



AGENDA

THE ARKANSAS COUNCIL FOR MILITARY CHILDREN COUNCIL MEETING AND MILITARY FAMILY FORUM

Thursday, February 12, 2026, 10:00 A.M.

ONLINE MEETING ONLY

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Meeting ID: 231 202 962 226 0

Passcode: YM72Kn7H

- I. Call to Order and Roll Call (J. Kaminar, A. Cress)
- II. Pledge of Allegiance (C. Teeter)
- III. Introduction of Special Visitors (J. Kaminar)
- IV. Approval of Agenda*** (J. Kaminar)
- V. Approval of Minutes (October 2, 2025 and December 4, 2025)*** (J. Kaminar) (1, 2)
- VI. Public Comments (J. Kaminar)
- VII. Chair's Report (J. Kaminar)
 - A. Purple Star School Status (3)
 - B. Goals Update (4)
- VIII. Vice Chair's Report (A. Wright)
- IX. Reports by Committees, Task Forces, or Liaisons
 - A. Awards Committee (Dr. J. Walker)
 - 1. JROTC Award (Dr. J. Walker)
 - 2. Outstanding Military Scholar Award (J. Walker)
 - 3. Proposed Change to Military Kid of the Month Program (J. Walker)
 - B. Outreach Committee (J. Bergstrom)
 - 1. Digital Guide for Military Families (J. Bergstrom)
 - 2. Military Family Forum, January 22, 2025 (J. Bergstrom)
 - C. Strategic Planning Committee (J. Reynolds)

1. Service Project for Purple Star Schools (J. Reynolds)
 2. Annual Leadership Workshop for Children of Military Families (J. Reynolds)
- D. Military Family Education Liaison (B. Olles)
 - E. Department of Defense Liaison (Col. K. Smith)
 - F. Special Education Liaison (R. Porter)
 - G. Gold Star Families Advisor (C. Swindle)
- X. Student Advisor Reports (A. Pitts)
- A. Beebe High School (C. Carranco) (5)
 - B. Cabot High School (A. Berryhill) (6)
 - C. Malvern High School (C. Teeter) (7)
 - D. Greenwood High School (W. Arnett) (8)
- XI. Old Business (J. Kaminar)
- A. Proposed Change to Newsletter Publication Schedule – Outreach Committee (J. Kaminar)
- XII. New Business (J. Kaminar)
- A. Appointment of Liaison from Arkansas Department of Veterans Affairs*** (J. Kaminar)
- XIII. Date/Time/Place for Next Meeting – April 2, 2026, 10:00 AM, Greenwood School District (J. Kaminar)
- XIV. Adjournment*** (J. Kaminar)

*** Indicates a vote is required

Parenthesized numbers in green typeface indicate documents to be presented at the meeting. Documents may be viewed [at this link](#).



MINUTES

ARKANSAS COUNCIL FOR MILITARY CHILDREN

Thursday, February 12, 2026, 10:00 AM

I. Call to Order and Roll Call (J. Kaminar, A. Cress)

The Arkansas Council for Military Children was called to order at approximately 10:11 AM on February 12, 2026 by Chair. John Kaminar.

Chair Kaminar thanked members for their flexibility in rescheduling the meeting from February 5 to February 12 and noted that the meeting had originally been planned to take place in the Malvern School District. He stated that the Council would return to Malvern at a later date to allow the district the opportunity to host. The Chair also directed non-Council participants to complete the sign-in form.

Chair Kaminar requested that Ms. Cress call the roll of Council members.

