



AGENDA

THE ARKANSAS COUNCIL FOR MILITARY CHILDREN

Thursday, June 4, 2026, 10:00 A.M.

Pulaski County Special School District
925 East Dixon Road
Little Rock, Arkansas 72206

[Join the Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 239 823 832 424 43

Passcode: fp2DS62W

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- I. Call to Order and Roll Call (J. Kaminar, A. Cress)
 - II. Recognition of Host School District (J. Kaminar)
 - III. Pledge of Allegiance (M. Camp)
 - IV. Introduction of New Members (J. Kaminar)
 - V. Approval of Agenda*** (J. Kaminar)
 - VI. Approval of Minutes (April 2, 2026)*** (J. Kaminar) (1)
 - VII. Public Comments (J. Kaminar)
 - VIII. Chair's Report (J. Kaminar)
 - A. Purple Star School Status (2)
 - B. Goals Update (3)
 - C. Policy Change on Homeschool Materials (T. Williams) (4)
 - IX. Vice Chair's Report (A. Wright)
 - X. Reports by Committees, Task Forces, or Liaisons
 - A. Awards Committee (Dr. J. Walker)
 - B. Outreach Committee (J. Bergstrom)

- C. Strategic Planning Committee (J. Reynolds)
- D. Military Family Education Liaison (B. Olles) (5)
- E. Department of Defense Liaison (Col. K. Smith)
- F. Special Education Liaison (R. Porter)
- G. Gold Star Families Advisor (C. Swindle)
- H. Arkansas Department of Veterans Affairs Liaison (Col. W. Ruthven)

XI. Old Business (J. Kaminar)

XII. New Business (J. Kaminar)

- A. Legislative / Policy Recommendations*** (6)
- B. Annual Report*** (7)
- C. Meeting Schedule for 2026-27*** (8)
- D. Operational Continuity of the Council

XIII. Date/Time/Place for Next Meeting – August 5, 2026, 10:00 AM, Online Meeting (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](#).





MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, June 4, 2026, 10:00 AM
Pulaski County Special School District
Little Rock, Arkansas

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

The meeting of the Arkansas Council for Military Children convened on Thursday, June 4, 2026. Chair John Kaminar called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM.

Council Secretary Abby Cress conducted roll call.

PRESENT:

Col. John Kaminar, Chair
Ms. Andelyn Wright, Vice Chair
Ms. Jody Bergstrom
Rep. Karilyn Brown
Sen. Jane English
Ms. Christina Harper
Ms. Whitney Mallham
Mr. Brian Melton
Ms. LaShawnda Noel
Dr. Amanda Picard (Proxy for Dr. Jeremy Owoh)
Ms. Jennifer Reynolds
Ms. Amanda Sanders (Proxy for Lt. Col. James Garvey)
Ms. Jessica Saum
Ms. Emily Taylor
Ms. Terri Williams
Col. Katrina Smith (Department of Defense Liaison)
Ms. Chelsey Swindle (Gold Star Family Advisor)
Col. Wayne Ruthven (Arkansas Department of Veterans Affairs Liaison)
Ms. Alisha Price (Legal Advisor)
Ms. Ava Berryhill (Student Advisor, Cabot School District)
Ms. Carly Teeter (Student Advisor, Malvern School District)

ABSENT

Mr. John Ciesla (Excused)
Ms. Bobbie Olles (Military Family Education Liaison, Excused)

Ms. Allison Pitts (Excused)

Mr. Rick Porter (Special Education Advisor, Excused)

Mr. Weston Arnett (Student Advisor, Greenwood School District, Excused)

Mr. Caleb Carranco (Student Advisor, Beebe School District)

A quorum was established.

II. Recognition of Host School District

Chair Kaminar welcomed the Council members to the Pulaski County Special School District and expressed appreciation to district leadership for hosting the June meeting. He noted that the district is among the largest public school districts in Arkansas, serving approximately 12,000 students across multiple campuses. He highlighted the district's unique relationship with the military community, explaining that approximately 300 military-connected students are currently enrolled throughout the district and stated that the that Pulaski County Special School District serves one of the most diverse military populations in the state, with families from virtually every branch and component of the United States Armed Forces. He commended district leadership for their continued efforts to support military-connected students through specialized programs and community partnerships. Chair Kaminar further recognized the district's strong commitment to citizenship and leadership development through its Army Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC) programs, noting that these programs continue to provide valuable leadership experiences for students while strengthening relationships between local schools and the military community.

III. Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Kaminar invited Lieutenant Colonel Paul Brown, Senior Army Instructor for one of the Pulaski County Special School District's Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC) programs, to lead the Council in the Pledge of Allegiance. The Chair noted that the district's three Army JROTC programs serve as outstanding examples of leadership development and civic engagement for students throughout central Arkansas. He specifically recognized Lt. Col. Brown's service to the district and thanked him for participating in the Council meeting.

IV. Recognition of Student Advisor

Chair Kaminar requested the Council recognized Student Advisor Carly Teeter for her dedicated service to the Arkansas Council for Military Children. He presented her with a state Capitol Citation and an honorary graduation cord.

V. Discussion Regarding Graduation Cords

Following the presentation, Council members discussed the broader concept of recognizing graduating military-connected students with honorary graduation cords.

Ms. Williams remarked that graduation cords have become an increasingly meaningful tradition at graduation ceremonies and suggested that the Council consider ways to encourage such recognition for military-connected graduates throughout Arkansas.

Chair Kaminar reminded members that the Council adopted a resolution encouraging Arkansas school districts to recognize graduating military-connected students by presenting a purple graduation cord. He explained that implementation of the recommendation ultimately rests with individual school districts and remains subject to local school board policies regarding graduation regalia.

Council members briefly discussed possible enhancements to the recognition program, including the possibility of a distinctive double cord for Student Advisors who have served on the Arkansas Council for Military Children.

Members recognized that any statewide recommendation would need to remain flexible enough to accommodate local district policies while continuing to encourage meaningful recognition of military-connected graduates. The Council concluded the discussion with general agreement that continued promotion of military graduation recognition remains consistent with the Council's mission of honoring the service and sacrifices of military families while increasing public awareness of military-connected students throughout Arkansas.

IV. Introduction of New Members and Proxies

Chair Kaminar welcomed Dr. Amanda Picard and announced her appointment as the official proxy representative for Dr. Jeremy Owoh of the Jacksonville-North Pulaski School District.

V. Approval of Agenda

Chair Kaminar presented the proposed agenda for the June 4, 2026, meeting. Vice Chair Wright moved to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Bergstrom. There was no discussion. Motion carried.

VI. Approval of Minutes (April 2, 2026 Meeting)

Chair Kaminar next presented the draft minutes from the April 2, 2026, meeting for consideration. Ms. Harper moved that the April 2, 2026, meeting minutes be approved as presented. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Wright. There was no discussion. Motion carried.

VII. Public Comments

Chair Kaminar opened the floor for public comment. After allowing sufficient opportunity for participation, no requests for public comment were received.

VIII. Chair's Report

Chair Kaminar expressed appreciation for the continued collaboration among Council members, the Arkansas Department of Education, military installations, school districts, and community organizations. He observed that the Council had maintained significant momentum throughout the spring and noted that nearly every initiative identified during the Council's annual planning process had advanced substantially since the previous meeting.

Chair Kaminar remarked that Arkansas continues to receive national recognition for its coordinated approach to serving military-connected students. He emphasized that these accomplishments are the direct result of sustained partnerships among education leaders, military representatives, legislators, and local communities working toward common objectives.

A. Purple Star School Program Update

Chair Kaminar reported that participation in the program has continued to expand steadily since the April meeting. Additional schools have completed the requirements necessary to earn Purple Star designation, while numerous others remain actively engaged in the application and verification process. He noted that many districts have voluntarily pursued Purple Star designation beyond statutory requirements, reflecting widespread recognition of the program's value in strengthening relationships with military families.

Chair Kaminar reiterated that Purple Star designation represents substantially more than symbolic recognition. Rather, he explained that participating schools establish sustainable support structures designed to improve educational continuity for military-connected students during periods of transition. He observed that the program has become an important component of Arkansas's national reputation as a leader in military-connected education and continues to attract attention from other states seeking to replicate Arkansas's successful implementation model.

B. Goals Update

Chair Kaminar reported that the Council had made significant progress toward achieving each of its identified objectives and noted that many initiatives had advanced more rapidly than originally anticipated. He attributed this progress to the sustained commitment of Council members and the continued cooperation among partner agencies throughout the state.

The Chair emphasized that strategic planning remains an ongoing process rather than a static document. Throughout the year, committees have continued refining priorities as new opportunities and legislative developments have emerged. He encouraged members to continue identifying additional ways the Council could improve services for military-connected students while maintaining focus on the Council's statutory responsibilities.

Chair Kaminar expressed appreciation for the considerable volunteer effort invested by committee members between scheduled meetings. He observed that much of the Council's work occurs outside regular quarterly meetings through committee collaboration, research, stakeholder engagement, and coordination with education and military partners across Arkansas.

C. Digital Guide for Military Families

Chair Kaminar reported that substantial progress had been achieved since the previous Council meeting. Content development for the guide had largely been completed through the collaborative efforts of Council members, representatives from the Arkansas Department of Education, military installations, and numerous community partners.

The Chair explained that the guide has been intentionally designed to function as a practical resource for military families before, during, and after permanent change of station (PCS) moves into Arkansas. Rather than serving as a promotional publication, the guide is intended to provide clear, accurate, and immediately usable information that families can reference throughout the relocation process.

Chair Kaminar further reported that legal review of the publication was nearing completion. Following completion of legal review, the project would move into final graphic design and formatting prior to publication. The Chair explained that significant attention has been devoted to creating a professional and user-friendly publication that families can easily navigate using computers, tablets, or mobile devices.

Chair Kaminar thanked the numerous Council members, Department of Education personnel, and military representatives who had contributed information, reviewed drafts, and provided technical expertise throughout development of the guide.

D. JROTC Recognition Program

Chair Kaminar next updated members regarding implementation of the Council's newly established Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps Recognition Program. He explained that the program originated from discussions recognizing the important leadership role JROTC programs play in developing responsible citizenship, community service, academic achievement, and military awareness among Arkansas students. Although numerous local awards already existed, the Council identified an opportunity to establish a statewide recognition program specifically honoring exceptional cadets who demonstrate leadership while representing military-connected values.

Chair Kaminar reported that considerable progress had been made since the Council approved development of the program. Working collaboratively with Senior Army Instructors, Aerospace Science Instructors, Naval Science Instructors, Marine Corps instructors as representatives from each military service branch, the Awards Committee successfully developed uniform nomination criteria designed to ensure fairness and consistency across Arkansas JROTC programs.

Chair Kaminar stated that the recognition program emphasizes not only academic performance but also leadership, citizenship, community involvement, character, and demonstrated commitment to serving fellow students. By recognizing these qualities, the Council seeks to reinforce the values that military organizations and educational institutions collectively strive to instill in young leaders.

Chair Kaminar further noted that implementation materials had been developed for participating schools, including nomination procedures, recognition guidance, and timelines to assist instructors throughout the state.

He expressed appreciation to the many JROTC instructors who voluntarily devoted significant time to reviewing draft criteria and providing practical recommendations based upon their experience working directly with cadets. Their participation, he noted, ensured that the recognition program reflects the realities of JROTC instruction while maintaining consistent statewide standards.

Chair Kaminar concluded by stating that the Council looks forward to recognizing outstanding cadets from every participating service branch in future years and believes the program will further strengthen relationships between Arkansas schools and the military community while encouraging continued student excellence in leadership and service.

E. Policy Change on Homeschool Materials

Chair Kaminar asked Ms. Williams to brief the Council on recent legislative and administrative developments affecting military-connected homeschool families relocating to Arkansas under Permanent Change of Station (PCS) orders.

Ms. Williams explained that one of the Council's longstanding priorities has been ensuring that all military-connected students—regardless of educational setting—receive equitable access to educational opportunities during periods of transition. While significant progress has been achieved through implementation of the Military Interstate Children's Compact and the Purple Star School Program, the Council has continued to identify opportunities to improve services for military families whose children are educated through home-based instruction.

Ms. Williams reported that recent statutory changes and policy updates have strengthened Arkansas' ability to support military homeschool families during interstate moves. These improvements help reduce administrative barriers frequently encountered by families relocating on military orders and promote greater educational continuity during periods of transition.

She explained that military families often relocate with little advance notice and under compressed timelines established by military assignments. As a result, traditional enrollment procedures and residency requirements can unintentionally delay educational participation or create unnecessary burdens during an already stressful relocation process.

Chair Kaminar thanked Ms. Williams for the report and noted that Arkansas has continued working proactively to identify these challenges and implement practical solutions whenever possible. These efforts are consistent with the Council's broader mission of minimizing educational disruption while ensuring military-connected students experience smooth transitions regardless of where they enroll.

Chair Kaminar further emphasized that the Council's work extends beyond traditional public schools and recognizes the diverse educational choices made by military families. Whether

students attend public schools, charter schools, private schools, or participate in home-based education programs, the Council remains committed to promoting policies that support educational continuity and student success. Members discussed the importance of communicating these policy updates to military installations, installation school liaison personnel, homeschool organizations, and community partners so families receive accurate information before relocating into Arkansas.

Chair Kaminar concluded by emphasizing that continued review of military-related education policies remains an important Council responsibility. He encouraged members to remain attentive to emerging issues affecting military families and to bring future recommendations forward for Council consideration as educational needs continue to evolve.

F. Appointment of Dr. Janice Walker as Recognition Programs Advisor

Chair Kaminar stated that the Council's recognition programs have grown considerably over the past several years. Programs including the Arkansas Outstanding Military Scholar Award, Purple Star School recognition, JROTC Cadet Recognition Program, military graduation cord initiative, educator recognition, and future student awards require increasing levels of coordination to ensure consistency, fairness, and long-term sustainability.

He stated that Dr. Janice Walker possesses extensive experience in educational leadership and program development, making her exceptionally qualified to provide guidance as these recognition initiatives continue to expand. He stated that although Dr. Walker would no longer be serving as proxy for Dr. Owoh, the Council could retain her services using the Council's statutory authority to recruit volunteers. He suggested that Dr. Walker could therefore serve as Recognition Programs Advisor. Council members expressed unanimous support for Dr. Walker's appointment.

Ms. Williams moved to appoint Dr. Janice Walker as Recognition Programs Advisor to the Arkansas Council for Military Children. The motion was seconded by Mr. Melton. There was no discussion. Motion carried.

Chair Kaminar congratulated Dr. Walker on her appointment and expressed appreciation for her willingness to continue serving Arkansas's military-connected students through this new advisory capacity. He stated that the Council looks forward to benefiting from her expertise as additional recognition initiatives are developed in the coming years.

IX. Vice Chair's Report

No report.

X. Reports by Committees, Task Forces, or Liaisons

A. Awards Committee

Dr. Walker reported that the Awards Committee last met on March 9 and will meet again on June 18. She provided an update on two of the council's major recognition programs. The first, the Outstanding JROTC Cadet Award, continues to move forward following the council's earlier

approval of the program framework. Work remains underway to secure funding and obtain the necessary medals, ribbons, streamers, and award flag before the award can be implemented. The goal is to have these resources in place during the coming year so that the first awards can be presented in 2028.

Dr. Walker also reported on the Outstanding Military Scholar Award, which was recently completed for the year. The committee conducted an after-action review of the process and expressed satisfaction with the program's impact. She noted that recognizing military-connected students for their academic achievement continues to be one of the most rewarding aspects of the Council's work. Dr. Walker thanked Chair Kaminar for the significant amount of behind-the-scenes work he performs to support the awards program and ensure its successful administration.

B. Outreach Committee

Ms. Bergstrom noted that the committee had concluded a successful Month of the Military Child campaign during April, including numerous outreach efforts across Arkansas.

One significant project discussed was the continued development of Camp Firefly, an early childhood education pilot initiative in the Fort Smith area. The project is being developed in partnership with the Arkansas Department of Education and the Department of Defense. Ms. Bergstrom emphasized that the initiative has the potential to provide important educational resources and support services for military-connected families in western Arkansas.

Ms. Williams shared updates from Little Rock Air Force Base. She reported that many military families were celebrating the return of loved ones from deployment and expressed appreciation for school districts that have supported these reunifications through excused absences and family-friendly policies. Ms. Williams highlighted the efforts of Military Family Readiness, Community Action Teams, and local school districts that have organized welcome-home celebrations and recognition activities.

Ms. Williams stated that the Little Rock Air Force Base would soon host approximately 150 Civil Air Patrol cadets from fourteen states, creating an opportunity to showcase Arkansas' support for military-connected students. In addition, Liberty Fest was approaching, and outreach efforts were planned to increase awareness of the council and its work.

Ms. Saum reinforced the importance of sharing positive stories related to military families and encouraged members to continue promoting school district activities through social media and other communications channels. She emphasized that public recognition of military family support efforts helps increase awareness and strengthens community engagement.

