

TO: Members of the State Board of Education

FROM: Carey M. Wright, Ed.D., State Superintendent of Schools 

DATE: January 28, 2025

SUBJECT: COMAR 13A.06.10
Purple Star Schools Program
Permission to Adopt

Purpose

The purpose of this item is to request permission to adopt an amendment to COMAR 13A.06.10 *Purple Star Schools*.

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. In 2024, the Maryland General Assembly passed House Bill 1026/Senate Bill 707 *Armed Forces – Support of Military Families and Addition of Space Force*. This legislation adds students who are dependents of a current member of the Space Force or the National Guard of any other state to the definition of “military-connected student” for the purposes of the Purple Star Schools Program.

Background

The State Board voted to adopt COMAR 13.A.06.10 *Purple Star Schools Program* in February 2023. The proposed amendment to the regulation adds dependents of members of the National Guard of any other state to the definition of military-connected student to align with the new legislation. Dependents of members of the Space Force are already included in the regulation. This amendment was brought before the State Board on September 24, 2024, requesting permission to publish. The State Board approved this request, and the regulation was published in the Maryland Register from December 2, 2024, to January 2, 2025, for public comment. No comments were received

Executive Summary

The State Board voted to adopt COMAR 13.A.06.10 Purple Star Schools Program in February 2023. The proposed amendment to the regulation adds dependents of members of the National Guard of any other state to the definition of military-connected student to align with the new legislation. Dependents of members of the Space Force are already included in the regulation. This amendment was brought before the State Board on September 24, 2024, requesting permission to publish. The State Board approved this request, and the regulation was published in the Maryland Register from December 2, 2024, to January 2, 2025, for public comment. No comments were received.

Action

MSDE requests permission to adopt amended regulation COMAR 13A.06.10 *Purple Star Schools Program*.

Attachments

COMAR 13A.06.10 *Purple Star Schools Program*

Title 13A STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Subtitle 06 SUPPORTING PROGRAMS

Chapter 10 Purple Star Schools Program

Authority: Education Article, §§2-205 and 7-129, Annotated Code of Maryland

.01 Purpose.

The purpose of this action 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) The National Guard of any other State; or

(vi) 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 Purple 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.