PRESENT:

Col. John Kaminar, Chair
Ms. Laura Hopkins (proxy for Ms. Jody Bergstrom)
Rep. Karilyn Brown
Mr. John Ciesla
Ms. Amanda Sanders (proxy for Lt. Col. James Garvey)
Ms. Christina Harper
Ms. Crystal Parker
Ms. Whitney Mallham
Mr. Brian Melton
Ms. LaShawnda Noel
Ms. Bobbie Olles – Military Family Education Liaison
Dr. Janice Walker (proxy for Dr. Jeremy Owoh)
Ms. Crystal Parker
Ms. Jennifer Reynolds
Ms. Jessica Saum
Ms. Emily Taylor
Ms. Terri Williams
Col. Katrina Smith – DOD Liaison
Ms. Alisha Price – Legal Advisor

Mr. Caleb Caronco - Student Advisor (Beebe School District)

Ms. Ava Berryhill - Student Advisor (Cabot School District)

ABSENT:

Ms. Andelyn Wright, Vice Chair - Excused

Sen. Jane English

Ms. Allison Pitts – (proxy for Dr. Karla Neathery) – Excused

Mr. Rick Porter - Special Education Advisor

Ms. Chelsea Swindle

Mr. Weston Arnett – Student Advisor (Greenwood School District)

Ms. Carly Teeter – Student Advisor (Malvern School District)

A quorum was established.

II. Pledge of Allegiance (C. Teeter)

Chair Kaminar recognized Student Advisor Ava Berryhill of the Cabot School District and thanked the district for allowing her to attend the meeting. Ms. Berryhill then led the Council and guests in the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Introduction of Special Visitors (J. Kaminar)

Chair Kaminar introduced special guests in attendance, including Col. Wayne Ruthman, Deputy Secretary and Chief of Staff of the Arkansas Department of Veterans Affairs, and Mr. John Arnold, newly appointed Regional Defense State Liaison Officer for Arkansas. Chair Kaminar provided background on Mr. Arnold’s professional and military experience and welcomed him to the meeting. He asked Mr. Arnold to speak to the Council briefly.

Mr. Arnold addressed the Council and expressed appreciation for the invitation to attend. He stated that Arkansas is frequently cited at the national level as a leading example in education policy for military-connected students and families, noting that he had recently highlighted Arkansas’s work during a military symposium in Mississippi. Mr. Arnold expressed enthusiasm for continuing collaboration with Arkansas partners and supporting initiatives that strengthen educational continuity and opportunity for military children.

IV. Approval of Agenda (J. Kaminar)

Chair Kaminar presented the agenda for review and requested a motion to approve or amend it. A motion to approve the agenda as presented was made by Ms. Reynolds and seconded by Ms. Harper. There was no discussion. Motion carried.

Following approval, Chair Kaminar clarified that the agenda title referenced a “Council Meeting and Military Family Forum.” He explained that this reference was included in error, as a military family forum was not scheduled for this meeting. He apologized for the confusion and stated that any military families present would still be welcomed to speak during the public comment portion of the meeting.

V. Approval of Minutes (October 2, 2025 and December 4, 2025) (J. Kaminar)

Chair Kaminar directed members to review the October 2, 2025 meeting minutes and the December 4, 2025 meeting notes. A motion to approve both the October 2025 meeting minutes and the December 2025 meeting notes was made by Representative Brown and seconded by Ms. Harper. There was no discussion. Motion carried.

VI. Public Comments (J. Kaminar)

Chair Kaminar opened the floor for public comment, first inviting any military family members present to address the Council and then extending the invitation to any other attendees. No public comments were offered.

VII. Chair's Report (J. Kaminar)

Chair Kaminar began with an update on the Purple Star School Program. He reported that since the December meeting, eighteen additional schools had earned Purple Star designation, all within the Pulaski County Special School District. As a result, Pulaski County Special School District has met all requirements to be recognized as a Purple Star School District. Chair Kaminar congratulated the district and publicly recognized Ms. Michelle Camp, District Military Education Coordinator, for her leadership in advancing the work.

Chair Kaminar presented a list of schools that meet the statutory criterion to become a Purple Star School, noting that only seven schools statewide had not yet begun the process. He expressed confidence that all schools would complete the requirements by the end of the current school year. He also thanked Camp Alliance for providing Purple Star banners and recognized Council members who have traveled across the state to present banners and celebrate schools.