Vice Chair Wright reported that "Purple Up" activities continued to receive strong participation and positive feedback. She highlighted a Purple Up baseball game held at Clarksville High School, which received considerable community attention. She also discussed current deployments affecting Arkansas families and outlined several summer opportunities available to military-connected youth, including camps and leadership programs.

Vice Chair Wright announced that Military Family Readiness and youth services personnel were planning a Back-to-School Bash and resource fair at Camp Robinson. The event will provide military families with information about available resources and services while helping students prepare for the upcoming school year. She encouraged the council to consider having representatives present to share information about the council's programs and initiatives.

Ms. Bergstrom concluded the report by encouraging council members to actively support the council's social media efforts by sharing announcements, events, camps, and resources through their personal and organizational networks. She stressed that increasing public visibility remains an important component of the council's outreach strategy and helps ensure military-connected families are aware of available support services.

C. Strategic Planning Committee

Ms. Reynolds reported no major updates beyond the Council's ongoing efforts to accomplish the goals established for the current biennium. Committee members continue to monitor progress and support the completion of remaining objectives. Chair Kaminar added that discussions had already begun regarding priorities for the next biennium.

D. Military Family Education Liaison

Ms. Olles submitted materials for council members to review. Chair Kaminar encouraged members to review the hyperlinks and information she emailed and thanked her for increasing the amount of information she provides to support the council

E. Department of Defense Liaison

Col. Smith reported on ongoing operations at Little Rock Air Force Base, noting that the installation remains heavily engaged in deployment and redeployment activities. She thanked school districts and community organizations for supporting military families during these transitions and explained that additional deployments and returns were expected in the coming weeks.

Col. Smith also discussed the beginning of the summer military moving season and announced that several leadership transitions would occur across the installation as new commanders assume responsibilities. While the base commander and Col. Smith will remain in their current positions for another year, community members can expect to see several new military leaders become active within installation and community partnerships.

F. Special Education Liaison

No Report.

F. Gold Star Families Advisor

Ms. Swindle reported that summer is a busy season for camps and programs serving Gold Star families throughout Arkansas. She highlighted several opportunities available to Gold Star youth, including the Arkansas Run for the Fallen Gold Star Kids Camp and programs offered through TAPS (Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors). Ms. Swindle emphasized the importance of ensuring families are aware of available support services and camp opportunities. Following her report, both Ms. Williams and Ms. Bergstrom requested that information about these programs be shared through their communication and outreach networks so that more military and Gold Star families can be connected with these resources.

G. Arkansas Department of Veterans Affairs Liaison

Col. Ruthven reported on several recent veterans' events conducted throughout Arkansas. He highlighted the Department of Veterans Affairs' Memorial Day ceremonies held at the Arkansas State Veterans Cemetery in North Little Rock and the State Veterans Cemetery in Birdeye. He also described attending the repatriation and military burial of Fireman Third Class Royle Luker, whose remains were recovered from Pearl Harbor and returned to Arkansas for burial with full military honors. Col. Ruthven noted the strong community turnout at these events and emphasized the importance of involving young people in military remembrance activities. He stated that the presence of school-aged children at these ceremonies provided valuable opportunities to teach future generations about military service, sacrifice, and patriotism.

XI. Old Business

Chair Kaminar briefly reviewed the following:

- All biennium goals are underway, with substantial progress being made and no projects remaining that have not yet started.
- The Outstanding JROTC Cadet Award is awaiting funding and acquisition of award materials before implementation.
- The digital guide for military families has completed legal and stakeholder review and is awaiting final approval of Military Transitions Act rules before publication.
- The Council is progressing toward the goal of 300 Purple Star Schools by June 2027.

XII. New Business

A. Legislative / Policy Recommendations

The Council reviewed proposed legislative recommendations for inclusion in its annual report to the Governor, General Assembly, and State Board of Education. Members engaged in extensive discussion regarding recommendations related to food insecurity among military-connected families. Concerns were raised about requiring school districts to broadly publicize food assistance programs without a targeted process, as this could strain available community resources. Following discussion, the Council reached a consensus to combine the first two recommendations into a single proposal encouraging public school districts, including charter schools, to collaborate with nearby military installations and military support organizations to identify military families

experiencing food insecurity and connect them with available resources. A motion was made by Ms. Harper seconded by Ms. Reynolds. There was no further discussion. Motion carried.

A third recommendation, which would have required districts with 20 or more military-connected student populations to establish formal liaison relationships with nearby military installations, was referred to the Outreach Committee for further development and consideration of a possible implementation toolkit. A motion was made by Ms. Williams, seconded by Mr. Melton. There was no discussion. Motion carried.

B. Annual Report

The Council considered the 2026 Annual Report, including the approved legislative recommendation revisions and additional photographs submitted by Cabot School District. Chair Kaminar stated that the finished report would also include military student transfer data. Ms. Williams moved to approve the report as amended. Ms. Saum seconded. There was no further discussion. Motion carried.

C. Meeting Schedule for 2026-27

Chair Kaminar presented the proposed meeting schedule for the 2026–2027 academic year. Meetings will continue to be held on the first Thursday of each even-numbered month at 10:00 a.m. Several meeting locations had already been confirmed, while others were still awaiting final approval. Chair Kaminar noted that alternate locations would be identified if any proposed sites became unavailable. Ms. Harper moved to approve the proposed 2026–2027 meeting schedule. Mr. Melton seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

D. Operational Continuity of the Council

Chair Kaminar informed the Council of his intention to step down as chair at the conclusion of June 2027 in advance of his planned retirement in June 2028. He explained that this timeline would allow ADE leadership sufficient time to appoint a successor and provide a full year for mentoring and transition activities. To support continuity and maintain the council's effectiveness, he proposed forming a working group consisting of the vice chair and standing committee chairs to review council processes, organizational structure, and succession planning needs. Additional Council members and advisors were invited to participate in the effort, with work expected to begin during the fall of 2026.

XIII. Date/Time/Place for Next Meeting – August 5, 2026, 10:00 AM, Online Meeting

Chair Kaminar reminded the members that the next Council meeting would be held virtually on August 6, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.

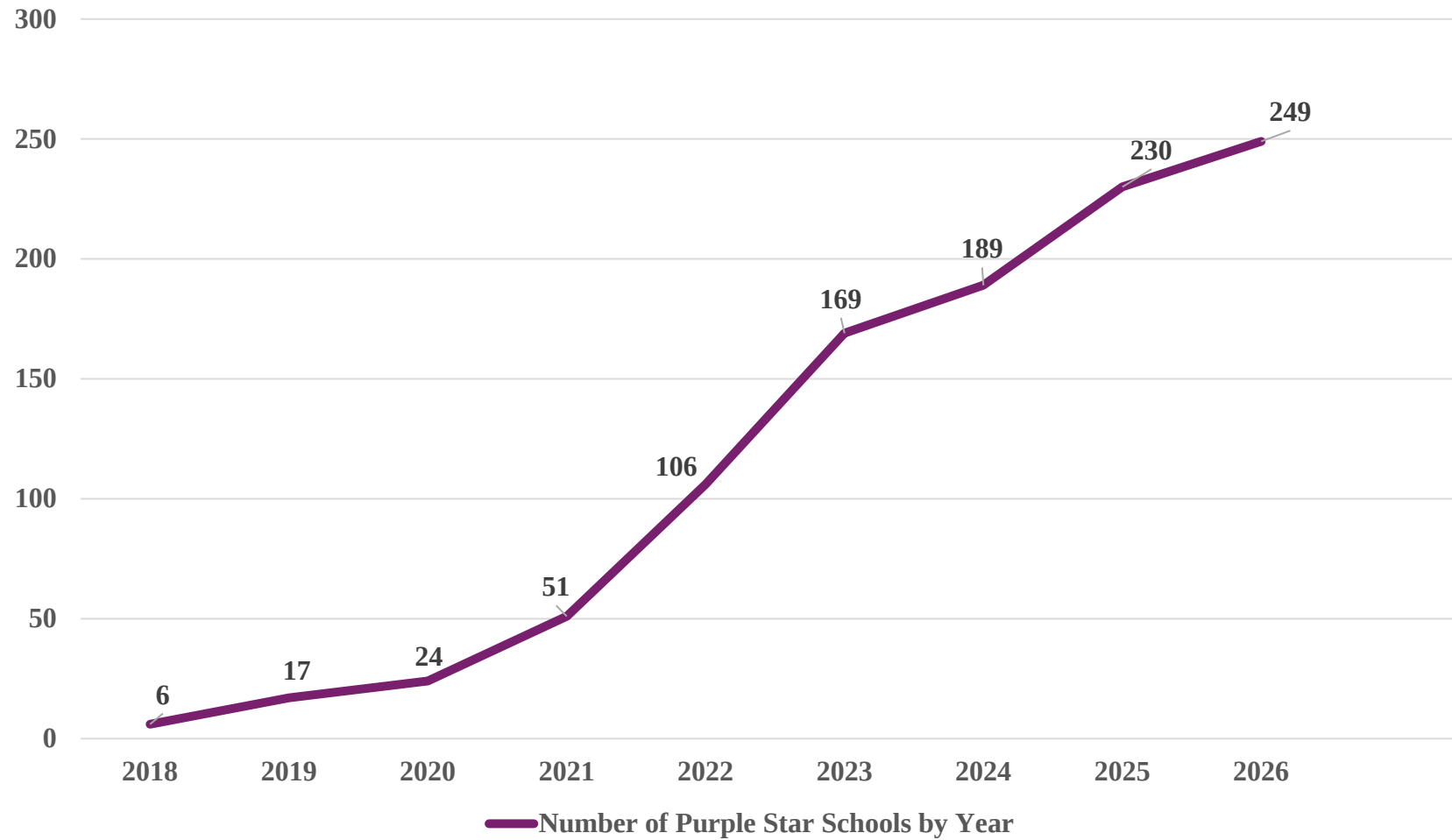
XIV. Adjournment

There being no further business to address, Chair Kaminar asked for a motion to adjourn. Ms. Williams moved to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Harper. Motion carried. Chair Kaminar thanked the

Council members, advisors, and guests for their participation and continued dedication to supporting Arkansas military-connected students and families. The meeting adjourned at 11:17 a.m.

Minutes recorded by A. Cress

**Graph 1: Increase in Arkansas Purple Star Schools
2018 - 2026**



As of May 31, 2026

ARKANSAS PUBLIC SCHOOLS REQUIRED TO BECOME PURPLE STAR SCHOOLS
May 31, 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	Yes
Conway Junior High School	CONWAY SCHOOL DISTRICT	36	Yes
Crestwood Elementary School	NORTH LITTLE ROCK SCHOOL DISTRICT	26	Yes
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
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

ARKANSAS PUBLIC SCHOOLS REQUIRED TO BECOME PURPLE STAR SCHOOLS
May 31, 2026

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	Yes
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.		Program is complete. ADHE is reviewing new applications.
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.
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 is complete. Data are being analyzed.
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.		Two sessions were conducted by Ms. Saum. Well received by audience.

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 complete.
December 2026	JROTC Award	Explore creating an award for JROTC cadets		Concept has been approved by the Council. Obtaining quotes for cost to produce.
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. Funding source not yet identified.
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.		Draft standards have been prepared. Awaiting review by service branch representative.
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 complete other than graphics. Currently being reviewed by DESE Legal Services Unit.
RED = 0%	AMBER = 32%	GREEN = 68%		



**PER DIEM, TRAVEL, AND TRANSPORTATION
ALLOWANCE COMMITTEE**
4800 MARK CENTER DRIVE, SUITE 05E22
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22350-9000

March 25, 2026

MEMORANDUM FOR: MILITARY ADVISORY PANEL

SUBJECT: UTD FOR MAP 17-26(I), "Clarify professional books, papers, and equipment (PBP&E) by including home-schooling materials"

1. Purpose: This item clarifies that homeschooling material, or equipment that is required for the dependent's education is considered professional books, papers, and equipment (PBP&E); leisure material and old textbooks are still excluded from PBP&E. As directed in the Secretary of War memo, "Homeschooling Support for Military-Connected Families," May 15, 2025, the Department conducted a review of supports and activities for home-schooling families. Following the review, the Office of the Under Secretary of War Personnel and Readiness (USW(P&R)) advised the Joint Travel Regulations (JTR) be updated to eliminate ambiguity and ensure home-school curriculum materials are authorized as PBP&E.

2. This revision is forwarded for information purposes. No coordination is required.

3. USW(P&R) initiated this revision.

4. This revision is effective when published in the JTR.

5. Action Officer: Holly Korcel (Holly.n.korcel.civ@mail.mil).

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Date: 2026.03.25 13:19:08 -04'00'

Christopher M. Woods
Chief, Policy Branch

Attachment:

Joint Travel Regulations Revisions

cc:

Defense Travel Management Office

U.S. Coast Guard Pay and Personnel Center

Joint Travel Regulations Revisions

APPENDIX A: DEFINITIONS AND ACRONYMS

PROFESSIONAL BOOKS, PAPERS, AND EQUIPMENT (PBP&E) are also known as professional (“pro”) gear. A Service member or employee’s PBP&E are items needed for the performance of official duties at the next or a later PDS.

A. PBP&E include reference material not ordinarily available at the next PDS; specialized clothing such as diving suits, flying suits, helmets, band uniforms, chaplains' vestments, and other specialized apparel; individually owned or specially issued field clothing and equipment; Government or uniformed service owned accountable organizational clothing and individual equipment issued to the Service member or civilian employee; communication equipment used by a Service member or civilian employee in association with the Military Auxiliary Radio System; and home-schooling materials.

B. PBP&E exclude commercial products for sale or resale; sports equipment; shop fixtures; furniture; personal computer equipment and accessories; memorabilia, including awards, plaques or other objects presented for past performance; table service, including flatware, serving pieces, dishes, other utensils, and glassware; or other items of a professional nature that are not necessary at the next or a later PDS, such as text books from previous schools unrelated to future duties, or personal books.

C. For a Service member’s dependent spouse, PBP&E are items needed for the spouse’s employment or community support activities at the next or a later destination. A civilian employee’s dependent spouse does not receive PBP&E.

ACMC Education Updates

June 4, 2026

Professional Learning Opportunities

- [Power of Water CAW PD](#)
- [Arkansas Forestry Association](#)
- [Chemical and Lab Safety Training](#)
- [McGraw-Hill Training](#)
- [Reveal Algebra I Training](#)
- [2026 DESE Professional Learning](#)

Arkansas STEM Model Program

- [Arkansas STEM Model Program Webpage](#)
- [Arkansas STEM Model Program Agreement](#)

Listserv Sign-ups

- [Computer Science](#)
- [Math](#)
- [STEM](#)

Commissioner's Memos

- [2027 Arkansas Teacher of the Year Application](#)
 - The Arkansas Department of Education is accepting nominations for the 2027 Arkansas Teacher of the Year (ATOY) program.
- [ADE Summit 2026](#)
 - The ADE Summit 2026 will be held July 14-16, 2026, at the Hot Springs Convention Center. This annual event brings together educators, education leaders, and school personnel from across the state for professional learning, collaboration, and connection.
- [Educators Book Depository](#)
 - The Educators Book Depository maintains a comprehensive inventory of both adopted and non-adopted instructional

materials, including a locally stocked supply of the most widely used resources for Arkansas classrooms. This provides Arkansas districts with a dependable supply chain that prioritizes classroom readiness. By maintaining this inventory within the state, EBD significantly reduces fulfillment times and eliminates many of the delays associated with out-of-state warehouse shipments. In addition, the local EBD team works closely with districts to coordinate deliveries and accommodate specific logistical requirements.

- [CTE Course Substitution](#)
 - Crosswalk of comparable elective coursework allowing students to replace core academic requirements with comparable Career and Technical Education (CTE) electives.
- [Crystal Bridges Invites Arkansas Schools to Experience America 250: Common Threads](#)
 - A special exhibition created to support classroom learning across subjects, Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art invites Arkansas schools to visit America 250: Common Threads.
- [Accelerated Learning Updates](#)
 - A progression of K-12 coursework that could be utilized to provide accelerated learning opportunities. Additional options and programs for providing progressions to support accelerated learning can be found in the [Accelerated Learning Organized Method section](#) of this document. Regardless of the programming or coursework offered, progressions should be structured to offer multiple entry points aligned to student readiness.

February 9, 2026

Math Intervention Plans

- In the ATLAS Portal as of February 3, 2026.
- To access the plan, students must complete an Interim in 25-26 SY.
 - Math Plans are **required** for **Grades 3-8**.
 - Math Plans are not required to be in the ATLAS System this year.
 - Math Plans are available in the ATLAS System for Grades K - Geometry.

Arkansas Career Pathways Initiative

- You must be a parent or adult caretaker of a child under 21. This includes custodial and noncustodial parents.
- AND You must receive services under the following programs: SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program); Medicaid; CHIP (Children's Health Insurance Program) (ArKids First); SSI (Supplemental Security Income); SSD (Social Security Disability); WIC (Women, Infants, & Children); HUD (Housing & Urban Development)/Section 8 housing; or be a current or former TEA (Transitional Employment Assistance) recipient.
- OR If you do not qualify for these programs but have a household income of less than 250 percent of the federal poverty level, you may still qualify for CPI services.

