The Montana Office of Public Instruction and the Montana Military Interstate Children’s Compact Commission is accepting Purple Star School Designation applications for Round 2 from August 1, 2021 to October 31, 2021. Award recipients will be announced on November 30, 2021.

The Purple Star School Designation for military-friendly schools recognizes schools that show a major commitment to students and families connected to our nation’s military. Schools that earn the award will receive a special Purple Star recognition to display onsite.

A school will be honored with the Purple Star School Designation if it completes all the required activities, plus one optional activity, listed below. The Purple Star Advisory Board, formed by the Montana Office of Public Instruction, Superintendents, Military Representatives, and Montana Legislators helps decide a school’s eligibility for the award.

REQUIRED ACTIVITIES

School Liaison
- The school must have a point of contact for military students and families who serves as the primary liaison between them and the school.
  - The liaison completes professional development on special considerations for military students and families. The Military Interstate Children’s Compact Commission has training available online or in person which may be used to complete this requirement. Access this free training by emailing mic3info@csg.org or calling 859-244-8000. The Military Child Education Coalition has training programs available at https://www.militarychild.org/.
  - The liaison identifies and informs teachers of the military-connected students in their classrooms and the special considerations military families and students should receive.

Military Support Resources
- The school maintains a dedicated page on its website or in the school newsletter featuring resources for military families.

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES
- The school provides professional development for additional staff on special considerations for military students and families.
- The local school board passes a resolution publicizing the school’s support for military children and families.
- The school hosts a military recognition event that demonstrates a military-friendly culture.
- Other activities approved by the Montana Military Interstate Children’s Compact Commission