Chair Kaminar then reviewed the Council's goals progress tracker, noting that more than fifty percent of Council goals have now been completed, surpassing those still in progress. He highlighted development of a statewide JROTC award program that is nearing readiness for Council review, pending identification of a sustainable funding source. He also reported that the Digital Guide for Military Families has completed its initial draft and is undergoing review prior to design enhancements and online publication.

Chair Kaminar reminded the members about Month of the Military Child in April, upcoming online updates for District Military Education Coordinators, designation of April 10, 2026 as statewide Purple Up Day, and rescheduling of a presentation from Bloom to the April meeting.

VIII. Vice Chair's Report (A. Wright)

No report.

IX. Reports by Committees and Liaisons

A. Awards Committee (Dr. J. Walker)

Dr. Walker presented the Awards Committee report, stating that the committee met on January 21st and made substantial progress on development of the proposed JROTC award. She also reported

that nomination packets for the Outstanding Military Scholar Award were received during January and are currently under review. Dr. Walker raised concerns regarding sustainability and workload associated with Council initiatives and encouraged additional support moving forward.

B. Outreach Committee (J. Bergstrom)

Ms. Williams reported continued collaboration with installation leadership, including participation in the in-processing of a newly assigned reserve chief, during which Council resources and supports for military-connected students and families were shared. She emphasized the importance of ensuring both active-duty and reserve components are informed of available Council services.

Ms. Williams reported on the successful delivery of a Purple Star District banner to Perryville School District after multiple delays due to operational and weather-related factors. The presentation took place during a school basketball game, providing public recognition and increased community awareness of the district's commitment to military-connected students. She also described implementation of the Anchored for Life program at Jacksonville North Pulaski School District, where staff training and student participation focused on resilience and peer support for military-connected students. Additional outreach included a parent lunch-and-learn session addressing healthy relationships and teen dating violence.

Ms. Williams further reported on a deployment family dinner hosted at the installation, serving approximately seventy-five families. During the event, Council representatives distributed deployment kits and informational materials and engaged directly with military families. She also noted upcoming professional development sessions with Bryant School District and Arkansas Connections Academy, where Council supports will be shared with educators and administrators.

In addition, Ms. Williams briefed the Council on a developing opportunity involving the National Math and Science Initiative and the Walmart Foundation that may provide multi-year professional development funding for up to ten school districts. She indicated that additional details and a formal flyer would be shared as soon as they become available and encouraged districts to be prepared to respond quickly. Ms. Williams concluded by noting that outreach activity is expected to increase in the coming months, particularly in connection with Month of the Military Child.

C. Strategic Planning Committee (J. Reynolds)

No report.

D. Military Family Education Liaison (B. Olles)

Ms. Olles shared statewide education updates related to math intervention plans and upcoming graduation requirement changes beginning with the 2026–2027 school year.

E. Department of Defense Liaison (Col. K. Smith)

Col. Smith provided a brief update regarding an upcoming deployment swap involving operations and maintenance units, as well as several anticipated base events, including a spring “Fam Jam” event scheduled for April 4, 2026 and preliminary planning for summer events and a potential marathon or half-marathon that would require volunteer support. Chair Kaminar thanked Col. Smith for the update and for her continued engagement with the Council.

F. Special Education Liaison (R. Porter)

No Report.

G. Gold Star Families Advisor (C. Swindle)

No Report.

X. Student Advisor Reports (A. Pitts)

Chair Kaminar transitioned the meeting to the Student Advisor Reports and emphasized the importance of student voice in the work of the Arkansas Council for Military Children. Chair Kaminar noted that student advisors provide critical insight into the lived experiences of military-connected students and that their feedback directly informs Council initiatives, outreach efforts, and the Council’s annual report to the Governor and the General Assembly.