Commissioner's Memos

- Public School Choice - District Responsibilities and Compliance Overview
 - Recent amendments to the Rules Governing Public School Choice expand and clarify access to inter-district and intra-district transfers under the Arkansas Public School Choice Act of 2015 and the Opportunity Public School Choice Act. This memo summarizes the process and district compliance responsibilities.
- Course Code Updates for 2026-2027

- Graduates starting with the 2026-27 SY must have either Algebra II or Quantitative Reasoning to graduate
- The Graduating class of 2026-2027 will be the second cohort of students to require one credit of computer science to graduate. Year 1 computer science courses will no longer count towards a 4th math credit.
- Students who have received credit for a Year 1 computer science course prior to the 2026-2027 school year will receive a 4th math credit for their computer science course.
- LAUNCH for Students is Arkansas's new statewide platform designed to streamline college, career, and academic planning for each student. The system is designed to provide a unified and streamlined experience. LAUNCH for Students will give learners access to their Student Success Plans, personalized career exploration tools, graduation planning resources, and real-time information that supports meaningful goal-setting.
- [January and February's Arkansas Celebrates America250 Content](#)
 - In recognition of the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, the Arkansas Department of Education (ADE) continues its statewide initiative, Arkansas Celebrates America250 (ACA250). This update highlights January's theme, [Arkansas Innovators](#), and February's [Building Pathways](#).
 - Through the *Journey Across Arkansas* dashboard, schools can access standards-aligned, ready-to-use resources that highlight the innovators who have shaped Arkansas's progress.
- [Updated Third Grade Promotion](#)
 - [Third Grade Promotion](#) webpage
- [Special Education IEP and 504 Plan Documentation Platform](#)
 - Arkansas districts and schools will have access to a new, no-cost option for managing Special Education IEP and Section 504 Plan documentation through PowerSchool's statewide, Arkansas-compliant platform. This solution is designed to deliver consistency, efficiency, and improved data reporting across schools and districts. The platform is intended to support districts interested in moving to a more unified Special Education and 504 Plan system of support and is customized to meet Arkansas's

specific requirements. The platform organizes documentation and automates many aspects of data collection. While participation is not mandatory, districts are encouraged to consider implementing PowerSchool Special Programs in Summer 2026. Districts interested in participating in the 2026-2027 school year will need to opt in by February 27, 2026.

- [Preliminary Testing Calendar 2026-2027](#)
 - [2026-2027 Assessment Calendar](#)
- [Early Childhood Local Lead Organizations - Request for Application](#)
 - The Arkansas Department of Education (ADE), Office of Early Childhood, announces the release of the Local Early Childhood Lead (Local Lead) Application for the 2026–2031 cycle. Local Leads serve as full implementation partners with ADE to strengthen local early childhood systems and ensure high-quality, developmentally appropriate learning environments for children birth to five.
 - Selected organizations will receive a five-year grant beginning July 1, 2026, with annual performance reviews based on required deliverables, the Phases of Responsibility rubric, and partner feedback.
- [2026-2027 CTE High-Demand and High-Wage \(H2\) Pathways](#)
 - ACT 237 of 2023 requires that public school districts offer at least one career and technical education (CTE) pathway that meets the state definition of High Demand and High Wage (H2). For the 2026-2027 school year, there are 29 CTE pathways that meet the state definition of High Demand and High Wage.
 - Each CTE pathway has identified [Standard Occupational Classification](#) (SOC) codes that are aligned to course standards. When determining high demand and high wage, we review

Arkansas workforce data on the specified SOC codes to determine the demand and wage for a CTE pathway. The SOC alignment with each pathway can be found [here](#).

- [Stipend Program for Vision/Hearing Specialist](#)
 - In an effort to assist local educational agencies in meeting personnel shortages and to promote successful outcomes for students who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing, Blind, or Visually Impaired, the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education Office of Special Education (DESE-OSE), has established Memorandums of Understanding with the following established licensure programs for Deaf, Hard of Hearing, Blind, or Visually Impaired certification for eligible individuals to complete the necessary coursework: Stephen F. Austin University, Texas Tech University, and Texas Woman's University.



**ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
ARKANSAS COUNCIL FOR MILITARY CHILDREN

TO THE
GOVERNOR OF ARKANSAS,
THE SENATE AND HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEES OF
THE ARKANSAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY,
AND THE ARKANSAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
COVERING ACADEMIC YEAR 2025-2026**

Executive Summary

Statutory Requirements

Pursuant to Arkansas Code Annotated (ACA) § 6-28-204(f), the Arkansas Council for Military Children (the Council) submits this report to the Governor of Arkansas and the Education Committees of the Senate and House of Representatives of the Arkansas General Assembly and the Arkansas State Board of Education..

This report covers the period from July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026. Because the Council focuses on supporting children from military families enrolled in Arkansas public schools, this period is referred to in this report as Academic Year 2025–2026 (AY 2025–2026).

ACA 6-28-204 requires this Council to report on the following areas (excerpted verbatim from ACA 6-28-204(h):

- (1) Information regarding the achievements of the State Council and public school districts regarding the support provided to military families under this chapter;
- (2) Details of the reports provided to the Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission (MIC3);
- (3) The number of children of military families in each public school district transferring to or from another state or federal education agency in the previous year;
- (4) Summaries of cases elevated to the chair for counsel and assistance in resolving cases involving the transition of children of military families that were elevated by military families, United States Department of Defense officials; or public school districts.
- (5) Information regarding training that is provided to public school district personnel with respect to this chapter
- (6) Details regarding plans for future engagement efforts with uniformed services families under this chapter; and
- (7) Any other information deemed relevant by the Council.

The Council has also elected to submit this report to the Secretary of Education and to the MIC3 national office in partial fulfillment of the requirements of MIC3 Rule 2.102.

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Section A. Achievements of the Council

Subsection A.1. Goals Completed

The Council has achieved the following goals during AY 2025-26:

- a) Conducted initial training for District Military Education Coordinators (DMECs) in August 2025 with monthly sessions thereafter through May 2026. See Subsection 3 below for the schedule of all training events conducted by the Council during AY 2025-26.
- b) Created a [Purple Star School toolkit](#) of resources to assist schools in achieving Purple Star School status.
- c) Assisted the Division of Higher Education in developing the Purple Star Campus program, pursuant to ACA § 6-61-144.
- d) Developed a [toolkit of resources](#) for use by schools for observance of Veterans Day.
- e) Developed a [quick guide](#) for schools to create a Military Student Club.
- f) Developed a systematic method for school districts to provide input to the Council's annual report.
- g) Collected and provided to school districts materials to assist with creating a student-to-student peer ambassador program as part of the Purple Star School program.
- h) Implemented a method to collect information on "best practices" for supporting children of military families and posting them for use by school districts.
- i) Created a [toolkit](#) of resources to assist school districts in celebrating Month of the Military Child.
- j) Conducted two sessions to inform military families about the many resources available for their support.
- k) Created a [toolkit](#) of resources to assist school districts in observing Memorial Day.

Subsection A.2. Student Advisor Addenda

The Council has continued its Student Advisor Program. Student advisors work with their District Military Education Coordinator (DMEC) to support military-connected students in their districts, promote the Month of the Military Child, and provide updates at regular Council meetings, attending when their academic schedules permit. Each student advisor also contributes input to the Council's annual report.

A.2.a. 1st Congressional District - Ava Berryhill, Cabot High School

- a) Initiatives, programs, or actions the school district implemented during the past academic year to support military-connected students.

We implemented a mentorship program between high school age military students and their elementary counterparts at two elementary schools. We organized Purple Up Palooza, an event that hosted all of the military students between the ages of 2nd-4th grade to kick off April as the Month of the Military Child. At the high school, there was a pancake breakfast on Purple Up Day to recognize the military students at the high school.

- b) Outcomes or initiatives recommended for the school district to accomplish next year to support military-connected students.

I hope we are able to expand our mentorship program to include more elementary schools in the district, so that more students are served districtwide. I also hope to expand Purple Up Palooza, so we can host all elementary military students and not just those in 2nd-4th grade. I would also like to see the school district highlight what the schools are doing year-round to support their military-connected students, not just during April.

- c) Actions or changes recommended to better support military-connected students statewide.

I would recommend a more consolidated resource for military-connected students to find scholarships designed for military families and the resources for financial aid in higher education. It would help ease the burden of the rising costs of college degrees by providing military-connected students with a specific space for aid geared towards their needs.

- d) Knowledge and insights gained from serving on the Arkansas Council for Military Children during the past academic year.

I have learned about the resources and projects available in Arkansas for military families and their students. I have also learned about the leaders who are working in the state to support such families and have made connections with those leaders in my community.

A.2.b. 3rd Congressional District - Weston Arnett, Greenwood High School

- a) Initiatives, programs, or actions the school district implemented during the past academic year to support military-connected students.

We are beginning the process of a Military Student club to help bring children with similar needs together and better collaborate on wants and needs and support the select student body.

- b) Outcomes or initiatives recommended for the school district to accomplish next year to support military-connected students.

Hit the ground running with the club and really get it in place.

- c) Actions or changes recommended to better support military-connected students statewide.

Just more advocacy and more school support. I believe Arkansas has many students who are military-connected and should receive more recognition for their own sacrifice being a student of a military family.

- d) Knowledge and insights gained from serving on the Arkansas Council for Military Children during the past academic year.

I learned so much about how military children are affected across the state, as every child's experience is different from mine. I saw the many opportunities that I could incorporate into my own school and got to relay ideas to other schools.

A.2.c. 4th Congressional District - Carly Teeter, Malvern High School

- a) Initiatives, programs, or actions the school district implemented during the past academic year to support military-connected students.

This year my district promoted peer support and recognition programs to help military connected students feel included and supported within the school community. When my Army Instructor for JROTC first moved we welcomed his children with open arms and happily supported them with the transition with friendly faces and helping hands.

- b) Outcomes or initiatives recommended for the school district to accomplish next year to support military-connected students.

My school district should focus on creating a more consistent transition support system so military connected students can maintain academic progress without disruption. With counselor training and peer mentoring programs we can create a better environment.

- c) Actions or changes recommended to better support military-connected students statewide.

The state should standardize enrollment, credit transfer, and graduation requirements to reduce disruption for military connected students facing frequent moves. Stronger coordination between schools and military installations would ensure consistent, timely support across districts.

- d) Knowledge and insights gained from serving on the Arkansas Council for Military Children during the past academic year.

Serving the ACMC showed me how policy decisions directly impact students facing frequent moves and transitions. I learned the importance of support systems, communication, and policies. This council is very important to support stability and academic success, and the council has done a wonderful job.

Subsection 3: Training Provided to Public School Personnel.

The Council provided Purple Star School Orientation Training to school personnel interested in attaining Purple Star School designation. The session schedule is presented in Table 1. The Council also conducted monthly update sessions for District Military Education Coordinators (DMECs) and Military Education Facilitators (MEFs). The session schedule is presented in Table 2. All sessions were conducted online.

Table 1: Purple Star School Orientation Sessions

DATE	TRAINERS
September 9, 2025	J. Kaminar
September 23, 2025	J. Kaminar, T. Williams
October 1, 2025	J. Kaminar
October 7, 2025	J. Kaminar
October 16, 2025	J. Kaminar, T. Williams
October 16, 2025	J. Kaminar
October 30, 2025	J. Kaminar
November 14, 2025	J. Kaminar
November 21, 2025	J. Kaminar
January 7, 2026	J. Kaminar
January 14, 2026	J. Kaminar, T. Williams
February 5, 2026	J. Kaminar
February 9, 2026	J. Kaminar
March 10, 2026	J. Kaminar
April 8, 2026	J. Kaminar
May 13, 2026	J. Kaminar, T. Williams
May 26, 2026	J. Kaminar
May 28, 2026	J. Kaminar, T. Williams

Table 2: District Military Education Coordinator / Military Education Facilitator Update Schedule

DATE	TOPICS	GUEAST PRESENTERS	GUEST PRESENTER TOPICS
August 12, 2025	Basic Training for DMECs and MEFs	T. Williams	LRAFB School Liaison Program
August 13, 2025	Basic Training for DMECs and MEFs	T. Williams	LRAFB School Liaison Program
September 16, 2025	Purple Star School Program	A. Fisher; Dr. L. Garber; Lt. Col. E. Scarborough, Lt. Col.	Hearts of Our Heroes; Holiday Cards 4 Troops; National Guard Support for Veterans Day in Schools
September 17, 2025	Purple Star School Program	A. Fisher; Dr. L. Garber; Lt. Col. E. Scarborough, Lt. Col.	Hearts of Our Heroes; Holiday Cards 4 Troops; National Guard Support for Veterans Day in Schools
October 14, 2025	Federal Government Shutdown Assistance	S. Flaherty; J. Bergstrom; C. Harper	Anchored 4 Life; Mission: Purple Star: Military Family Readiness
October 15, 2025	Federal Government Shutdown Assistance	S. Flaherty; J. Bergstrom; C. Harper	Anchored 4 Life; Mission: Purple Star: Military Family Readiness
November 4, 2025	Federal Government Shutdown Assistance; Survey of Military Families; Outstanding Military Scholar Award	L. Dablow	Military Interstate Children's Compact
November 20, 2025	Federal Government Shutdown Assistance; Survey of Military Families; Outstanding Military Scholar Award	L. Dablow	Military Interstate Children's Compact
December 16, 2025	Purple Star School Program; Survey of Military Families; Outstanding Military Scholar Award	Dr. Z. Baumgarten	UALR Veterans Legal Services Center / Pro Bono Services Center

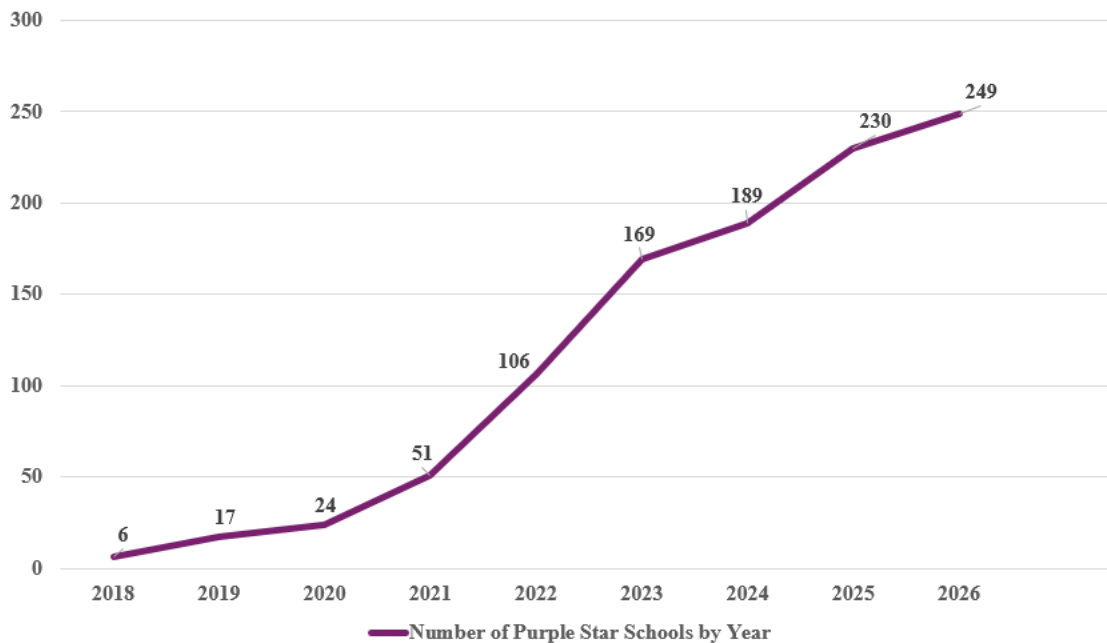
DATE	TOPICS	GUEST PRESENTERS	GUEST PRESENTER TOPICS
December 17, 2025	Purple Star School Program; Survey of Military Families; Outstanding Military Scholar Award	Dr. Z. Baumgarten	UALR Veterans Legal Services Center / Pro Bono Services Center
January 13, 2026	Forum for Military Families; Family and Community Engagement Plans; Outstanding Military Scholar Award; Resources for Military Families; VA Hospital Patient Advocacy Program	None	
January 14, 2026	Forum for Military Families; Family and Community Engagement Plans; Outstanding Military Scholar Award; Resources for Military Families; VA Hospital Patient Advocacy Program	None	
February 17, 2026	Resources for Military Families	B. Jaime; Dr. M. Farrell; E. Taylor	Observing Month of the Military Child
February 18, 2026	Resources for Military Families	B. Jaime; Dr. M. Farrell; E. Taylor	Observing Month of the Military Child
March 17, 2026	Purple Star School Program; Resources for Military Families	J. Saum	Managing Military Child Educational Transitions
March 18, 2026	Purple Star School Program; Resources for Military Families	J. Saum	Managing Military Child Educational Transitions

Subsection 4: Status of the Purple Star Schools Program.

