

Purple Star FAQs



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

A: 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 and then the district will need to re-apply for the Purple Star Award at the end of the 2-year cycle.

For example, a district that receives the Purple Star Award in 2023-2024 school year will maintain the award through 2024-2025 school year and will need to reapply again for 2025-2026 school year. Assuming the award application opens during the summer of 2025, that would be the optimal time for the district to reapply to ensure maintenance of the district Purple Star Award for another 2-year cycle.

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

A: This year's application cycle has begun and will be open through February 28, 2025. The application is accessible on OSPI and WASA websites and can also be found [here](#). Purple Star Award recipients will be announced in April 2025.

Q: What is the application process?

A: Interested districts complete the online application available on both OSPI and WASA websites. Once the application closes, they reviewed by WASA team members 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; 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.

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: Where can districts go to receive the training needed to meet Purple Star Award requirements?

A: PennState, Clearinghouse for Military Family Readiness has the needed professional development in a series of modules to help you meet the professional development requirements. The series is located [here](#) as well as a [FAQ page](#). Plan your time in advance to move through the modules. Each module takes about 10-15 minutes and there are 40 of them. Taking your time allows you to process the information, better serving you and our military students and families.

Q: How many staff at a school and district level need to be trained 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 professional development. It is, however, beneficial for military students if other staff, including educators working with these 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 our 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 received 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.



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