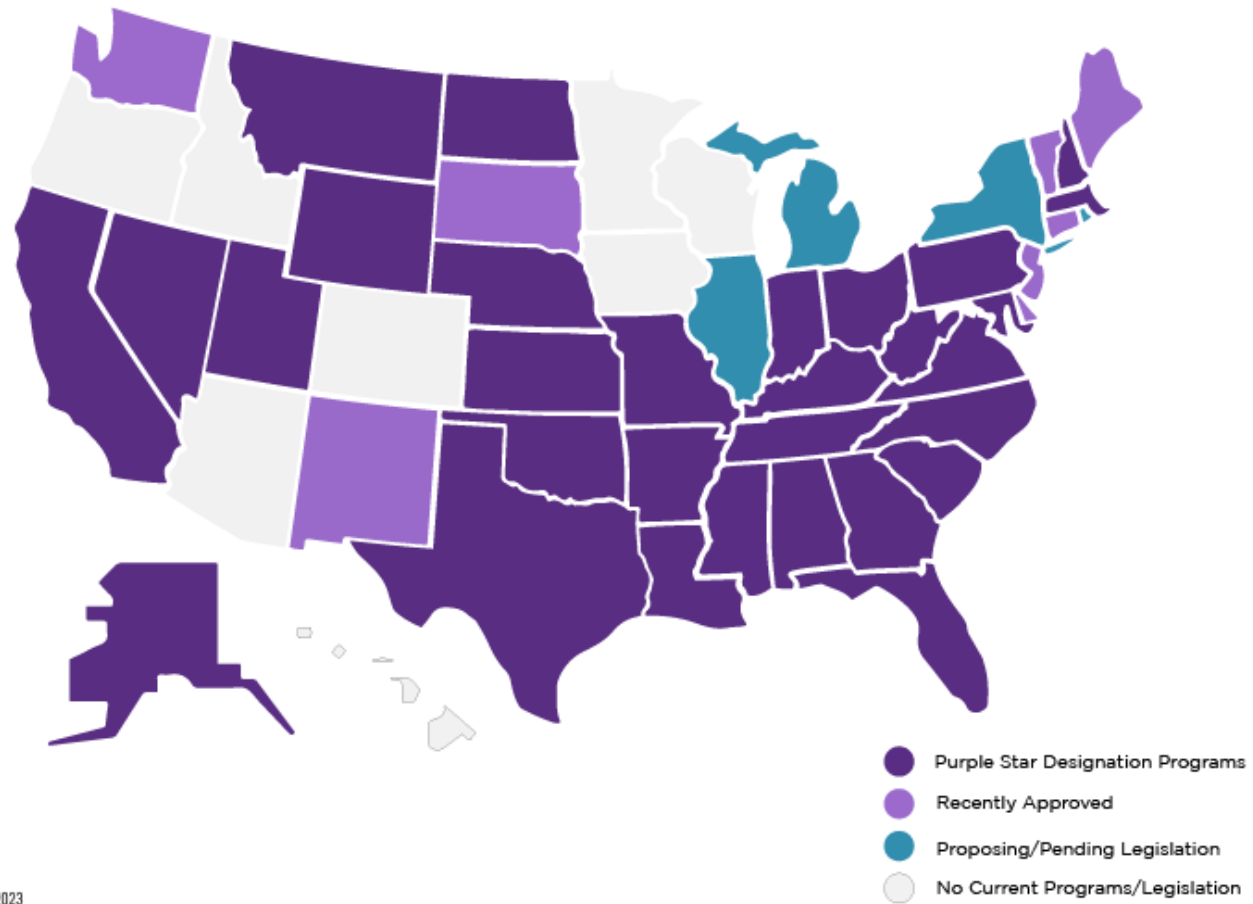


PURPLE STAR AWARD

WEST VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Purple Star Award Programs Across America



