



**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA**  
**Department of Education**

**DATE:** June 15, 2018  
**TO:** Division Superintendents  
**FROM:** James F. Lane, Superintendent of Public Instruction  
**SUBJECT:** **The Virginia Purple Star Designation for Schools**

The Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) in collaboration with The Virginia Council on the Interstate Compact on the Educational Opportunity of Military Children (The Council) is pleased to announce the launching of the Purple Star Designation program for Virginia schools. The Virginia Purple Star Designation is awarded to military-friendly schools that have demonstrated a major commitment to military-connected students and their families. Schools that earn the award will receive a special Purple Star recognition to display onsite and will be listed as a Purple Star School on the VDOE Military Families webpage. This distinction is used in other states around the nation and is recognized by military families.

In order for the schools to qualify for the Purple Star Designation award, they must first complete an application and document their completion of require activities. Additional information about qualifiers and the application are included in the program's information packet. The Virginia Department of Education's Military Student Support Process Action Team will review all applications received and will forward those that meet award qualifications on to The Council who will make the final decision on awardees.

Applications and the program information packet for the 2018-2019 school year are now being accepted through September 28, 2018. The information packet is available for download at the Virginia Department of Education's Military Families Support [page at http://www.doe.virginia.gov/support/student\\_family/military/index.shtml](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/support/student_family/military/index.shtml).

For additional information or questions about the application and program qualifiers, please contact Dan Dunham, Military Student and Family Specialist, by email at [dan.dunham@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:dan.dunham@doe.virginia.gov), or by telephone at (804) 225-2157.

JFL/DLD/rt