The number of schools qualifying for Purple Star School status has increased from 204 to 249 as of May 31, 2026. A sortable list of Arkansas Purple Star Schools is available on the Council's website.

Graph 1 indicates the growth of the Purple Star School program since its creation in 2018.

**Graph 1: Increase in Arkansas Purple Star Schools
2018 - 2026**



As of May 31, 2026

The number of school districts recognized as Purple Star School Districts has increased from 23 to 25. A sortable list of Arkansas Purple Star School Districts is also available on the Council's website.

Arkansas Code Annotated § 6-28-301(a) requires all public schools with twenty (20) or more children of military families enrolled as of October 1 each year to attain Purple Star School status. As of October 1, 2025, seventy-three (73) public schools met this enrollment threshold. Of those schools, sixty-four (64) have met the program requirements and have been designated as Purple Star Schools.

As of May 31, 2026 the following schools meeting the threshold have begun, but not completed, the process of becoming a Purple Star School:

- Central High School (Little Rock)
- Fayetteville High School
- Greenbrier High School
- Rogers High School

The following schools meeting the threshold have not begun the process of becoming a Purple Star School:

- Benton Middle School
- Benton Junior High School
- North Little Rock High School
- Parkview Magnet High School (Little Rock)
- Southwest High School (Little Rock)

The statutory requirement to become a Purple Star School has been communicated to the principals of the above-listed schools by the Council chair. Training sessions have been offered.

The Council has also assisted the Division of Higher Education in developing the Purple Star Campus program, pursuant to ACA § 6-61-144.

The Council wishes to express its gratitude to Camp Alliance, Inc. for providing Purple Star School banners and to Ms. Terri Williams for presenting banners to schools and school districts that qualified for Purple Star status.

Subsection 5: Military Family Forum

The Council conducted two online forums:

October 2, 2025, 12:00 PM to 2:00 PM, two families in attendance
January 22, 2026, 3:00 PM to 6:00 PM, no families in attendance

Subsection 6: Recognition Programs.

A.6.a. Outstanding Military Scholar Award

The Council has presented its second annual Outstanding Military Scholar Award, which honors a graduating senior who is the child of a current or former member of the United States uniformed services, including the National Guard. The recipient is selected through a statewide competition based on academic achievement, extracurricular involvement, leadership, and community service. The 2026 Outstanding Military Scholar Award was presented to Weston Arnett of Greenwood High School. The Council extends its sincere appreciation to the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education for providing a plaque and to Camp Alliance, Inc. for donating a laptop computer as prizes for the award recipient.

A.6.b. Outstanding Junior ROTC Cadet Award

The Council has established the Outstanding JROTC Cadet Award to recognize exceptional Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC) cadets across Arkansas. This annual award honors cadets who exemplify the values of Honor, Courage, and Commitment, both in and out of uniform, and who have distinguished themselves through scholarship, leadership, citizenship, and community service. One award is allocated each year to every JROTC detachment in the state.

The award includes a medal, ribbon bar, and certificate. Medals are presented at three levels—bronze, silver, and gold. One bronze medal is awarded annually to each JROTC program in Arkansas. From among those recipients, one cadet from each branch of service (Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force) will be selected as that branch's outstanding cadet and will receive a silver medal. One cadet from all programs statewide will be selected as the overall outstanding cadet and will receive the gold medal. The ribbon bar is identical for all three medal levels.

The JROTC program whose cadet receives the gold medal will also be awarded a distinctive streamer, which may be permanently affixed to the program's colors. In addition, that program will be entrusted with the Outstanding Cadet flag for the following academic year. The flag will be passed each spring to the next program whose cadet is selected as the statewide outstanding cadet.

Nominations are submitted online by the senior JROTC instructor of each program. The nomination form includes information on the cadet's academic performance, attendance, disciplinary record, extracurricular involvement, and community service learning. The nominator may also submit a written statement explaining why the cadet merits the award.

While the Council has created the Outstanding JROTC Cadet Award, implementation of the program will occur once a funding source is secured to purchase the award items.

Section B: Achievements of Public School Districts

Notable accomplishments by public school districts are presented alphabetically by the name of the district. Immediately following the public school districts are private schools which have shown support for children of military families.

B.1. Armored School District has surveyed its student body to identify as many military-connected families as possible and has established contact with the respondents. The district held its first Purple Up! event on April 10, 2026.

B.2. Bauxite School District recognized its military students by creating special buttons that read, *"I have a brave heart and a resilient soul—I am Military Kid Strong."* Each button included a tag expressing appreciation for their strength, courage, and resilience. The message also highlighted the symbolism of the dandelion—the military child's flower—representing their unique ability to grow and thrive wherever they are planted.

B.3. Cabot School District raised \$4,580 through its Purple Up T-shirt fundraiser this year in support of the annual Purple Star School Scholarship. Over the past five years, the district has awarded five scholarships totaling \$14,000 to military-connected graduating seniors in Cabot.

Purple Up Palooza kicked off the Month of the Military Child on Friday, April 3, by celebrating third- and fourth-grade military-connected students from across the district. Hosted at Cabot High School's Arena, the event provided each group with an hour of activities designed to honor these students through fun, connection, and military-themed experiences. Participants rotated through stations featuring physical training with Arkansas National Guard soldiers, obstacle courses, a bounce house, hands-on activities led by Cabot High School CTE classes, and an enrichment station facilitated by Military Family Life Counselors and Ms. Terri Williams (School Liaison Program Manager for the Little Rock Air Force Base). The Out of School Instruction trailer added interactive opportunities such as fingerprinting and footprint casting, blending fun with career exploration and hands-on discovery. Purple Up Palooza was made possible through the collaborative efforts of Cabot High School JROTC, Cabot High School CTE, and the Cabot High School Military Kids Club. Community sponsors also provided T-shirts as a reminder of the strong support Cabot offers its military-connected students.

This year, the Cabot High School Military Kids Club launched a mentorship program connecting high school students with military-connected students at Northside and Southside Elementary Schools. During designated meeting times throughout the year, participants gathered in the elementary cafeterias for

activities focused on fun, connection, and relationship-building through their shared experiences as military children.

During each home football game of the season, a military family was introduced and invited to lead the Pledge of Allegiance on the jumbotron. This special tradition honored military families by placing them in the spotlight before the Panther community. Families also received complimentary tickets for relatives and friends, allowing them to attend the game and cheer on the Panthers together.



Left: Cabot students participate in physical training with members of the Arkansas National Guard.

Right: Thea and James Petrone led the Pledge of Allegiance at a home football game.

B.4. Greenwood School District is a Purple Star District that demonstrates a district-wide culture of honoring military service through annual events and recognitions and embeds military appreciation into classroom and campus-level activities. The district maintains ongoing communication and visibility of military-connected families and prioritizes safe, structured environments aligned with military family expectations. Weston Arnett, Class of 2026, received the Arkansas Outstanding Military Scholar Award in April 2026.



Left: Weston Arnett, Class of 2026, receives the Outstanding Military Scholar Award.

Right: Congressman Steve Womack visits Cadet Jackson Witherington (Greenwood Class of 2024) at the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York.

B.5. Harrisburg School District maintained ongoing communication and outreach to military-connected families through Parent Square by providing timely district updates, safety information, state resources, meetings, and support opportunities through social media, text and email communication.

Recognized and honored military families through school and district activities, including Veteran's Day events and ongoing efforts to create an inclusive, welcoming, and supportive school environment for military-connected students and their families.

B.6. Magazine School District proudly demonstrated its commitment to military-connected students and families through its "Mission Appreciation: Breakfast and Parade," held during the Month of the Military Child. As a Purple Star district, Magazine School District believes that supporting military families requires meaningful action and strong community engagement. The event brought together active-duty service members, veterans, military families, students, educators, and community members to honor service, sacrifice, resilience, and patriotism. The program featured patriotic presentations, recognition of each military branch, special honors for veterans and military children, and a campus-wide parade celebrating those connected to military service. Through intentional recognition programs, strong community partnerships, and schoolwide support initiatives, Magazine School District continues to ensure that military-connected students and families feel valued, supported, and honored.

In addition, Magazine School District strengthened its support for military-connected students by developing and teaching Arkansas Standards-aligned K–6 mini-units focused on patriotism, military families, service, and civic appreciation. Designed to support the district's 21 military-connected students and to increase awareness of its Purple Star designation, the "Honoring Our Heroes: Patriotism & Military Families" units integrate Arkansas Social Studies Standards with meaningful, age-appropriate learning experiences. Students explore concepts such as citizenship, sacrifice, resilience, national symbols, and the important role military families play in protecting our freedoms. These lessons also highlight the district's Mission Appreciation initiatives. By embedding military family recognition into classroom instruction, the district strengthens civic understanding and ensures that military-connected students feel recognized, valued, and supported throughout the school year.

B.7. Perryville School District celebrated the Month of the Military Child by honoring military-connected students in meaningful ways: hosting a special private lunch in their honor and encouraging all students and staff to participate in a "Purple Up" day by wearing purple to show support.

In addition, the district recognized local veterans during a special football game, where military-connected students carried an extra-large American flag—spanning nearly half the field—during the National Anthem and Pledge of Allegiance. The district also held a special recognition ceremony at a basketball game to honor both veterans and military-connected students.

This year, Perryville High School further celebrated its graduating military-connected seniors by awarding them purple honor cords in recognition of their unique experiences and contributions.

B.8. Poyen School District maintains consistent communication with the parents of its military-connected students, ensures that these students have a strong support network of faculty and peers, and provides additional counseling services during periods of heightened stress related to their parents' military service.

B.9. Rogers School District's Fairview Elementary School partnered with the Rogers Rotary Club to celebrate Purple Up Day by distributing purple bracelets in support of military children and their families.

B.10. Immaculate Conception Catholic School, North Little Rock held a Veterans Day Assembly to honor those who have served in the military. All parents who are currently serving or who are veterans were invited to attend and were recognized for their service in various conflicts. Students contributed to the event by creating decorations, performing patriotic songs, and singing the anthem of each military branch as it was recognized. Students also participated in the Holiday Cards for Troops program, creating holiday cards to be sent to deployed service members. During the Month of the Military Child, the school hosted a special breakfast for military-connected students and their parents. Upper-grade students attended an assembly where service members spoke about how military life has affected their families. They discussed the unique challenges military children face, including frequent relocations and living overseas. In the lower grades, service members visited classrooms to read books, share photos from their service, and answer students' questions about military life. Additionally, all students were encouraged to show their support by wearing purple on Purple Up! Day.

Section C: Reports to the Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission

The Council submitted this report to the MIC3 national headquarters in fulfillment of MIC3 Rule 2.102.

Section D: Military-Connected Student Transfer Cases Elevated to the Council

No cases were elevated to the Council for resolution.

Section E: Plans for Future Engagement

The Council continues to pursue the following goals for future action. Goals marked with *** are based on suggestions offered by the Council's Student Advisors:

- A) Encourage Purple Star Schools to perform a service project or fundraising activity to support children of military families during Month of the Military Child. Target for completion: January 2026***
- B) Conduct a needs survey of military families. Target for completion: February 2026
- C) Conduct at least one Military Family Forum, pursuant to ACA 6-28-204(f). Target for completion: March 2026
- D) Conduct a series of online sessions to educate military family members about resources available to them. Target for completion: March 2026
- E) Conduct continuing monthly training sessions to provide current information to DMECs and MEFs. Target for completion: May 2026
- F) Explore creating an award for JROTC cadets. Target for completion: December 2026
- G) Increase the number of Purple Star Schools from 204 to 300. Target for completion: May 2027

- H) Explore holding an annual leadership workshop for children of military families. Target for completion: May 2027***
- I) 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. Target for completion: May 2027
- J) 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). Target for completion: May 2027

Section F: Other Relevant Information.

Subsection1. Membership of the Council. Table 4 lists Council members whose position is established in A.C.A. § 6-28-203 and A.C.A. § 6-28-205. The position of Department of Defense Liaison is established by Department of defense Instruction 1342.29. Table 5 lists persons who have served the Council at its request under authority of ACA 6-28-204(d)(2).

Table 4: Council Membership

INCUMBENT	POSITION
Col. (Ret.) John Kaminar, Chair	Military Family Support Specialist, Arkansas Department of Education, Division of Elementary and Secondary Education
Andelyn Wright, Vice Chair and Chair of the Student Advisory Committee	Integrated Primary Prevention Specialist, Fort Chaffee
Emily Taylor	Director of Counseling, Cabot Public Schools
Dr. Jeremy Owoh	Superintendent, Jacksonville-North Pulaski School District
John Ciesla	Superintendent, Greenwood School District
Alyson Pitts	Director of Counseling, Sheridan School District
Jessica Saum	Collaboration and Inclusion Coordinator, Cabot Public Schools
Whitney Malham	School Counselor, Eastside Elementary School, Cabot Public Schools
Lt. Col. James Garvey	Deputy Commander, 188 th Mission Support Group, Ebbing Air National Guard Station
LaShawnDa Noel	Executive Director, Lighthouse Academies of Arkansas
Christina Harper	Lead Military and Family Readiness Specialist, Arkansas National Guard
Jody Bergstrom, Chair of the Outreach Committee	Executive Director, Camp Alliance, Inc.
Terri Williams	School Liaison Program Manager, Little Rock Air Force Base
Jennifer Reynolds, Chair of the Strategic Planning Committee	Legal Counsel, Pine Bluff Arsenal
Brian Melton	Staff Supervisory Administrator, 90 th Sustainment Brigade, Camp Pike
Christyal Parker	Assistant Executive Director, Arkansas Activities Association
Sen. Jane English	Chair, Arkansas Senate Education Committee
Rep. Karilyn Brown	Arkansas House Education Committee
Bobbie Olles, Military Family Education Liaison	STEM Advisor for Mathematics, Arkansas Department of Education, Division of Elementary and Secondary Education
Col. Katrina Smith, Department of Defense Liaison (Non-Voting)	19 th Mission Support Group Commander, Little Rock Air Force Base

Table 5: Advisors and Liaisons to the Council

INCUMBENT	POSITION
Dr. Janice Walker, Chair of the Awards Committee	Assistant Superintendent, Jacksonville-North Pulaski School District
Rick Porter, Special Education Advisor	Special Education Program Advisor, Arkansas Department of Education, Division of Elementary and Secondary Education
Chelsey Swindle, Gold Star Family Advisor	Family Center Coordinator, Beebe School District
Alisha Price, Legal Advisor	Staff Attorney, Arkansas Department of Education
Abby Cress, Secretary to the Council	Grants Manager, Arkansas Department of Education, Division of Elementary and Secondary Education
Col. (Ret.) Wayne Ruthven, Arkansas Department of Veterans Affairs Liaison	Deputy Secretary and Chief of Staff, Arkansas Department of Veterans Affairs
Ava Berryhill, Student Advisor, 1 st Congressional District	Cabot High School, Grade 11
Caleb Carranco, Student Advisor, 2 nd Congressional District	Beebe High School, Grade 11
Weston Arnett, Student Advisor, 3 rd Congressional District	Greenwood High School, Grade 12
Carly Teeter, Student Advisor, 4 th Congressional District	Malvern High School, Grade 12

Section H: Recommendations for New Legislation

The Council recommends the enactment of legislation to provide as follows:

RECOMMENDATION 1. Food Insecurity Plans for Public School Districts.

- (a) Each public school district in the state, including open-enrollment charter schools, shall develop and annually publish a plan to address food insecurity among its student population.
- (b) The plan required under this section shall be made publicly available in a manner determined by the district.

RECOMMENDATION 2. Food Insecurity Plan for the Arkansas National Guard

- (a) The Arkansas National Guard Family Readiness Program shall develop and implement a plan to address food insecurity among families of members of the Arkansas National Guard.

The General Assembly is advised that this recommendation is submitted for the third consecutive year.

RECOMMENDATION 3. Military Installation Liaison Requirement.

- (a) Each public school district enrolling twenty (20) or more students from military families shall establish and maintain a liaison relationship with the nearest military installation.
- (b) For purposes of this section, “military installation” includes:
 - (1) Active-duty federal installations;
 - (2) Reserve component installations; and
 - (3) Arkansas National Guard facilities, including armories.

Point of contact for this report is Col. (Ret.) John I. Kaminar, Military Family Support Specialist, Arkansas Department of Education, Division of Elementary and Secondary Education, 501-683-5188, john.kaminar@ade.arkansas.gov.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/

John I. Kaminar
Council Chair and
Compact Commissioner for Arkansas

/s/

Andelyn Wright
Council Vice Chair

June __, 2026

Appendix A: Transfers of Children of Military Families

Data have been requested from DESE Data Warehouse and Reporting Unit. The report is expected by June 15, 2026 and will be included in the final report.