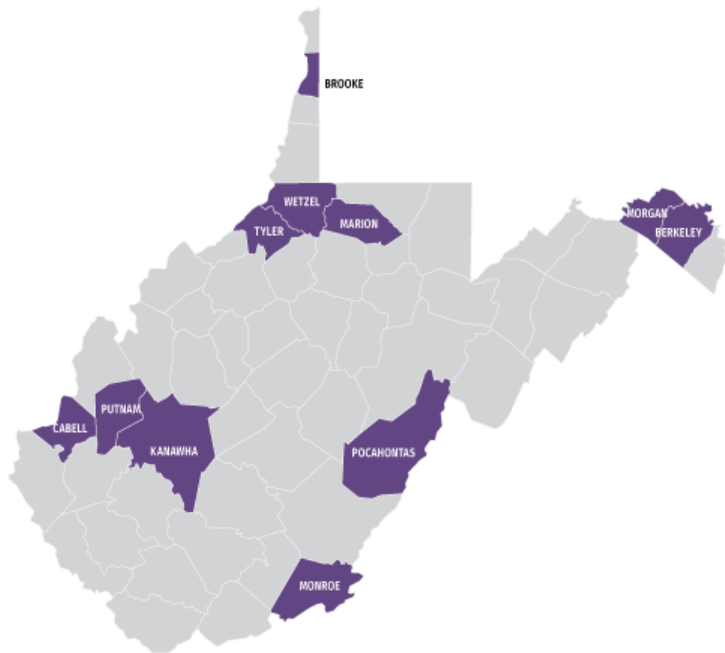
Revised 10.10.2023

Purple Star Award in West Virginia: 1st and 2nd Class Results

11 County Board
Resolutions/Actions

9 of 55 Counties are
Purple Star Districts

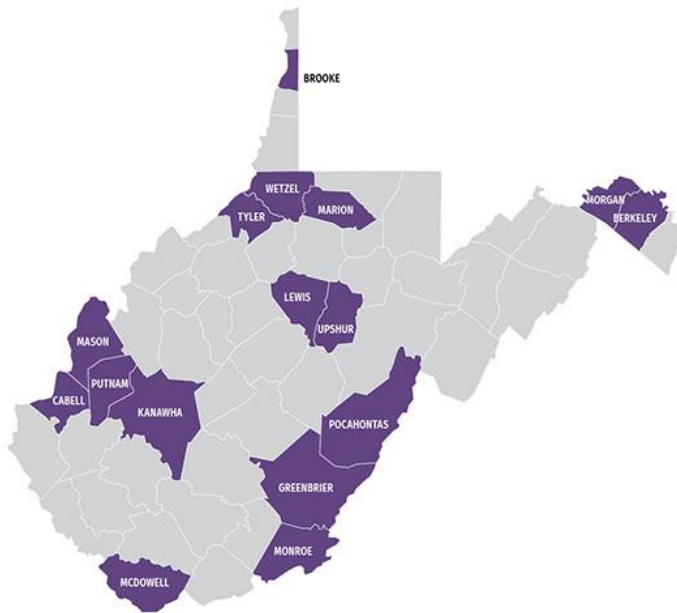
198 of 637 Public
Schools are Purple
Star Schools



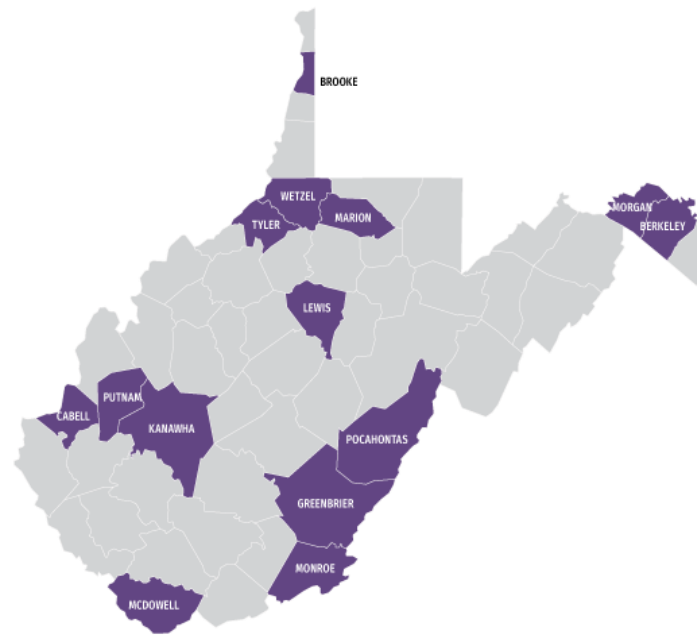
2 Mountaineer
Challenge Academies
are Purple Star
Schools

Purple Star Award in West Virginia: 3rd Class Results

16 County Board
Resolutions/Actions



14 of 55 Counties
are Purple Star
Districts



270 Schools are Purple
Star Schools
(1st, 2nd and 3rd Class)

2 Mountaineer
Challenge Academies
are Purple Star
Schools



PURPLE STAR AWARD
WEST VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Criteria For Purple Star Award Recipients:

Purple Star Schools

- Identify a military family point of contact at the school who successfully completes [the required course](#) with a quiz score of 100%. Provide the course certificate to the principal for upload within the school's application.
- Provide a link to the Common Ground Partnership's homepage on the school's website, which features a wide variety of useful resources for military families
- Describe a plan to support military children and their families throughout the three-year period of the award recognition.
- Commit to annually celebrating Purple Up Day, on a day of the school's choice during the month of April (the Month of the Military Child)
- Provide evidence of officially scheduling or conducting at least two additional types of military support activities during the identified period described on the application. *Schools may receive credit for one military support activity if the county board of education issues a resolution or takes documented action in support of military-connected children and their families.*
- Principal certification of assurance statements, submitting the application

MIC3 Professional Development – Military Family Points of Contact

- The West Virginia Department of Education and Compact Commissioner collaborated with the Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission (MIC3) to offer a free learning session for West Virginia educators covering the basics of MIC3.
- Over 50 educators registered for the training.
- A video of the training may be accessed: <https://wvde.us/commonground/purplestaraward/>



West Virginia Compact 101 Training Feb. 2022

April is...

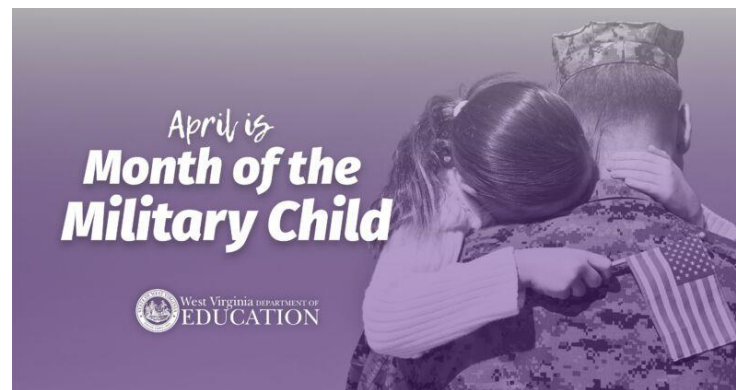


MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

Our PURPLE UP! day is... April

WEAR PURPLE
to support our military students!

www.MilitaryChild.org



Schools statewide participated in Purple Up Day and Spirit Week in 2023.

In 2023-2024 all schools seeking a Purple Star Award celebrate Purple Up Day annually.

MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

SPRIT WEEK

#NGCYS23 #WVNGCYP #COMMONGROUNDWV



<p>MONDAY 17 APRIL</p> <p>★</p> <p>Military Monday</p> <p>Army, Air Force, Marine, Navy, Coast Guard... wear a shirt to show your favorite branch.</p>	<p>TUESDAY 18 APRIL</p> <p>★</p> <p>Crazy Camo Day</p> <p>ACU's, hunting gear... take today to wear your favorite camo.</p>	<p>WEDNESDAY 19 APRIL</p> <p>★</p> <p>Purple Up Day</p> <p>Wear purple in honor of our military kids.</p>
<p>THURSDAY 20 APRIL</p> <p>★</p> <p>Red, White & Blue Day</p> <p>Wear red, white, and blue to support our military families.</p>	<p>FRIDAY 21 APRIL</p> <p>★</p> <p>RED Day</p> <p>Wear red to remember everyone deployed.</p>	

Thank You for taking part in supporting Military Kids!