A. Beebe High School – Caleb Carranco

Mr. Carranco provided an update on student-led and community service activities involving military-connected students in his district. He reported that over the past two months, he and fellow student advisors participated in a Wreaths Across America–style event, during which students placed wreaths on the graves of veterans in recognition of their service. Mr. Carranco described the experience as meaningful and noted that students documented the event through photographs and community engagement, reinforcing respect for veterans and increasing awareness of military service among students.

Mr. Carranco also shared that Beebe High School is entering an active period of student engagement through athletics and extracurricular events. He noted that the school is hosting multiple sporting events, including basketball and volleyball, and that efforts are being made to encourage attendance and participation from both students and community members. He stated that these events provide opportunities for inclusion and connection for military-connected students and families within the broader school community.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Carranco for his report and for representing student perspectives on community service and school engagement.

B. Cabot High School – Ava Berryhill

Ms. Berryhill provided a detailed update on ongoing initiatives supporting military-connected students within her district. She reported that Cabot has been working to expand a mentorship program that was initially launched earlier in the fall. The program pairs students in ways that foster peer support and connection, particularly for military-connected students who may be navigating transitions. Ms. Berryhill stated that the mentorship program has been well received and has demonstrated positive outcomes, prompting efforts to replicate and expand the program into additional elementary schools across the district.

Ms. Berryhill also reported on coordination efforts between district administrators and the JROTC program to plan a special event in recognition of Month of the Military Child. She described plans for a “Purple Up” field-day–style event designed specifically for elementary-aged military-connected students. The event, planned for April, is intended to celebrate military children while promoting inclusion, physical activity, and positive peer interactions. Ms. Berryhill noted that planning was ongoing at the time of the meeting and expressed enthusiasm for the collaboration between students, staff, and military partners.

The Chairman expressed appreciation for Ms. Berryhill’s leadership and noted the value of student-driven initiatives that directly support younger military-connected students.

C. Malvern High School – Carly Teeter

Chair Kaminar noted that Ms. Carly Teeter, Student Advisor from Malvern High School, was unable to present her report verbally during the meeting. He stated that her written report had been submitted in advance and was included in the meeting packet available to Council members. He encouraged Council members to review Ms. Teeter’s written submission and acknowledged her continued participation and contributions as a student advisor. He reiterated appreciation for Malvern School District’s engagement with the Council and noted the intent to return to Malvern for a future in-person meeting.

D. Greenwood High School – Weston Arnett

Chair Kaminar also noted that Mr. Weston Arnett, Student Advisor from Greenwood High School, was not present to provide a verbal report during the meeting. Mr. Arnett’s written report was submitted and included in the meeting packet for Council review.

Chair Kaminar recognized Mr. Arnett’s ongoing service as a student advisor and thanked him for contributing student perspectives through written reporting. He encouraged Council members to review the report and consider the student recommendations included therein as part of ongoing Council planning.

Chair Kaminar formally congratulated all student advisors for their leadership and commitment to supporting military-connected peers. He stated that student advisor input has directly influenced Council projects in prior years and continues to shape current initiatives. He emphasized that the

Council values student participation not as ceremonial, but as substantive contributors whose insights strengthen policy, outreach, and programmatic decisions across the state.

XI. Old Business (J. Kaminar)

Chair Kaminar briefly revisited discussion regarding the Council's newsletter publication schedule, noting movement toward a quarterly cadence with a target publication in April. No formal action was taken.

XII. New Business (J. Kaminar)

Chair Kaminar proposed creation of a formal liaison role with the Arkansas Department of Veterans Affairs to strengthen coordination and information sharing. A motion to create the liaison position was made by Mr. Melton and seconded by Ms. Harper. There was no discussion. Motion carried. Chair Kaminar expressed appreciation to Col. Ruthven and requested that the decision be communicated to ADVA leadership.