DRAFT

Appendix B: Biennial Report to the Joint Performance Review Committee / Schedule of Council and Committee Meetings

The Council's report to the Joint Performance Review Committee summarizes meeting dates and member attendance of meetings of the Council and its standing committees for the biennium July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2026.

DRAFT



REPORT TO THE
ARKANSAS JOINT PERFORMANCE REVIEW COMMITTEE
CONCERNING MEETINGS OF THE
ARKANSAS COUNCIL FOR MILITARY CHILDREN

Pursuant to Arkansas Code § 25-1-106(c), this report is submitted regarding the meeting dates and member attendance of the Arkansas Council for Military Children (the Council) and its three standing committees (the Awards Committee, Outreach Committee, and Strategic Planning Committee) for the biennium ending June 30, 2026.

Section A presents the meeting schedules and member attendance for the Council and its standing committees for the period of July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025 (Tables 1 through 4).

Section B presents the meeting schedules and member attendance for the Council (Table 5) and its standing committees for the period of July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026 (Tables 5 through 8).

The Council does not typically record information on all visitors at its meetings.

Point of contact for this information is Col. (Ret.) John I. Kaminar, Council Chair, 501-683-5188, john.kaminar@ade.arkansas.gov.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/

John I. Kaminar
Chair, Arkansas Council for Military Children
June __, 2026

Table 1: Council Meetings and Membership Attendance, July 1, 2024-June 30, 2025

NAME	7/18/2024	9/5/2024	11/7/2024	1/23/2025	3/6/2025	3/21/2025	5/8/2025
Bergstrom, Jody	Excused	Present	Present	Present	Present	Excused	Present
Brown, Karilyn	Present	Present	Present	Excused	Excused	Excused	Present
Ciesla, John	Absent	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Absent
English, Jane	Present	Present	Excused	Excused	Excused	Excused	Excused
Garvey, James	Present	Present	Excused	Present	Excused	Present	Present
Harper, Christina	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present
Kaminar, John	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present
Melton, Brian	Absent	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present
Noel, LaShawnDa	Absent	Present	Absent	Present	Present	Present	Present
Olles, Bobbie	Excused	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Excused
Owoh, Jeremy	Present	Absent	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present
Parker, Christyal	Excused	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present
Pitts, Allyson	Absent	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Excused
Reynolds, Jennifer	Absent	Present	Present	Present	Absent	Excused	Absent
Saum, Jessica	Absent	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present
Schneider, Kerry	Present	Present	Present	Present	Excused	Present	Present
Taylor, Emily	Absent	Present	Present	Excused	Absent	Excused	Present
Williams, Terri	Present	Present	Absent	Present	Present	Present	Present
Wright, Andelyn	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present
Estelle, N'Keiba (DOD Liaison)	Absent	Absent	Present	Absent	Present	Excused	Present
Porter, Rick (Special Education Advisor)	Present	Present	Present	Excused	Excused	Present	Excused
Price, Alisha (Legal Advisor)	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present
Swindle, Chelsey (Gold Star Family Advisor)	NA	NA	Present	Excused	Present	Excused	Present
Wood, Dustin (School Choice Advisor)	Excused	Present	Present	Present	Excused	Present	Present
Arnett, Weston (Student Advisor)	Present	Absent	Present	Present	Absent	Excused	Present
Smith, Sonya (Student Advisor)	Present	Present	Present	Absent	Present	Excused	Present
Williams, Madison (Student Advisor)	Present	Absent	Present	Present	Present	Excused	Excused

Table 2: Awards Committee Meetings and Membership Attendance, July 1, 2024-June 30, 2025

NAME	9/24/2024	12/3/2024	5/19/2025
Ciesla, John	Absent	Absent	Present
Kaminar, John	Present	Present	Present
Parker, Christyal	Present	Present	Present
Walker, Janice	Present	Present	Present
Williams, Terri	Present	Present	Excused

Table 3: Outreach Committee Meetings and Membership Attendance, July 1, 2024-June 30, 2025

NAME	7/3/2024	7/18/2024	8/22/2024	5/5/2025	6/11/2025
Bergstrom, Jody	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present
Harper, Christina	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present
Kaminar, John	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present
Saum, Jessica	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present
Williams, Terri	Present	Present	Excused	Present	Present
Wood, Dustin	Present	Excused	Excused	Present	NA

Table 4: Strategic Planning Committee Meetings and Membership Attendance, July 1, 2024-June 30, 2025

NAME	9/20/2024	11/21/2024
Garvey, James	Excused	Excused
Kaminar, John	Present	Present
Noel, LaShawnDa	Present	Present
Olles, Bobbie	Present	Excused
Reynolds, Jennifer	Present	Present
Wright, Andelyn	Present	Present

Table 5: Council Meetings and Membership Attendance, July 1, 2025-June 30, 2026

NAME	8/7/2025	10/2/2025	12/4/2025	2/12/2026	2/27/2026	4/2/2026	6/4/2026
Bergstrom, Jody	Present	Present	Excused	Present	Present	Present	
Brown, Karilyn	Present	Present	Excused	Present	Present	Excused	
Ciesla, John	Excused	Present	Present	Present	Excused	Present	
English, Jane	Excused	Present	Excused	Absent	Present	Present	
Garvey, James	Present	Present	Excused	Present	Present	Present	
Harper, Christina	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	
Kaminar, John	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	
Malham, Whitney	Present	Present	Present	Present	Absent	Present	
Melton, Brian	Present	Present	Absent	Present	Present	Present	
Noel, LaShawnDa	Present	Present	Absent	Present	Absent	Present	
Olles, Bobbie	Excused	Excused	Excused	Present	Present	Excused	
Owoh, Jeremy	Present	Present	Excused	Present	Present	Excused	
Parker, Christyal	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	
Pitts, Allyson	Present	Present	Excused	Excused	Absent	Present	
Reynolds, Jennifer	Present	Present	Excused	Present	Present	Excused	
Saum, Jessica	Excused	Excused	Absent	Present	Present	Present	
Taylor, Emily	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	
Williams, Terri	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	
Wright, Andelyn	Excused	Excused	Present	Excused	Present	Present	
Smith, Katrina (DOD Liaison)	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	
Porter, Rick (Special Education Advisor)	Absent	Excused	Present	Absent	Absent	Present	
Price, Alisha (Legal Advisor)	Present	Present	Excused	Present	Present	Excused	
Ruthven, Wayne (ADVA Liaison)	NA	NA	NA	Present	Present	Excused	
Swindle, Chelsey (Gold Star Family Advisor)	Present	Present	Present	Absent	Present	Present	
Arnett, Weston (Student Advisor)	Present	Present	Excused	Absent	Excused	Present	
Berryhill, Ava (Student Advisor)	Present	Excused	Present	Present	Excused	Present	
Carranco, Caleb (Student Advisor)	Present	Present	Present	Present	Excused	Absent	
Teeter, Carly (Student Advisor)	Present	Present	Excused	Absent	Present	Excused	

Table 6: Awards Committee Meetings and Membership Attendance, July 1, 2025-June 30, 2026

NAME	9/18/2025	1/21/2026	2/23/2026	3/19/2026	6/18/2026
Ciesla, John	Present	Present	Excused	Absent	
Kaminar, John	Present	Present	Present	Present	
Parker, Christyal	Present	Present	Present	Present	
Walker, Janice	Present	Present	Excused	Present	
Williams, Terri	Present	Present	Present	Present	

Table 7: Outreach Committee Meetings and Membership Attendance, July 1, 2025-June 30, 2026

NAME	8/6/2025	9/17/2025
Bergstrom, Jody	Present	Present
Harper, Christina	Present	Absent
Kaminar, John	Present	Present
Saum, Jessica	Excused	Present
Williams, Terri	Present	Absent

Table 8: Strategic Planning Committee Meetings and Membership Attendance, July 1, 2025-June 30, 2026

NAME	9/29/2025	11/5/2025	12/2/2025
Garvey, James	Present	Present	Present
Kaminar, John	Present	Present	Present
Noel, LaShawnDa	Absent	Absent	Present
Olles, Bobbie	Absent	Excused	Present
Reynolds, Jennifer	Present	Present	Present
Wright, Andelyn	Present	Present	Present

Appendix C: Survey of Military Families

The Council conducted a survey of military families from December 19, 2025, through February 14, 2026, receiving 130 responses. This reflects a 57% decrease compared to the Council's survey from the previous year. The primary cause of this decline is believed to be insufficient outreach. Specifically, the Council was not permitted to publicize the survey through a DESE Commissioner's Memo.

The survey results indicate that a notable number of military families are experiencing challenges meeting basic needs, including food and healthcare, with these difficulties most pronounced among enlisted personnel. Additionally, 19% of respondents reported that the federal government shutdown in fall 2025 adversely affected their ability to meet their families' essential needs. Of those impacted, one-third reported difficulty providing adequate food.



REPORT OF 2026 SURVEY OF MILITARY FAMILIES

The Arkansas Council for Military Children conducted an online survey of military families between November 25, 2025, and February 15, 2026. The purpose of the survey was to assess the needs of military families in Arkansas and to gauge overall awareness of resources available to support them.

The survey was promoted through the following channels:

1. The state's network of District Military Education Coordinators
2. The Division of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) Engagement Unit's monthly Engagement Advisory Group meetings in November and December 2025 and January 2026
3. Outreach conducted by Council members through their respective networks and constituencies

A total of 130 responses were received; however, not all respondents answered every question. The graphs on the following pages present the percentage distribution of responses for each survey question.

The following findings merit particular emphasis:

1. Enrollment in traditional public schools increased by 16 percent compared to last year.
2. Although a substantial number of military families remain unaware of many available resources, awareness has increased across all surveyed resources. Notable gains include:
 - o Arkansas Council for Military Children: +21 percent
 - o Military OneSource: +16 percent
 - o School Liaison Program (Little Rock Air Force Base): +13 percent
 - o Military Family Life Counselor: +12 percent
3. Awareness that a child is enrolled in a Purple Star School increased by 12 percent.
4. While awareness of District Military Education Coordinators has increased, a significant number of families still do not know whether their child's school district has designated a

coordinator. Arkansas law requires all public school districts to designate a staff member to serve as a District Military Education Coordinator.

5. Compared to last year:

- o Awareness of the school choice option increased by 6 percent.
- o Awareness of the advance enrollment option increased by 10 percent.
- o Awareness of the virtual enrollment option increased by 2 percent.
- o Significantly more families reported awareness of their advance enrollment option.
- o Ability to access special education services increased by 6 percent, continuing a positive trend observed for three consecutive years.
- o Reports of inability to access mental or behavioral health services decreased by 4 percent.
- o Ability to access medical care when needed increased by 4 percent.
- o Inability to obtain adequate groceries remained stable at just under 20 percent for the third consecutive year.
- o Inability to access adequate housing remained stable at 8 percent.
- o Inability to access adequate childcare remained stable at 8 percent.

6. It should also be noted that the federal government shutdown in October and November 2025 had a measurable impact on some military families. Thirty-three percent of respondents reported that the shutdown affected their ability to obtain adequate groceries, while twenty-two percent indicated that it affected their ability to secure adequate housing.

Three final points warrant note:

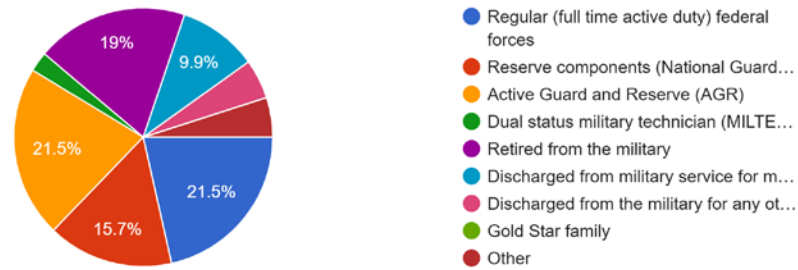
1. This report presents a summary of findings only and does not include the underlying raw data, which are available upon request.
2. Several school districts with relatively large enrollments of military-connected students had few survey responses.
3. The 130 responses received represent a small fraction of Arkansas military families and reflect a 57 percent decrease from the 2025 survey. This decline may be attributable, in part, to the Council's inability to publicize the survey through a Department of Education Commissioner's Memorandum.

Point of contact for this information is Col. (Ret.) John I. Kaminar, Council Chair, at 501-683-5188 or john.kaminar@ade.arkansas.gov

AI materially assisted in drafting this report.

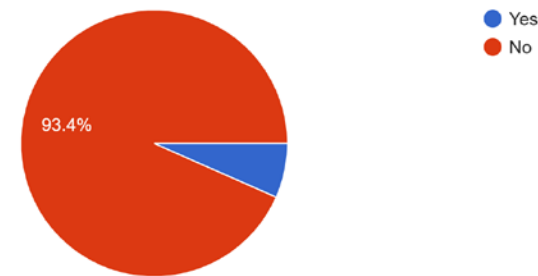
1. Which of the following best identifies your family's CURRENT military status?

121 responses



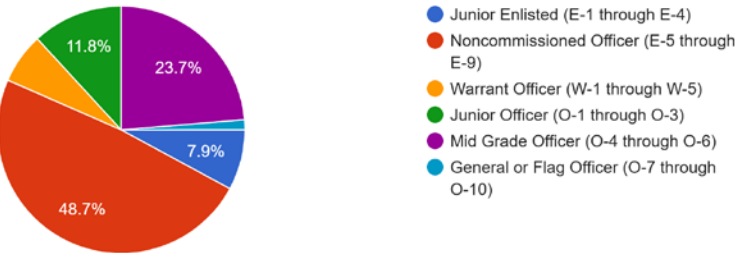
3. In the last twelve months, has your family relocated to Arkansas from another state on permanent change of station or transfer orders from the military?

121 responses



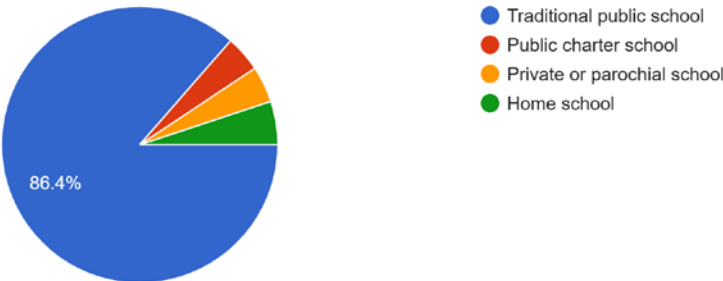
2. If a member of your immediate family is CURRENTLY serving in the military in any status (Regular, Reserve, National Guard, or MILTECH), w...ng best describes the service member's pay grade?

76 responses



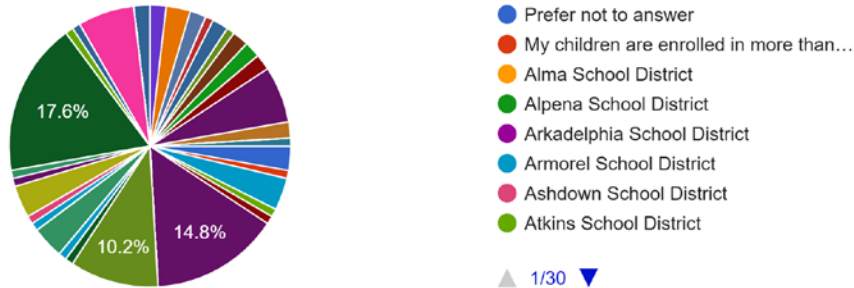
4. Which of the following best describes the type of school in which your child is currently enrolled?

118 responses



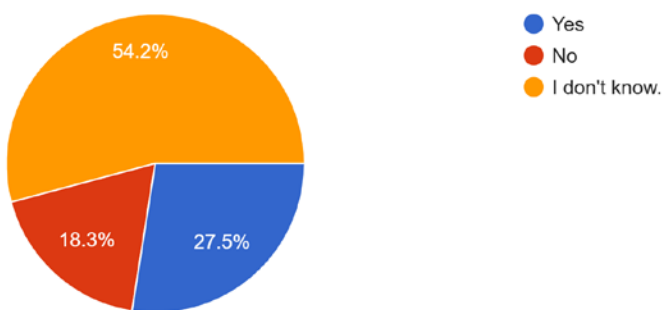
5. If your child is enrolled in a traditional public school, in which district is your child enrolled?

108 responses



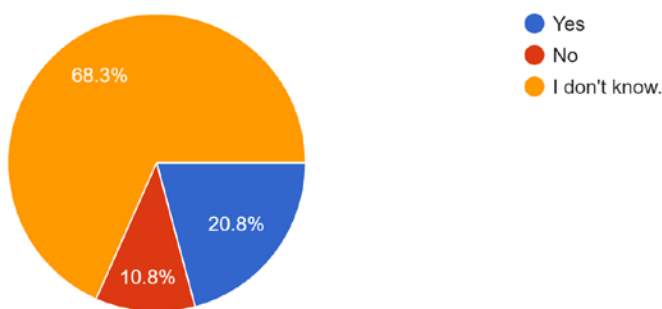
6. Is your child currently attending school in a Purple Star School?