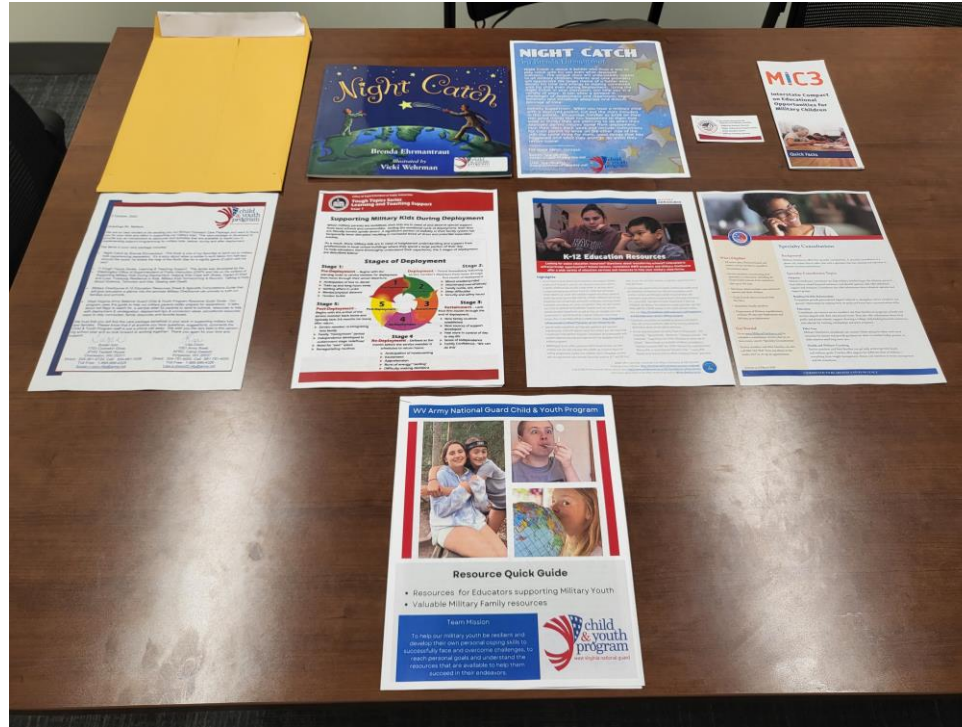
We are excited to see your pictures supporting our military kids during Spirit Week! Email Susan, Lisa, & Robert below or post to our social media using the hashtags: **#WVNGCYP and #CommonGroundWV**

★

To Email your pictures send to:

Susan Izzo: susan.c.izzo.nfg@army.mil | Lisa Dixon: lisa.a.dixon22.nfg@army.mil | Robert Mellace: rmellace@k12.wv.us

Care Packages for West Virginia Elementary School Educators



The West Virginia National Guard (WVNG) received more than **30** [care package requests](#) for West Virginia elementary school educators of military-connected children.



MILITARY SIGNING WEEK

THE 2ND ANNUAL MILITARY SIGNING WEEK OCCURRED ON

APRIL 24-28, 2023

During this week schools were encouraged to conduct locally held events which celebrate students attending high school who made a special commitment to serve and defend the public as a member of the United States Armed Forces. While some events occurred outside of the recognized week, all occurred near the end of the school year and provided students a unique opportunity to learn about military career paths that may be available to them upon graduation.

35

West Virginia schools participating in Military Signing Week and related events

181

Students recognized for commitments to military services

58

Army National Guard

35

Military Branch Unknown

32

Active or Reserve Army

20

Active or Reserve Navy

10

Active or Reserve Air Force

17

Active or Reserve Marines

9

Air National Guard





MILITARY SIGNING WEEK



Career Exploration for Students:

Collaborating with WVDE/WVU STEAM Technical Assistance Center to explore enhancing communications about military-based STEM kit programs, available to West Virginia educators:

- Civil Air Patrol Aerospace Education Program
 - Aviation, Space and Cyber kits for Middle School or High School
 - Aerospace Connections in Education (ACE) kits for K-6
- Navy Talent Acquisition Group (NTAG) Pittsburgh
 - SeaPerch kits
- WV National Guard
 - Tetrax robotics kits



Military-Based STEM Programs Brochure

Common Ground Partners offer a wide variety of programs which help educators boost student engagement and explore career fields related to Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM).



The Department of Defense STEM website may be accessed at dodstem.us.

To learn more about the Common Ground Partnership, please contact:

Robert P. Mellace III
E-mail: rmelloce@k12.wv.us
Phone: 304-558-3119

<https://wvde.us/commonground>

Military-Based STEM Education Programs

CIVIL AIR PATROL

As a non-profit auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force, students participating in this program contribute to a real-life mission in service to the public. Cadet members of the West Virginia Wing learn about leadership, are immersed in aerospace education and mentored in physical fitness. Cadet experiences may lead to earning credit for promotion(s) if they decide to enlist into the military or a private pilot certificate. For complete details, visit www.cap.gov.

AEROSPACE EDUCATION MEMBER (AEM) PROGRAM FOR EDUCATORS

The Civil Air Patrol's Aerospace Education Member (AEM) program is designed to support education in grades K-12. Educators who become members may use an online portal to request STEM kits with lesson plans which can be integrated into classroom instruction and kept by the school upon completion of activities. Teacher orientation program (TOP) flights are offered in aircraft stationed at local airports to educators who are members of the AEM program. AEM members may participate in one TOP Flight per fiscal year (1 Oct - 30 Sept) in powered or glider aircraft where available and as funding allows. To learn more, visit www.gocivilairpatrol.com/programs/.