XIII. Date/Time/Place for Next Meeting – April 2, 2026, 10:00 AM, Greenwood School District (J. Kaminar)

Chair Kaminar announced that the next regular meeting of the Arkansas Council for Military Children will be held on April 2, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. at Greenwood School District. He also announced a special online meeting scheduled for February 27, 2026, for the purpose of voting on the Outstanding Military Scholar Award.

XIV. Adjournment (J. Kaminar)

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Ms. Reynolds and seconded by Ms. Noel. The meeting adjourned at 11:05 AM.

Minutes recorded by A. Cress

ARKANSAS PUBLIC SCHOOLS REQUIRED TO BECOME PURPLE STAR SCHOOLS
As of February 3, 2026

School Name	District	Children of Military Families	Purple Star School?
Alma High School	ALMA SCHOOL DISTRICT	42	Yes
Alma Intermediate School	ALMA SCHOOL DISTRICT	33	Yes
Alma Middle School	ALMA SCHOOL DISTRICT	35	Yes
Alma Primary School	ALMA SCHOOL DISTRICT	29	Yes
Arkansas Connections Academy High	ARKANSAS CONNECTIONS ACADEMY	44	Yes
Beebe Early Childhood	BEEBE SCHOOL DISTRICT	23	Yes
Beebe Elementary School	BEEBE SCHOOL DISTRICT	44	Yes
Beebe High School	BEEBE SCHOOL DISTRICT	50	Yes
Beebe Junior High School	BEEBE SCHOOL DISTRICT	23	Yes
Beebe Middle School	BEEBE SCHOOL DISTRICT	20	Yes
Benton High School	BENTON SCHOOL DISTRICT	35	Yes
Benton Junior High School	BENTON SCHOOL DISTRICT	31	No
Benton Middle School	BENTON SCHOOL DISTRICT	28	No
Bentonville West High School	BENTONVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT	22	Yes
Bobby G Lester Elementary School	JACKSONVILLE NORTH PULASKI SCHOOL DISTRICT	155	Yes
Bryant Elementary School	BRYANT SCHOOL DISTRICT	24	Yes
Bryant High School	BRYANT SCHOOL DISTRICT	47	Yes
Bryant Junior High School	BRYANT SCHOOL DISTRICT	26	Yes
Cabot Freshman Academy	CABOT SCHOOL DISTRICT	71	Yes
Cabot High School	CABOT SCHOOL DISTRICT	219	Yes
Cabot Junior High North	CABOT SCHOOL DISTRICT	126	Yes
Cabot Junior High South	CABOT SCHOOL DISTRICT	48	Yes
Cabot Middle School North	CABOT SCHOOL DISTRICT	115	Yes
Cabot Middle School South	CABOT SCHOOL DISTRICT	91	Yes
Central Elementary School	CABOT SCHOOL DISTRICT	28	Yes
Central High School	LITTLE ROCK SCHOOL DISTRICT	24	No
Conway High School	CONWAY SCHOOL DISTRICT	47	No
Conway Junior High School	CONWAY SCHOOL DISTRICT	36	No
Crestwood Elementary School	NORTH LITTLE ROCK SCHOOL DISTRICT	26	No
Crystal Hill Elementary	PULASKI COUNTY SPECIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT	22	Yes
East Hills Middle School	GREENWOOD SCHOOL DISTRICT	50	Yes
East Pointe Elementary School	GREENWOOD SCHOOL DISTRICT	54	Yes
Eastside Elementary School	CABOT SCHOOL DISTRICT	86	Yes
Elmer H. Cook Elementary School	FORT SMITH SCHOOL DISTRICT	25	Yes
Fayetteville High School	FAYETTEVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT	21	No
Frank Mitchell Intermediate School	VILONIA SCHOOL DISTRICT	34	Yes
Greenbrier High School	GREENBRIER SCHOOL DISTRICT	26	No
Greenwood High School	GREENWOOD SCHOOL DISTRICT	79	Yes
Greenwood Junior High School	GREENWOOD SCHOOL DISTRICT	33	Yes