120 responses



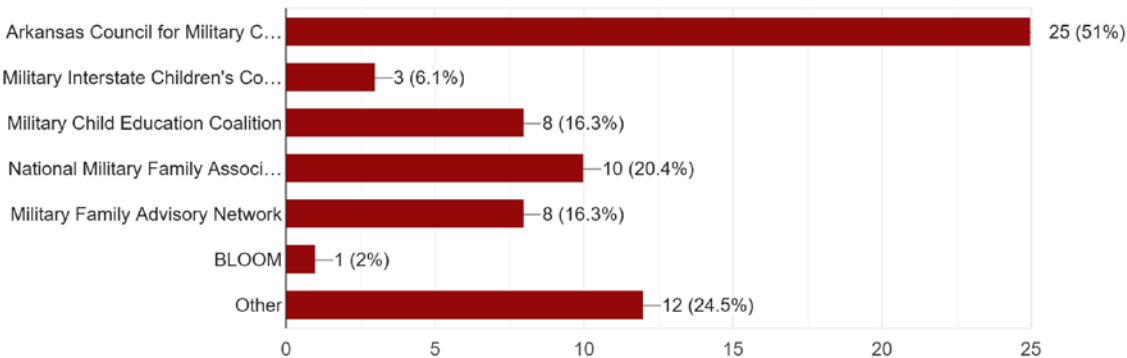
7. Does your child's school district have a District Military Education Coordinator (DMEC)?

120 responses



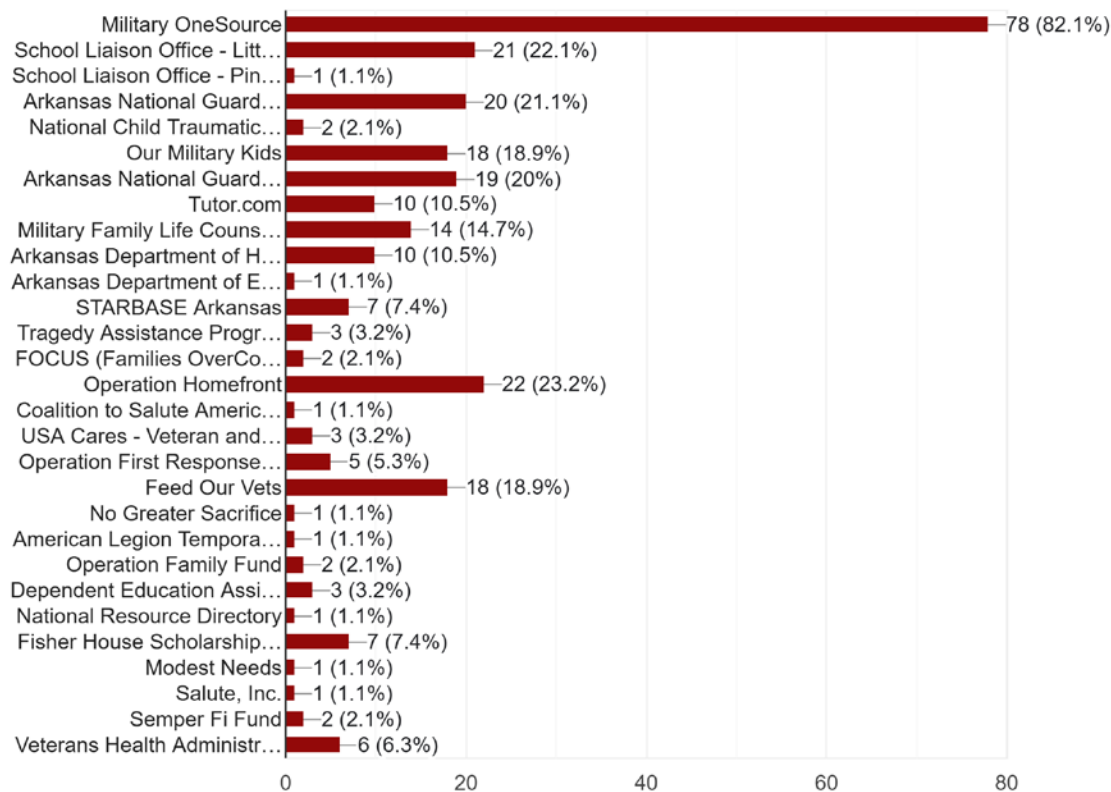
8. Which of the following organizations that support military families are you familiar with? Please mark all that apply.

49 responses



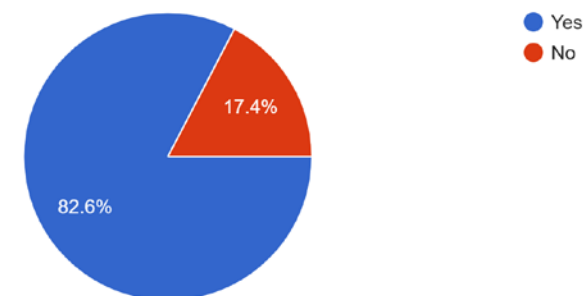
9. Which of the following resources for military families are you familiar with? Please mark all that apply.

95 responses



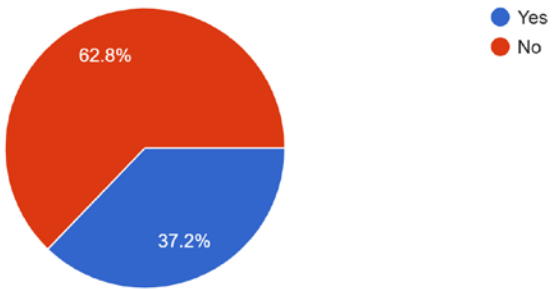
10. Before now, were you aware that Arkansas has a public school choice option?

121 responses



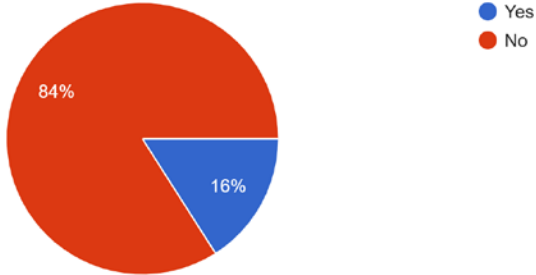
11. Before now, were you aware that Arkansas allows children of military families transferring into Arkansas for military service to enroll in school prior to the family's actual arrival in Arkansas?

121 responses



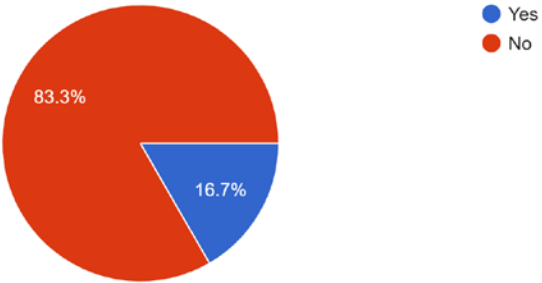
12. Before now, were you aware that Arkansas allows children of military families transferring to Arkansas for military service to enroll in virtual dis...work prior to the family's actual arrival in Arkansas?

119 responses

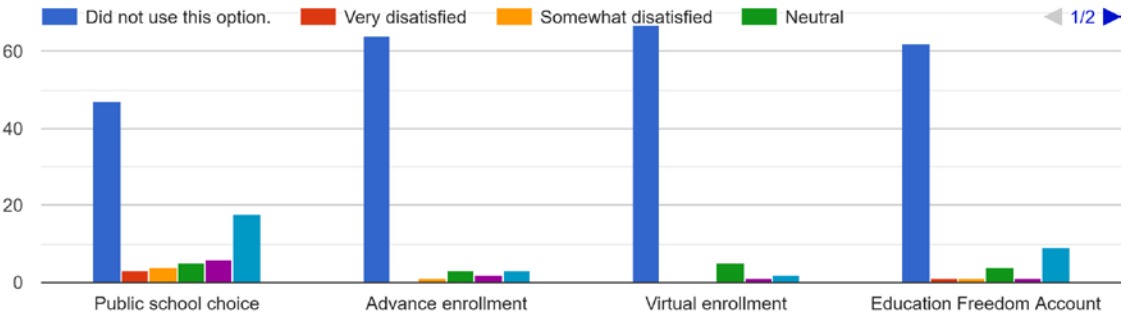


13. Before now, were you aware of the Arkansas Education Freedom Account program?

120 responses

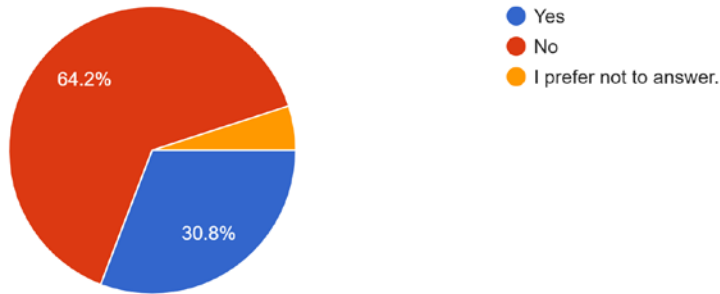


14. If you have used any of the options in Questions 10 - 13, what is your level of satisfaction with that option?



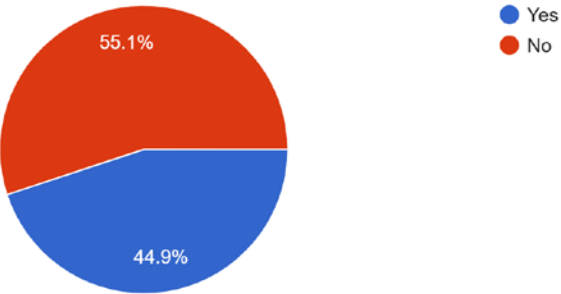
15. Is your child enrolled in the Exceptional Family Members Program (EFMP) or eligible for an Individualized Education Plan (IEP)?

120 responses



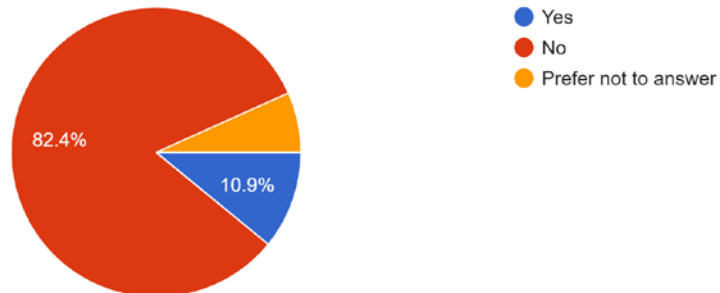
16. If your child is enrolled in the Exceptional Family Members Program or eligible for an Individualized Education Plan, were you able to ac...on services upon enrollment in school in Arkansas?

69 responses



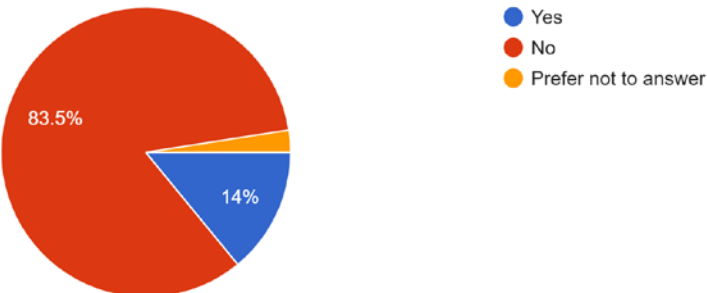
17. At any time during the past twelve months, has any member of your family been unable to access mental or behavioral healthcare when it was needed?

119 responses



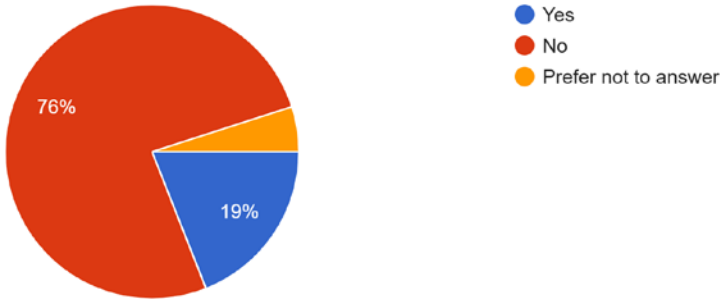
18. At any time during the past twelve months, has any member of your family been unable to access medical care when it was needed?

121 responses



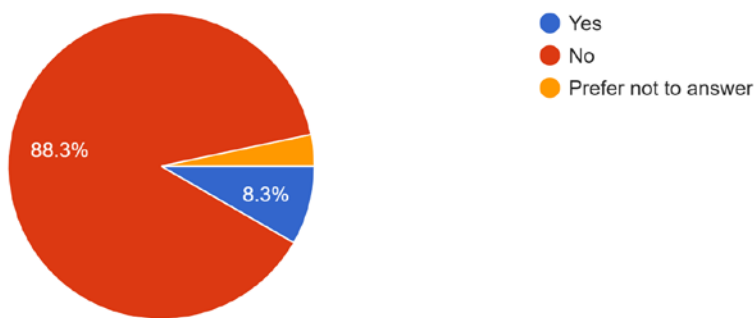
19. At any time during the past twelve months, has your family been unable to afford adequate groceries to feed your family?

121 responses



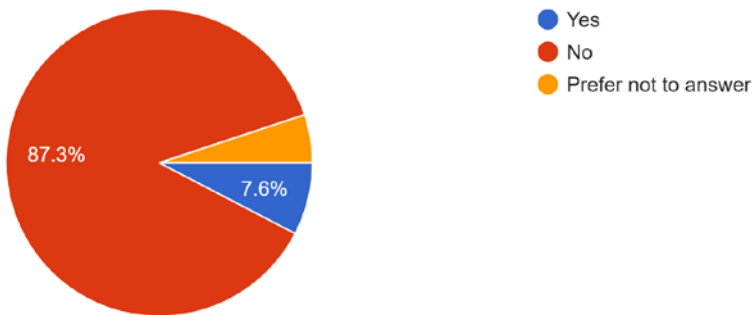
20. At any time during the past twelve months, has your family been unable to afford adequate housing?

120 responses



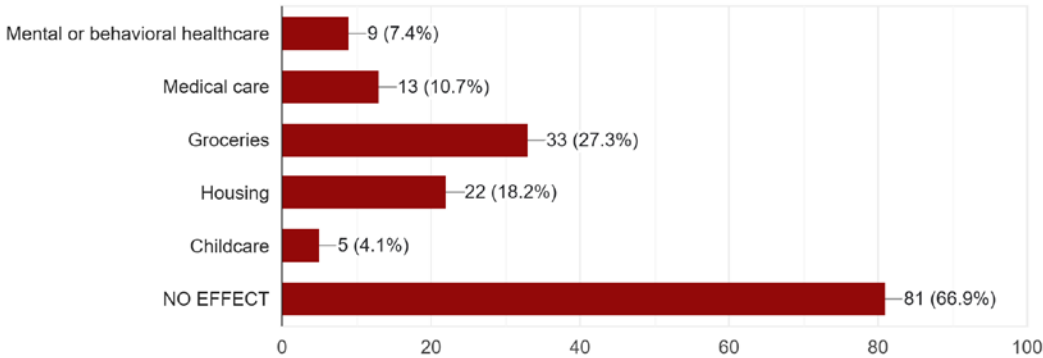
21. At any time during the past twelve months, has your family been unable to afford adequate childcare?