PATRIOT GUARDIENS

This grant-funded program provides non-formal agricultural education and hands-on learning opportunities to veterans, active duty members of the military, and their families. Patriot Guardians is actively piloting partnerships with elementary, middle, and high schools in collaboration with the Future Leaders Program in Putnam County. Contact Melissa Stewart, Director of Patriot Guardians, at melissa.lstewart22.nfg@army.mil.



WEST VIRGINIA ARMY NATIONAL GUARD (WVARNNG) ROBOTICS KITS

The WVARNG's Recruiting and Retention office has five recruiting sectors covering the entire state and each sector has a STEM Robotics Kit that they can brief educators on at the beginning of the school year. To learn more about this opportunity and request an educator brief, schools may visit the Common Ground Partnership's website to review an *informative handout* and contact MSG Derek Tilley at derek.L.tilley@army.mil or 304-561-6389.

AIR FORCE AND SPACE FORCE STEM

The Air and Space STEM Outreach websites at <https://dafstem.us> and <https://afstem.nepris.com/> offer information about the STEM to Sky Program, connecting educators with Airmen and Guardians for guest speaking encounters which inspire students to learn about their careers and passions surrounding STEM. Educators may view live events, sign up for their newsletter and request 1:1 classroom connections with professionals from the Air Force and Space Force.



NAVY STEM OPPORTUNITIES

Navy Talent Acquisition Group (NTAG) Pittsburgh, is seeking partnerships with high school educators in Barbour, Brooke, Calhoun, Doddridge, Gilmer, Hancock, Harrison, Lewis, Marion, Marshall, Monongalia, Ohio, Preston, Ritchie, Taylor, Tucker, Tyler, Upshur, and Wetzel counties and offers SeaPerch underwater robotics STEM kits on a limited basis. Educators interested in this activity may contact Samuel Lenhardt at 1-724-691-5651 or samuel.j.lenhardt.mil@us.navy.mil.

ARMY EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH PROGRAM (AEOP)

This program strives to enhance STEM literacy by offering competitions, symposiums, and summer enrichment programs. The eCYBERMISSION initiative offers a student competition and mini-grants to qualifying educators. To learn more, visit www.usaeop.com/educators/.

STARBASE



This premier educational program engages students through an inquiry-based curriculum on a National Guard facility. The 25 hours of stimulating "hands-on, minds-on" activities in STEM are provided with the primary focus being fifth grade. There are two Department of Defense STARBASE sites located within West Virginia. STARBASE Martinsburg is located at the 167th Airlift Wing and STARBASE Charleston is located at the 130th Airlift Wing. To inquire about opportunities to partner with the program, contact:

» **Martinsburg**
Sherra Triggs
sb.martinsburg@dodstarbase.org
304-616-5501

» **Charleston**
Kayla Bossie
sb.wv-charleston@dodstarbase.org
304-341-6441


West Virginia National Guard in Education

MCA and FLP



Career Support for Military Families

Veteran Teacher Recruitment





TeachWV [Become a Teacher](#) [Explore the Profession](#) [Stories](#) [Contact Us](#)

Discover your potential. Find your purpose. Become a teacher.

Whether you're a high school student, a college graduate, a certified teacher from out-of-state, returning to the classroom, or somewhere in-between, there is a pathway for you. Let us help you get there!

Choose your education level

No Degree or Diploma



Veterans in the Classroom

West Virginia recognizes veterans' unique qualities in the classroom and provides specialized career counseling that can aid in transitioning veterans into a career in education.

[Military Resources](#)



Superintendent Michele L. Blatt Message To Retired Military

Watch later Share

Watch on YouTube

A Message for Retiring Veterans

State Superintendent of Schools, Mrs. Michele Blatt, encourages retiring military service members to serve in West Virginia schools.

A Message for Retiring Veterans



Common Ground Compact Signing Event

December 7, 2021



Targeted Compact Re-Signing Event

November 2024

Roundtable Discussion:



Closing Remarks

Compact Commissioner:

Mr. Phillip Cantrell

pcantrell07@gmail.com

Military Family Education Liaison:

Mr. Robert Mellace

rmellace@k12.wv.us or 1-304-558-3119