ARKANSAS PUBLIC SCHOOLS REQUIRED TO BECOME PURPLE STAR SCHOOLS
As of February 3, 2026

Jacksonville High School	JACKSONVILLE NORTH PULASKI SCHOOL DISTRICT	66	Yes
Jacksonville Lighthouse Flightline Academy	ARKANSAS LIGHTHOUSE CHARTER SCHOOLS	27	Yes
Jacksonville Middle School	JACKSONVILLE NORTH PULASKI SCHOOL DISTRICT	45	Yes
Joe T. Robinson High School	PULASKI COUNTY SPECIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT	27	No
John P. Woods Elementary School	FORT SMITH SCHOOL DISTRICT	25	Yes
L. A. Chaffin Middle School	FORT SMITH SCHOOL DISTRICT	22	Yes
Lisa Academy North Elementary School	LISA ACADEMY	23	Yes
Little Rock Southwest High School	LITTLE ROCK SCHOOL DISTRICT	22	No
Magness Creek Elementary	CABOT SCHOOL DISTRICT	44	Yes
Maumelle High School	PULASKI COUNTY SPECIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT	24	Yes
Mountain Home Career Academies	MOUNTAIN HOME SCHOOL DISTRICT	26	No
Mountain Springs Elem School	CABOT SCHOOL DISTRICT	83	Yes
North Little Rock High School	NORTH LITTLE ROCK SCHOOL DISTRICT	30	No
Northridge Middle School	VAN BUREN SCHOOL DISTRICT	21	Yes
Northside Elementary School	CABOT SCHOOL DISTRICT	31	Yes
Northside High School	FORT SMITH SCHOOL DISTRICT	21	Yes
Parkview Magnet High School	LITTLE ROCK SCHOOL DISTRICT	21	No
Rogers High School	ROGERS SCHOOL DISTRICT	21	No
Searcy High School	SEARCY SCHOOL DISTRICT	32	Yes
Southside Elementary School	CABOT SCHOOL DISTRICT	109	Yes
Southside High School	FORT SMITH SCHOOL DISTRICT	37	Yes
Springhill Elementary School	BRYANT SCHOOL DISTRICT	31	Yes
Stagecoach Elementary School	CABOT SCHOOL DISTRICT	62	Yes
Sylvan Hills Elementary School	PULASKI COUNTY SPECIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT	43	Yes
Sylvan Hills High School	PULASKI COUNTY SPECIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT	33	Yes
Sylvan Hills Junior High School	PULASKI COUNTY SPECIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT	27	Yes
Sylvan Hills Middle School	PULASKI COUNTY SPECIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT	24	Yes
Van Buren High School	VAN BUREN SCHOOL DISTRICT	21	Yes
Vilonia Elementary School	VILONIA SCHOOL DISTRICT	28	Yes
Vilonia High School	VILONIA SCHOOL DISTRICT	46	Yes
Vilonia Junior High School	VILONIA SCHOOL DISTRICT	25	Yes
Ward Central Elementary	CABOT SCHOOL DISTRICT	37	Yes
Westside Elementary School	CABOT SCHOOL DISTRICT	40	Yes
Westwood Elementary School	GREENWOOD SCHOOL DISTRICT	40	Yes