118 responses

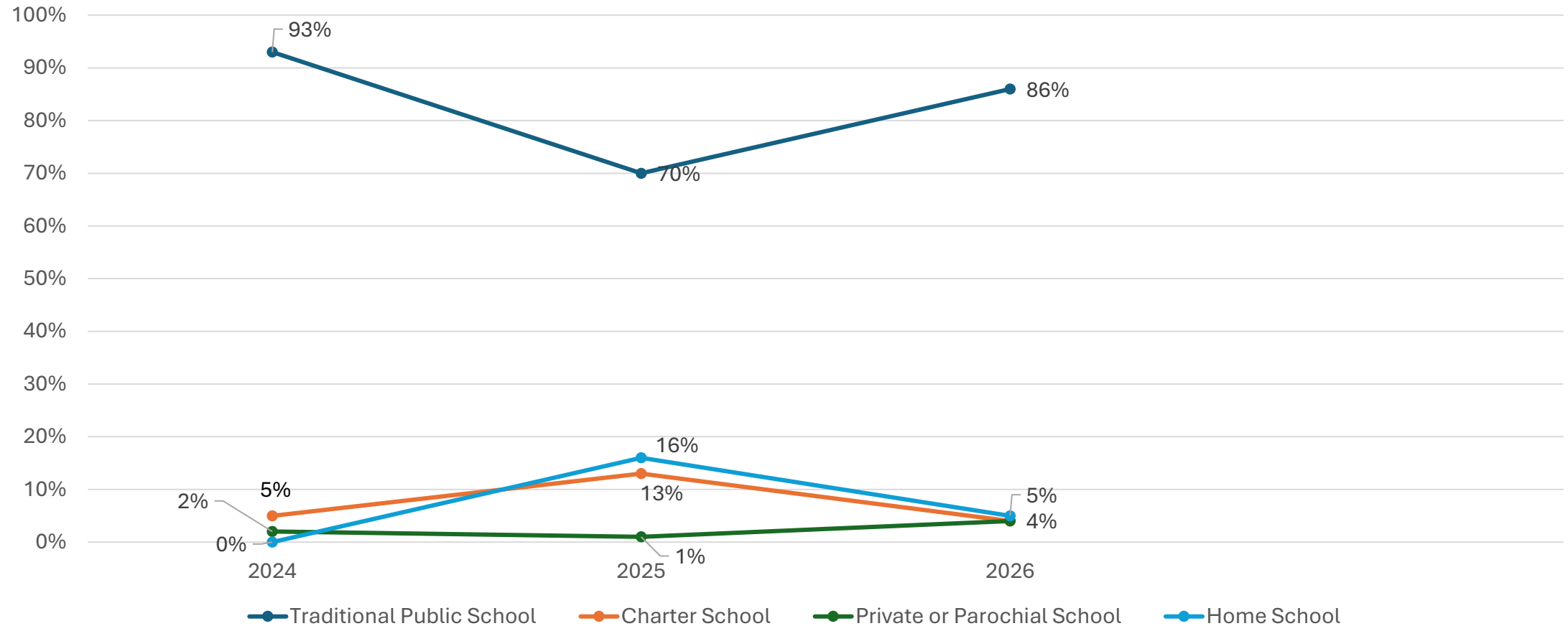


22. Did the shutdown of the federal government during October-November 2025 make it more difficult for you to access any of the needs listed...the shutdown had no effect, please mark NO EFFECT.

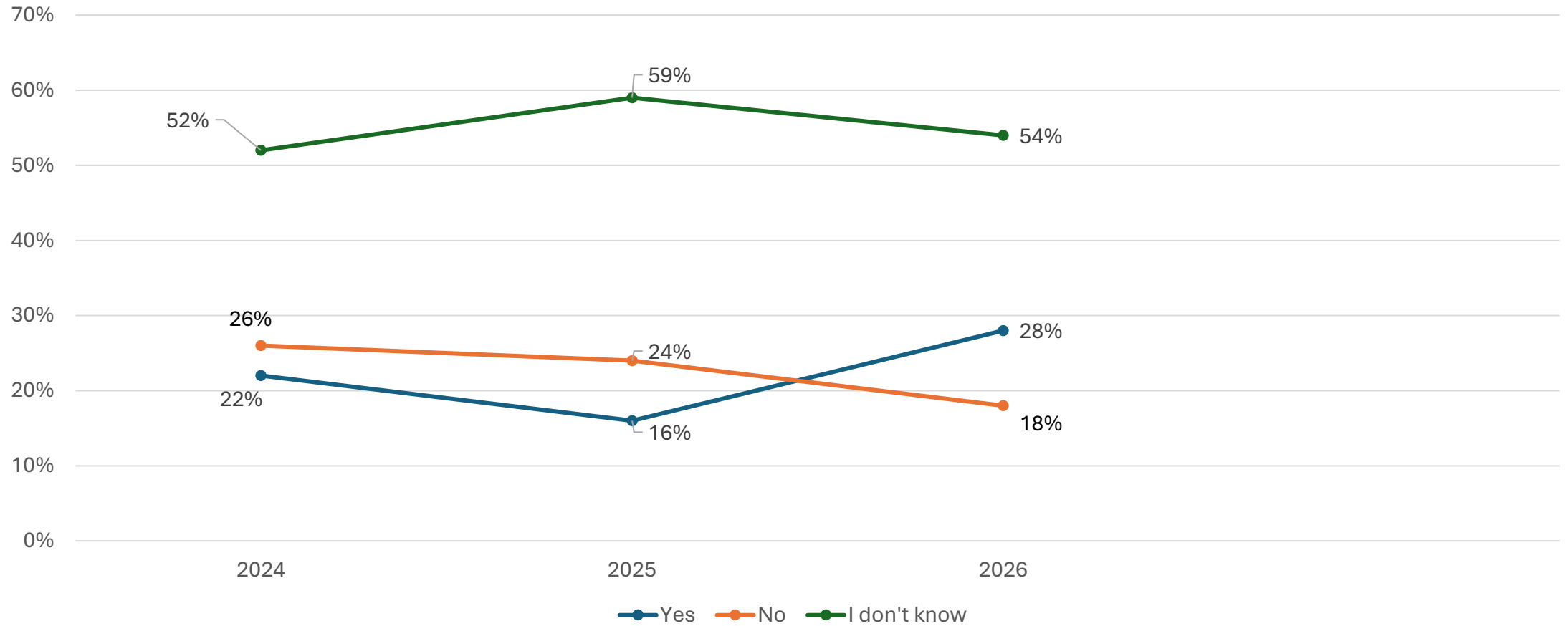
121 responses



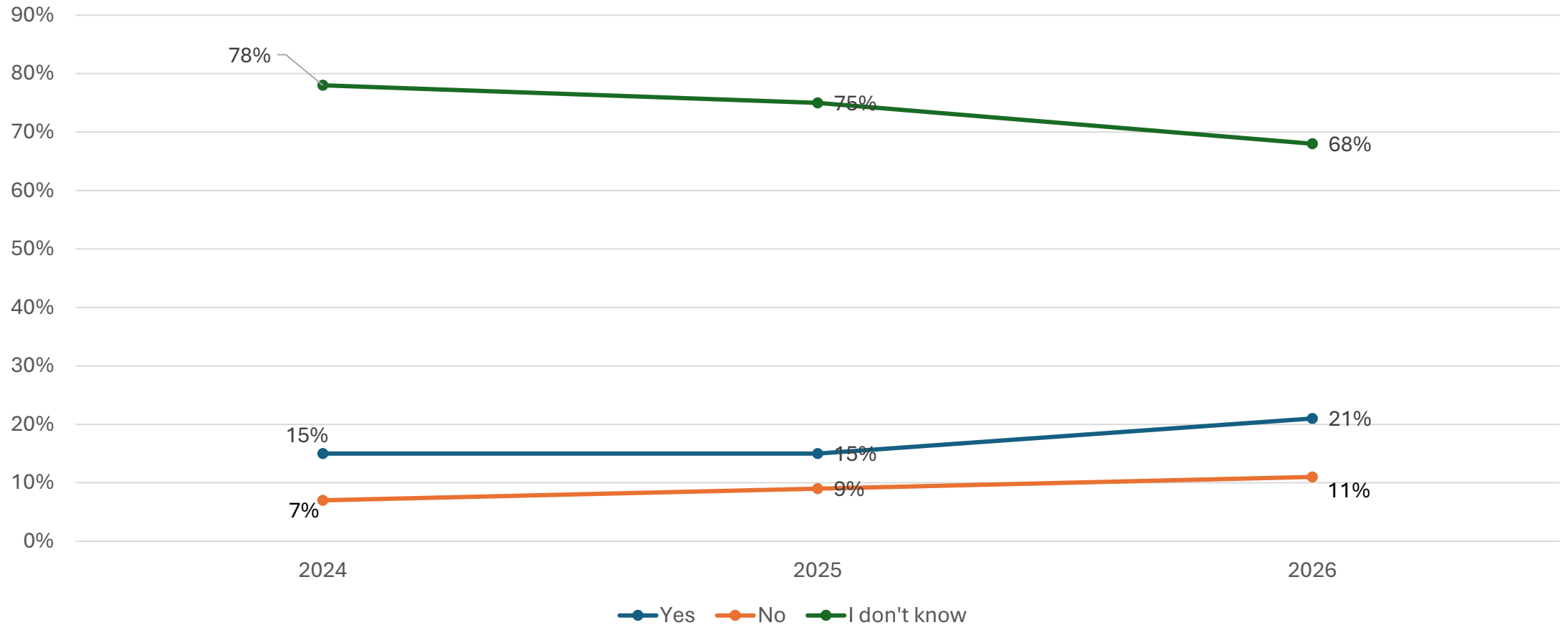
Which of the following best describes the type of school in which your child is currently enrolled?



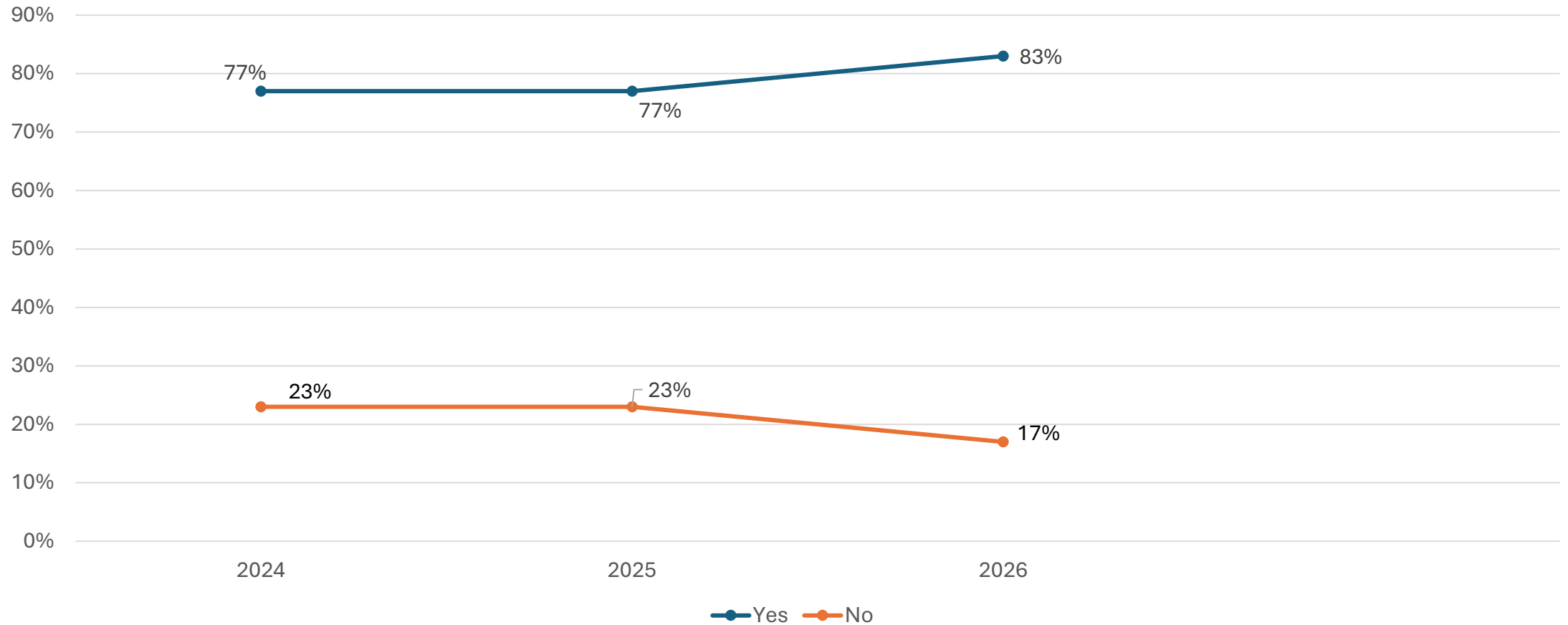
Is your child currently attending a Purple Star School?



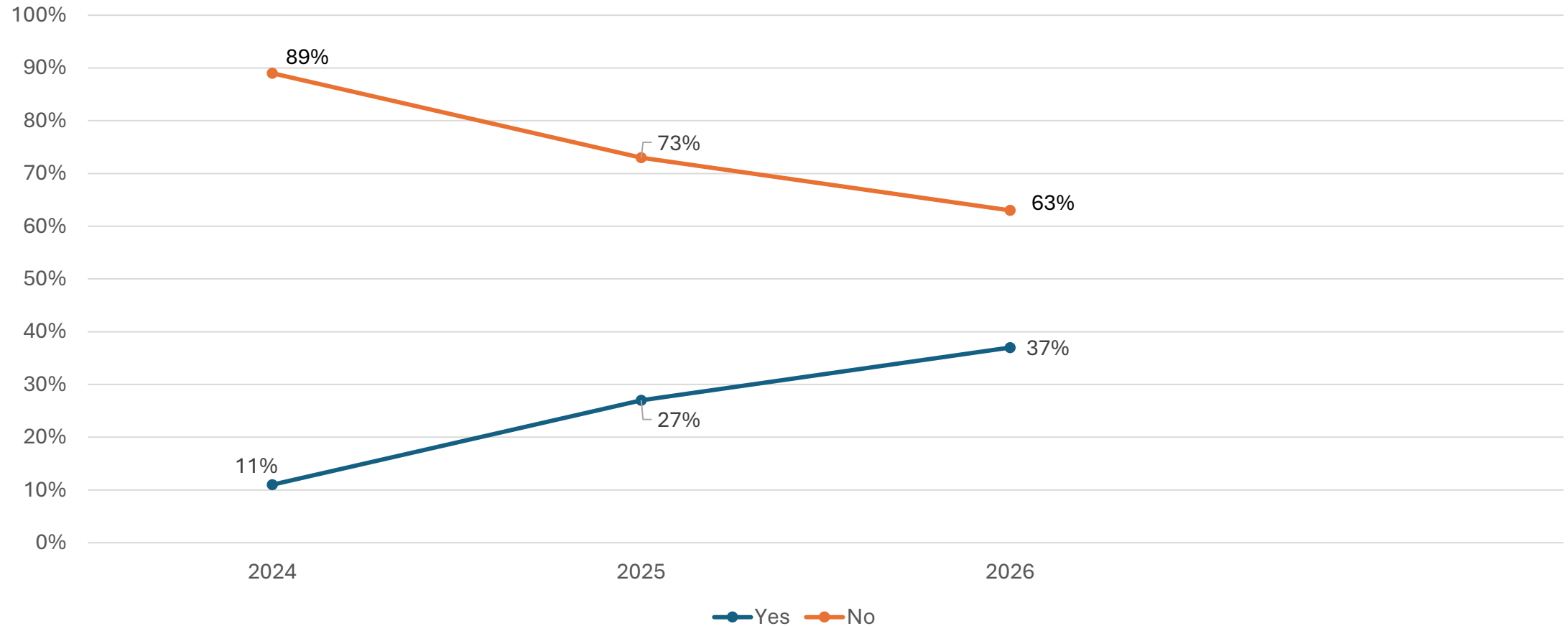
Does your child's school district have a District Military Education Coordinator?



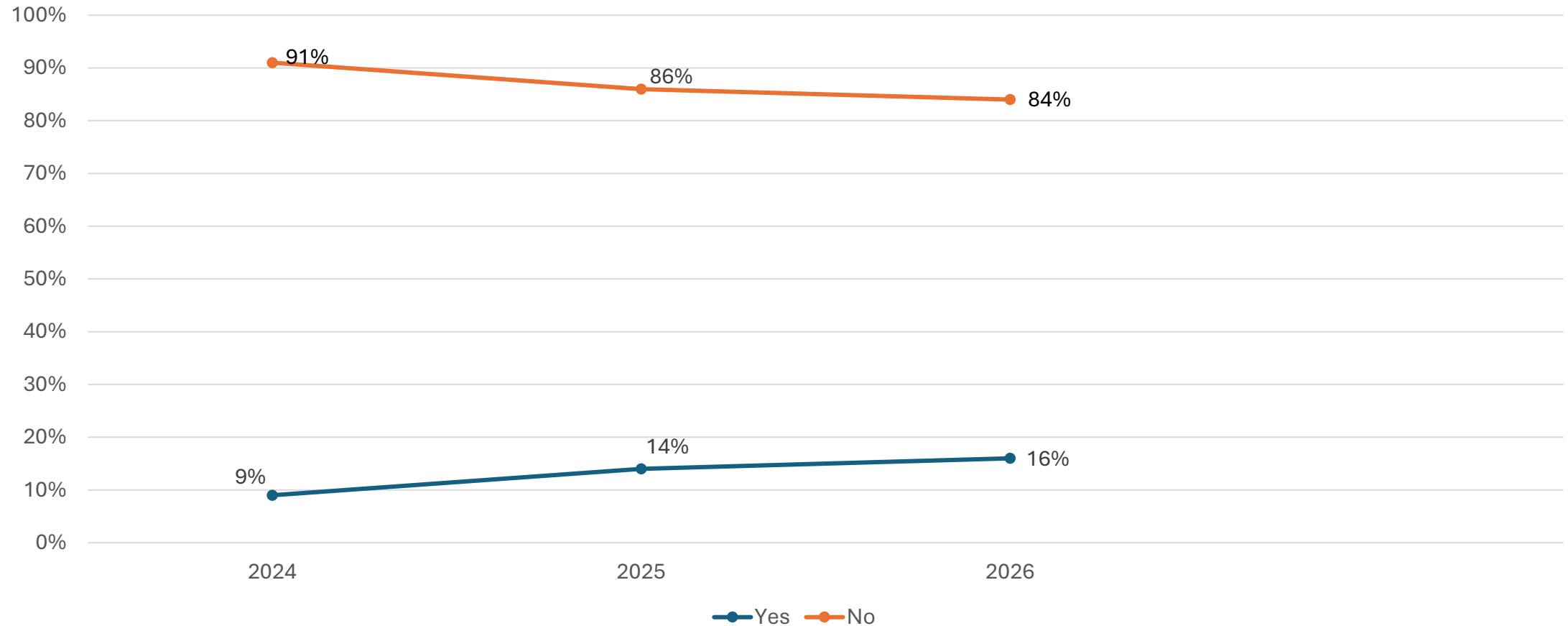
Before now, were you aware that Arkansas has a public school choice option?



