




Mohammed Choudhury
State Superintendent of Schools

To: Members of the State Board of Education
From: Mohammed Choudhury, State Superintendent of School: 
Date: September 27, 2022
Subject: Permission to publish COMAR 13A.06.10 *Purple Star Schools Program*

Purpose

The purpose of this item is to request permission to publish COMAR 13A.06.10 *Purple Star Schools Program*.

Regulation Promulgation Process

Under Maryland law, a state agency, such as the State Board, may propose a new or amended regulation whenever the circumstances arise to do so. After the State Board votes to propose such a regulation, the proposed regulation is sent to the Administrative, Executive, and Legislative Review (AELR) Committee for a 15-day review period. If the AELR Committee does not hold up the proposed regulation for further review, it is published in the Maryland Register for a 30-day public comment period. At the end of the comment period, Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) staff reviews and summarizes the public comments. Thereafter, MSDE staff will present a recommendation to the State Board of Education to either: (1) adopt the regulation in the form it was proposed; or (2) revise the regulation and adopt it as final because the suggested revision is not a substantive change; or (3) revise the regulation and re-propose it because the suggested revision is a substantive change. At any time during this process, the AELR Committee may stop the promulgation process and hold a hearing. Thereafter, it may recommend to the Governor that the regulation not be adopted as a final regulation or the AELR Committee may release the regulation for final adoption.

Background/Historical Perspective

In 2022, the Maryland General Assembly approved Education Article §7-129 establishing the Purple Star Schools Program to recognize public schools that provide strong services and support for military-connected students and their families when, as a result of military service, a military-connected student transfers schools.

Executive Summary

The proposed regulation establishes the criteria for applying and the benchmarks a public school must meet to qualify as a Purple Star School.

Action

Request permission to publish COMAR 13A.06.10. *Purple Star Schools Program*.

Attachments

Attachment: COMAR 13A.08.06.10 *Purple Star Schools Program*.pdf

Title 13A STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Subtitle 06 SUPPORTING PROGRAMS

Chapter 10 Purple Star Schools Program

.01 Purpose.

The purpose of this chapter is to implement Education Article, §7-129, Annotated Code of Maryland, which establishes a Purple Star Schools Program to recognize public schools that provide strong services and support for military-connected students and their families when, as a result of military service, a military connected student transfers schools.

.02 Definitions.

- A. In this chapter, the following terms have the meanings indicated.
- B. Terms Defined.
 - (1) “Department” means the Maryland State Department of Education.
 - (2) “Military-connected student” means a student who is a dependent of:
 - (a) A current member of:
 - (i) The United States military serving in the Army, Navy, Air Force, Space Force, Marine Corps, or Coast Guard on active duty;
 - (ii) The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Commissioned Officer Corps;
 - (iii) The Public Health Service Commissioned Corps;
 - (iv) The Maryland National Guard; or
 - (v) A reserve force of the United States military; or
 - (b) A member of a military or reserve force described in §B(2)(a) of this regulation who was killed in the line of duty.

.03 Criteria.

- A. To be eligible for designation as a Purple Star School, a public school shall:
 - (1) Designate a staff member as a military liaison, whose duties include:
 - (a) Identifying military-connected students who are newly enrolled or soon to be enrolled at the school;
 - (b) Serving as the point of contact between the school and the newly enrolled or soon to be enrolled military-connected students and their families;
 - (c) Determining appropriate school services available to newly enrolled or soon to be enrolled military-connected students;
 - (d) Assisting in coordinating school programs for newly enrolled or soon to be enrolled military-connected students;
 - (e) Providing information, resources, and professional development to school staff on the needs of military-connected students and their families; and
 - (f) Generally aiding with a military-connected student’s transition to a new school;
 - (2) Establish on the school’s website an easily accessible webpage that includes resources for military-connected students and their families, including information regarding:
 - (a) Relocation to, enrollment at, registration at, and transferring records to the school;
 - (b) Preparation for a move from a student’s current school to the school at which the student will be newly enrolled or is soon to be enrolled;

- (c) Academic planning, course sequences, advanced classes, and graduation requirements;
 - (d) Special education and related services; and
 - (e) Counseling and other support services available for military-connected students transitioning into the school;
 - (3) Maintain a transition program led by students at the school, whenever appropriate, and overseen by the designated military liaison that assists military-connected students enrolled at the school by:
 - (a) Facilitating guided tours of the campus;
 - (b) Organizing an orientation to familiarize the new student with school information; and
 - (c) If requested, accompanying the student throughout the campus during the first week of school during school hours; and
 - (4) Offer professional development to school staff on issues related to military-connected students transferring to new schools.
- B. A public school may partner with the county board to fulfill the criteria described in §A of this regulation to qualify as a Purple Star School.

.04 Application and Renewal.

- A. To be considered for designation as a Purple Star School, a public school's military liaison shall complete an application available on the Department's website.
- B. The Department will release the Purpose Star School application on December 1 of each year, beginning with the 2023-2024 school year.
- C. A public school that receives the Purple Star School designation shall hold the designation for a period of two school years and be eligible to reapply for the designation in the final year of the two-year period.
- D. A public school that fails to receive the Purple Star School designation is eligible to reapply for the designation the following year.

.05 Selection Process.

- A. The Department shall identify a panel of stakeholders to review Purple Star School applications based on the criteria described in Regulation .03 of this chapter.
- B. The Department shall issue its decision on a Purple Star School application no later than the end of the school year in the local school system where the applicant school is located.