PLANNED COMPLETION DATE	PROJECT TITLE	DESCRIPTION	STATUS (Red = Not Started) (Yellow = In Progress) (Green = Complete)	NOTES
September 2025	DMEC Initial Training	In cooperation with DESE, develop and conduct initial training for newly appointed District Military Family Education Coordinators and School Military Family Education Facilitators.		Initial training is planned for August 2025 with monthly session thereafter through May 2026. Agenda for the first session is being developed.
August 2025 - May 2026	DMEC Monthly Training	Conduct continuing monthly training sessions to provide current information to DMECs and MEFs. Target for completion:		Schedule is currently being developed and guest presenters secured.
August 2025	Purple Star School Toolkit	Develop a toolkit of resources to assist schools in achieving Purple Star School status.		Toolkit has been created and submitted for posting online. Resources are still being collected.
August 2025	Purple Star Campus Program	The Council will be prepared to assist the Division of Higher Education in developing the Purple Star Campus program, pursuant to ACA § 6-61-144, if such assistance is requested.		Basic parameters and application procedures are being developed developed. Waiting for completion by ADHE.
September 2025	Veterans Day Toolkit	Develop a toolkit of resources for use by schools for observance of Veterans Day.		Toolkit is complete and has been linked to the Council web page. More resources will be added as they become available.
October 2025	Student Club Quick Guide	Develop a quick guide for schools in establishing military student organizations.		Quick guide is complete and added to Purple Star School Toolkit. Will be available online once the Toolkit is posted.
October 2025	School District Annual Report Input	Establish a medium for school districts to report significant achievements for inclusion in the annual report.		Input form is complete. Will be shared with DMECs during initial training session and follow up sessions.

PLANNED COMPLETION DATE	PROJECT TITLE	DESCRIPTION	STATUS (Red = Not Started) (Yellow = In Progress) (Green = Complete)	NOTES
November 2025	Outstanding Military Scholar Award Information Sessions	Conduct a series of online sessions to provide information to parents and educators about the Outstanding Military Scholar Award.		Four online orientation sessions were held (November 12, 13, 17, 18)
November 2025	Peer to Peer Ambassador Program	In cooperation with DESE, provide technical advice and assistance on creation of student to student peer ambassador program, pursuant to ACA § 6-28-301(c)(4)(A).		Materials and providers have been made available. Various schools have begun establishing programs. Purple Star Schools prior to the 2025-26 school year have until May 31, 2026 to establish their programs.
December 2025	Model Practices Web Page	Develop a “best practices” web page for supporting children of military families.		The collection form and list of model practices is now available on the DMEC Webpage .
January 2026	Purple Star School Service Projects	Encourage Purple Star Schools to perform a service project or fundraising activity to support children of military families during Month of the Military Child.		Strategic Planning Committee has held work sessions to develop the concept. Suggestions for service projects are being collected from school districts. Concept should be ready to publish by February 2026.
February 2026	Survey of Military Families	Conduct a needs survey of military families.		Survey was published on November 4, 2025 and will accept responses through February 14, 2026.
February 2026	Month of the Military Child Toolkit	Develop a toolkit of resources for use by schools for observance of Month of the Military Child..		Toolkit is complete, posted on website. More resources will be added as they become available.
March 2026	Military Family Forum	Conduct at least one Military Family Forum, pursuant to ACA 6-28-204(f).		The first forum was held October 2, 2025, 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM, Pottsville School District and Online. The second forum was held online on January 22, 2026, 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM.
March 2026	Military Child Transition Training	Develop and provide online training for school employees in managing school transitions of children of military families.		Will be conducted as one of the monthly training sessions for DMECs (March 17-18, 2026). Presenter has been lined up (Jessica Saum).

PLANNED COMPLETION DATE	PROJECT TITLE	DESCRIPTION	STATUS (Red = Not Started) (Yellow = In Progress) (Green = Complete)	NOTES
March 2026	Military Family Resources Training	Conduct a series of online sessions to educate military family members about resources available to them.		Presentation materials are complete; first training session will be held during military family forum on October 2, 2025. Additional sessions will be held during the monthly DMEC updates on January 13 and 14, 2026. Information was also presented during the military family forum on January 22, 2026.
March 2026	Memorial Day Toolkit	Develop a toolkit of resources for use by schools for observance of Memorial Day.		Toolkit is being developed and materials are being collected.
December 2026	JROTC Award	Explore creating an award for JROTC cadets		Awards Committee has held two work sessions to receive input from JROTC instructors and to develop the concept. The Committee hopes to have a concept ready for vote by the full Council by June 2026.
May 2027	Purple Star School Increase	Increase the number of Purple Star Schools from 204 to 300.		Applications are open and are already being received.
May 2027	Military Student Leadership Workshop	Explore holding an annual leadership workshop for children of military families.		Strategic Planning Committee has appointed a working group to develop a concept and identify issues that must be addressed.
May 2027	Military Ready School Recognition	In cooperation with DESE, the Division of Career and Technical Education, and the Arkansas Department of the Military, develop possible standards and recognition for high schools that prepare students well for joining the military.		Currently researching standards for the "ideal recruit" from various branches of service.

