# Superintendent’s Memo #073-20


**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Education**

DATE: March 20, 2020

TO: Division Superintendents

FROM: James F. Lane, E.D., and Superintendent of Public Instruction

## SUBJECT: Month of the Military Child

The Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) will once again take time in April to honor and celebrate military connected students across the Commonwealth. Frequent moves, family separations through deployments, and reintegration following deployments can make school, home, and community-life challenging for military children. Yet, even in such circumstances, these students continually demonstrate resilience and perseverance. Their contributions to our schools and communities also include unique and valuable perspectives on learning, friendship, and growing up.

Virginia is a proud member of the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children and is committed to the care and education of the children of the men and women of our armed forces. By collaborating with school liaison officers, military leaders, educators, and community organizations, DOE provides resources about the unique support needed for military service members and their families during all stages of transition and deployment. While April has been designated as the Month of the Military Child, schools and school divisions are encouraged to take time throughout the year to recognize the nation’s military servicemen and servicewomen, their families, and their children.

To assist schools in planning Month of the Military Child celebrations, VDOE has developed resources, which are available on [VDOE’s Military Families](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/support/student_family/military/index.shtml) webpages. The agency encourages schools to use these materials and ideas in planning Month of the Military Child activities throughout April.

Also, April 22, 2020, is **“Purple Up! For Military Kids” Day.** VDOE encourages the entire school community – teachers, principals, students, parents, bus drivers, and staff to wear purple on April 22, 2020, to show support for our military students and appreciation for their strength and sacrifices. Purple represents the blending of the colors of the five branches of our armed forces. Virginia is proud to be home to the Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marine Corps, Navy, and National Guard and Reserve families. VDOE has provided flyers, available on [VDOE’s Month of the Military Child](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/support/student_family/military/resources/military_children/index.shtml) webpage to display in your school for the Purple Up! Celebration.

VDOE hopes that schools share their “Purple Up!” and “Month of the Military Child” photos by using the hashtag #PurpleUpVirginia on social media. Photos and/or descriptions of your activities can also be sent to Dan Dunham, VDOE Military Student and Family Specialist, by email at Dan.Dunham@doe.virginia.gov, for sharing with the Virginia Council on the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children.

For more information on Month of the Military Child, or resources for military-connected students, please contact Dan Dunham, VDOE Military Student and Family Specialist, by email at Dan.Dunham@doe.virginia.gov, or by telephone at (804) 225-2157.

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