PLANNED COMPLETION DATE	PROJECT TITLE	DESCRIPTION	STATUS (Red = Not Started) (Yellow = In Progress) (Green = Complete)	NOTES
May 2027	Digital Guidebook for Military Families	In cooperations with DESE, develop a digital guidebook for military families regarding the rights of children of military families in Arkansas and programs for the support of children of military families, pursuant to ACA § 6-28-205(b)(1)(A).		Draft is being written.
RED = 0%	AMBER = 45%	GREEN = 55%		

ACMC Student Advisor Meeting Input Form

This form is intended for use by Student Advisors to the Arkansas Council for Military Children to provide input to regular meetings of the Council.

One report is required for each of the following meetings:

October

December

February

April

Student Advisors will present the June report orally.

No report is required for the June meeting.

Please be sure to submit your report one week before each Council meeting.

Student Advisor's Last Name

Carranco

Which month are your reporting for?

October

December

February

April

Please describe what your school has done during the last two months to support children of military families. Please be sure to describe your personal involvement in these activities.

The last two months we've had held many school events and I attended the reef ceremony in Little Rock

Please describe plans to support children of military families during the next two months.

In the next two months we will also be holding more sport events for military families

What other information concerning children of military families would you like to share with the Council?

N/A

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Google Forms

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Student Advisor's Last Name

Berryhill

Which month are your reporting for?

October

December

February

April

Please describe what your school has done during the last two months to support children of military families. Please be sure to describe your personal involvement in these activities.

We have established a monthly mentorship program between elementary school students with deployed parents and a group of high school military students.

Please describe plans to support children of military families during the next two months.

We are working on expanding the mentorship program to include more elementary schools. We are planning a field day with bases in the area to encourage cooperation between school districts and military families. Finally, we are working with the recruiting officers from colleges to plan an event for high school military families to discuss how to get the most benefits for military students at their universities.

What other information concerning children of military families would you like to share with the Council?

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Student Advisor's Last Name

Teeter

Which month are your reporting for?

October

December

February

April

Please describe what your school has done during the last two months to support children of military families. Please be sure to describe your personal involvement in these activities.

We had our veterans day parade a while ago and it was quite successful, we worked with other schools in the area that have JROTC programs also and went to Hot Springs. I commanded my battalion during this and allowed my Command Sergeant Major to do cadences.

Please describe plans to support children of military families during the next two months.

I want to continue listening to the children in my district and seeing what I can do, my Chief's children are the one's I have mostly been supporting by helping them move in and get comfortable within our community. Possibly having a support group of some sort would be something i'd love to do.

What other information concerning children of military families would you like to share with the Council?

None at this time

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ACMC Student Advisor Meeting Input Form

This form is intended for use by Student Advisors to the Arkansas Council for Military Children to provide input to regular meetings of the Council.

One report is required for each of the following meetings:

October

December

February

April

Student Advisors will present the June report orally.

No report is required for the June meeting.

Please be sure to submit your report one week before each Council meeting.

Student Advisor's Last Name

Arnett

Which month are your reporting for?

October

December

February

April

Please describe what your school has done during the last two months to support children of military families. Please be sure to describe your personal involvement in these activities.

We have continued to check in with students and give any help that is needed. I have personally been talking to students in school to help.

Please describe plans to support children of military families during the next two months.

We will be prepping for our military month and continue to support them where needed.

What other information concerning children of military families would you like to share with the Council?

N/A

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