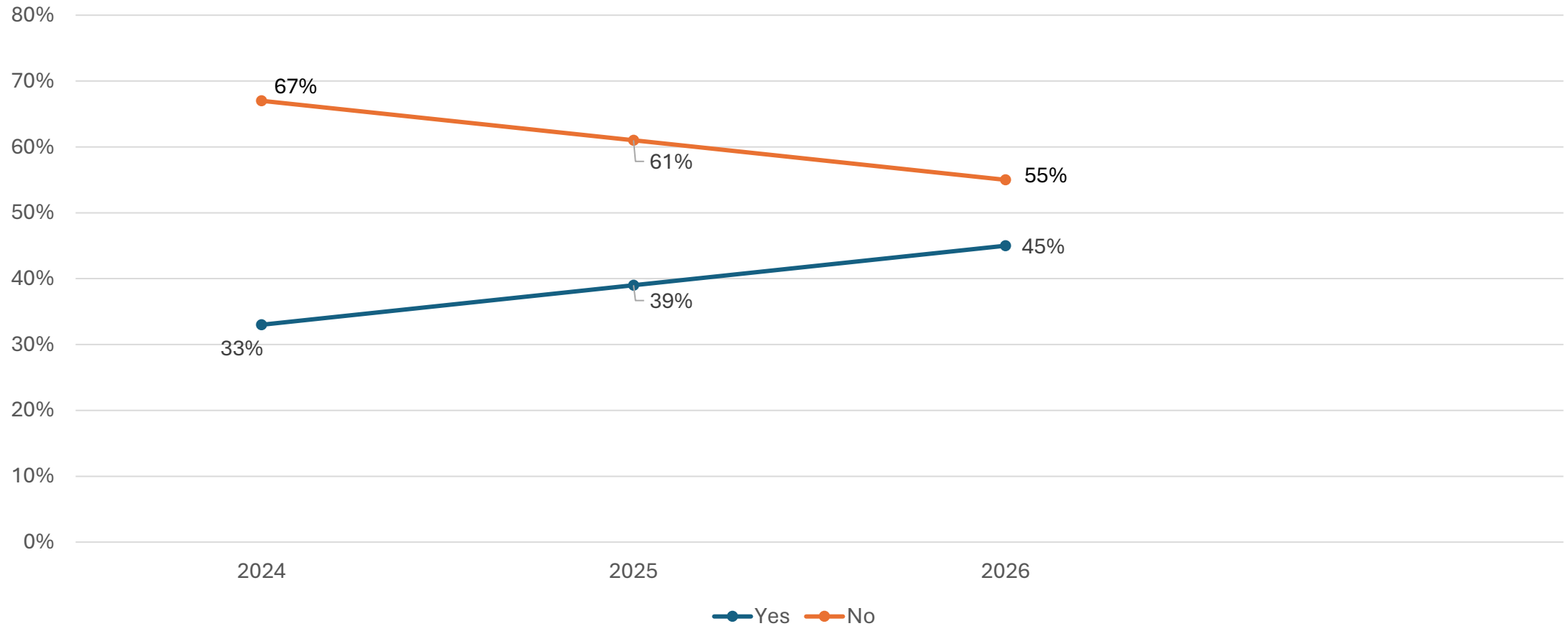
Before now, were you aware that Arkansas allows children of military families transferring into Arkansas for military service to enroll in school prior to the family's actual arrival in Arkansas?



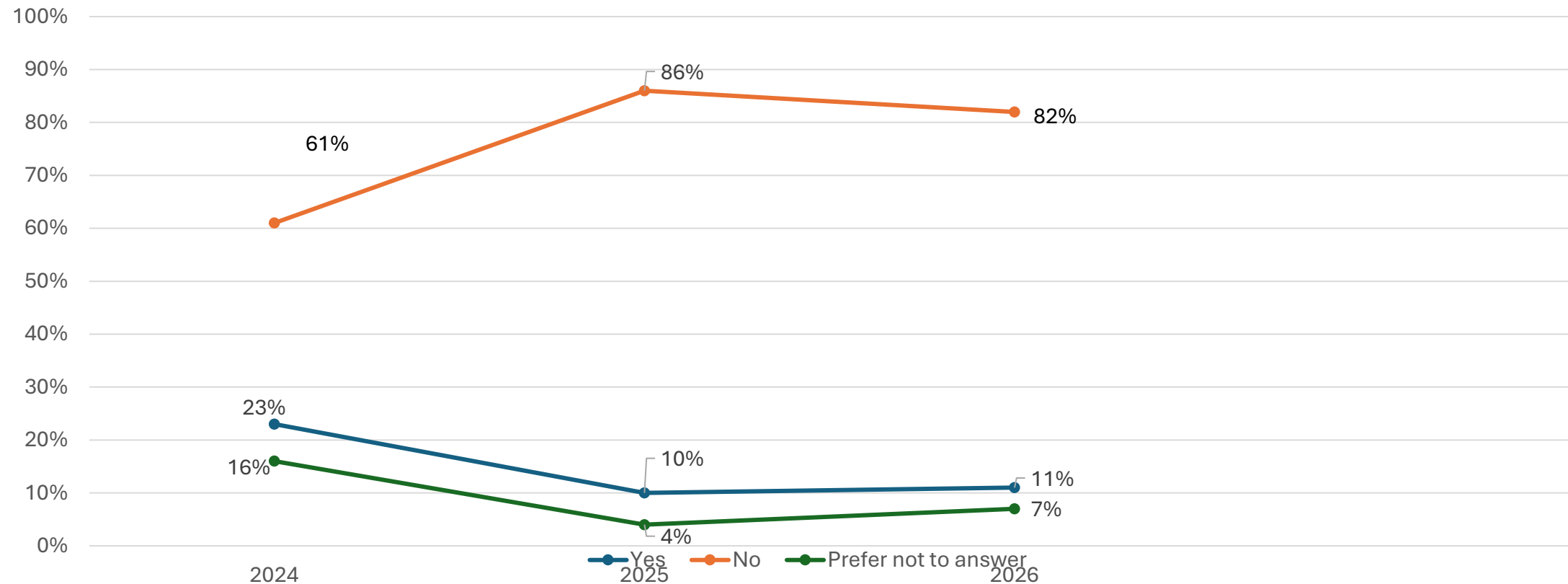
Before now, were you aware that Arkansas allows children of military families transferring to Arkansas for military service to enroll in virtual distance-learning or digital coursework prior to the family's actual arrival in Arkansas?



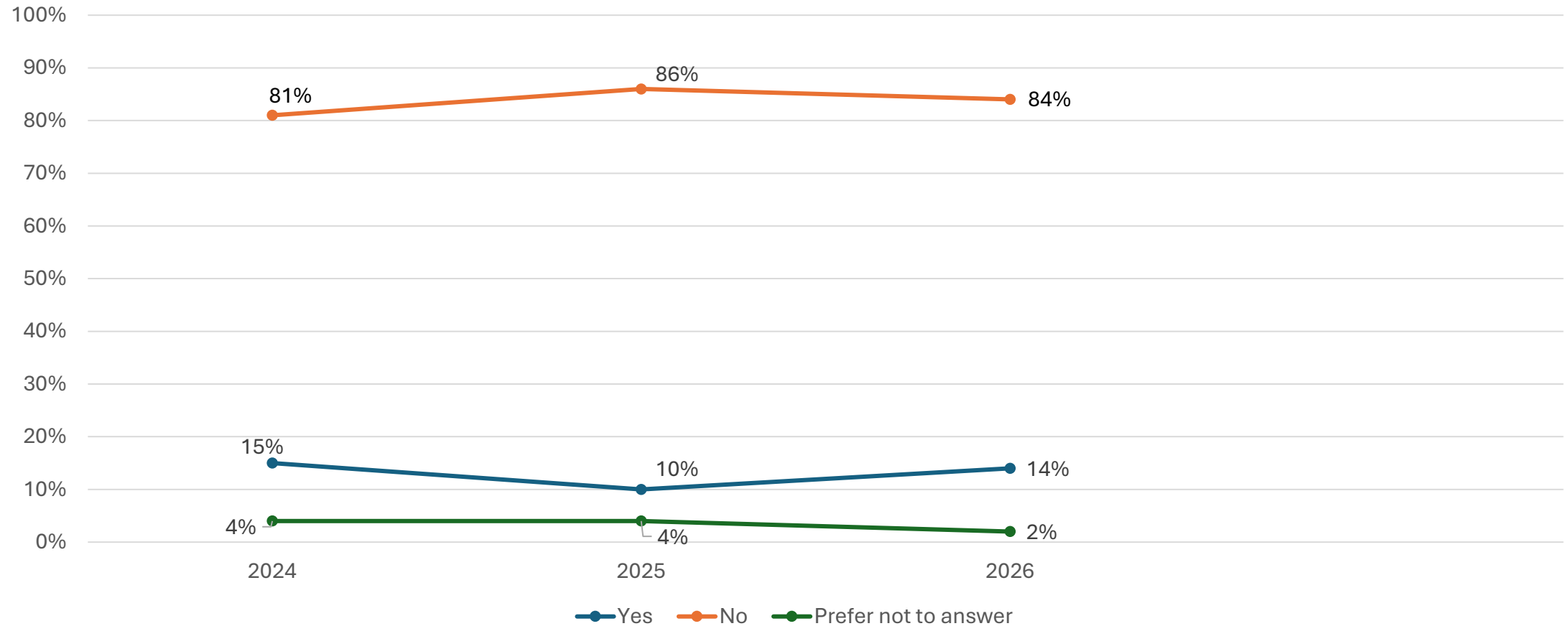
If your child is enrolled in the Exceptional Family Members Program or eligible for an Individualized Education Plan, were you able to access special education services upon enrollment in school in Arkansas?



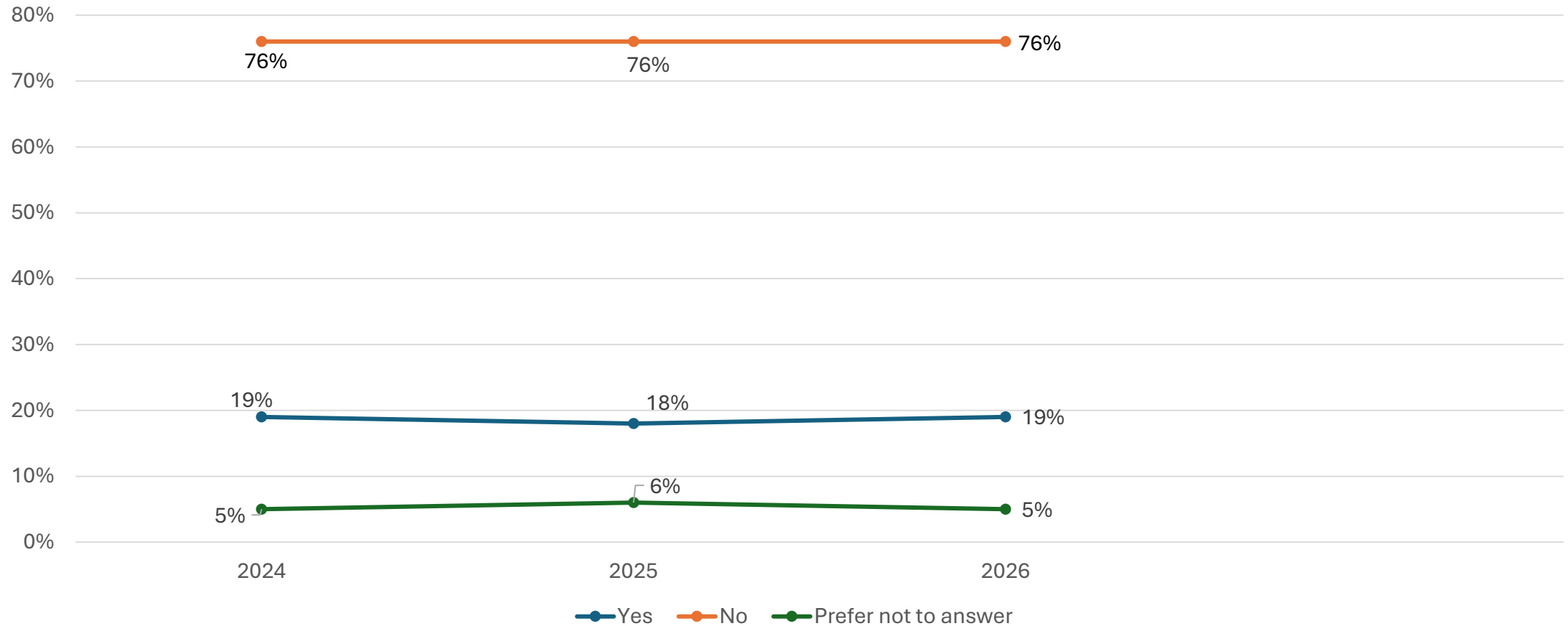
If any member of your family needed mental/behavioral healthcare in the past twelve months, were you able to access care?



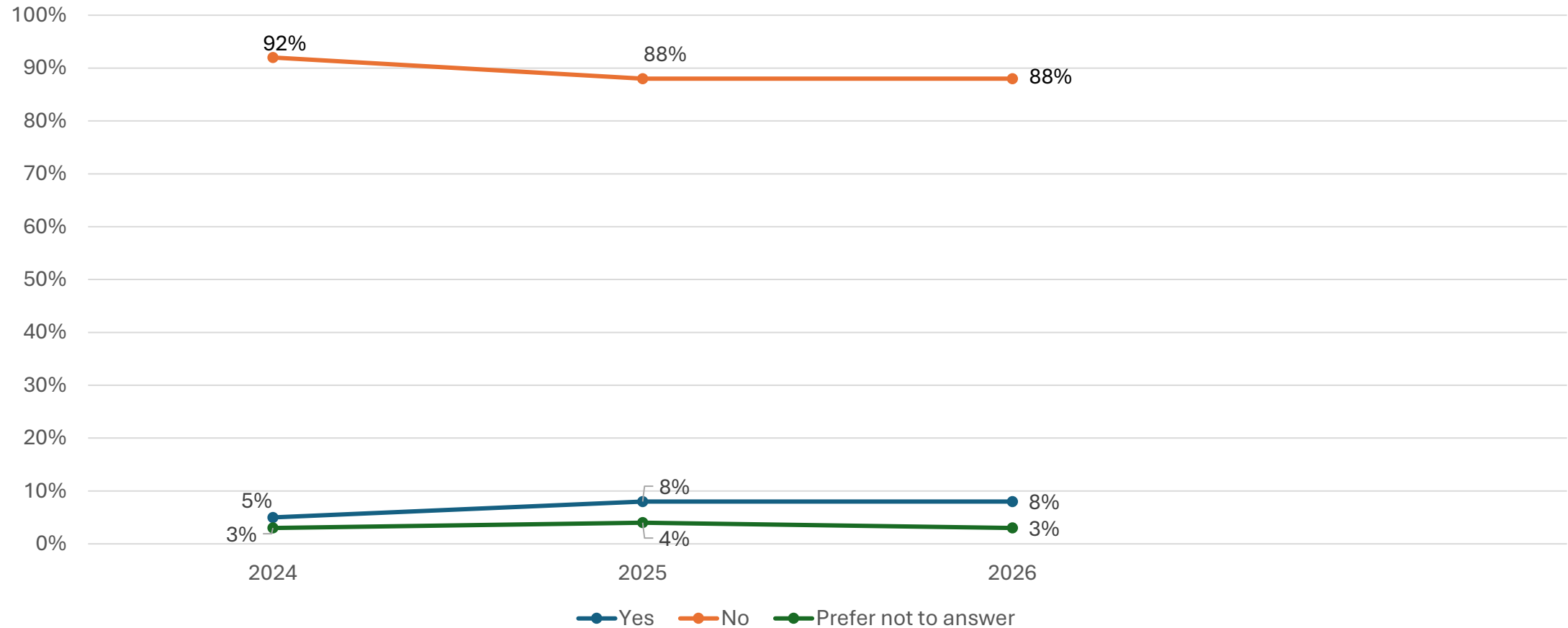
If any member of your family needed medical care in the past twelve months, were you unable to access care?



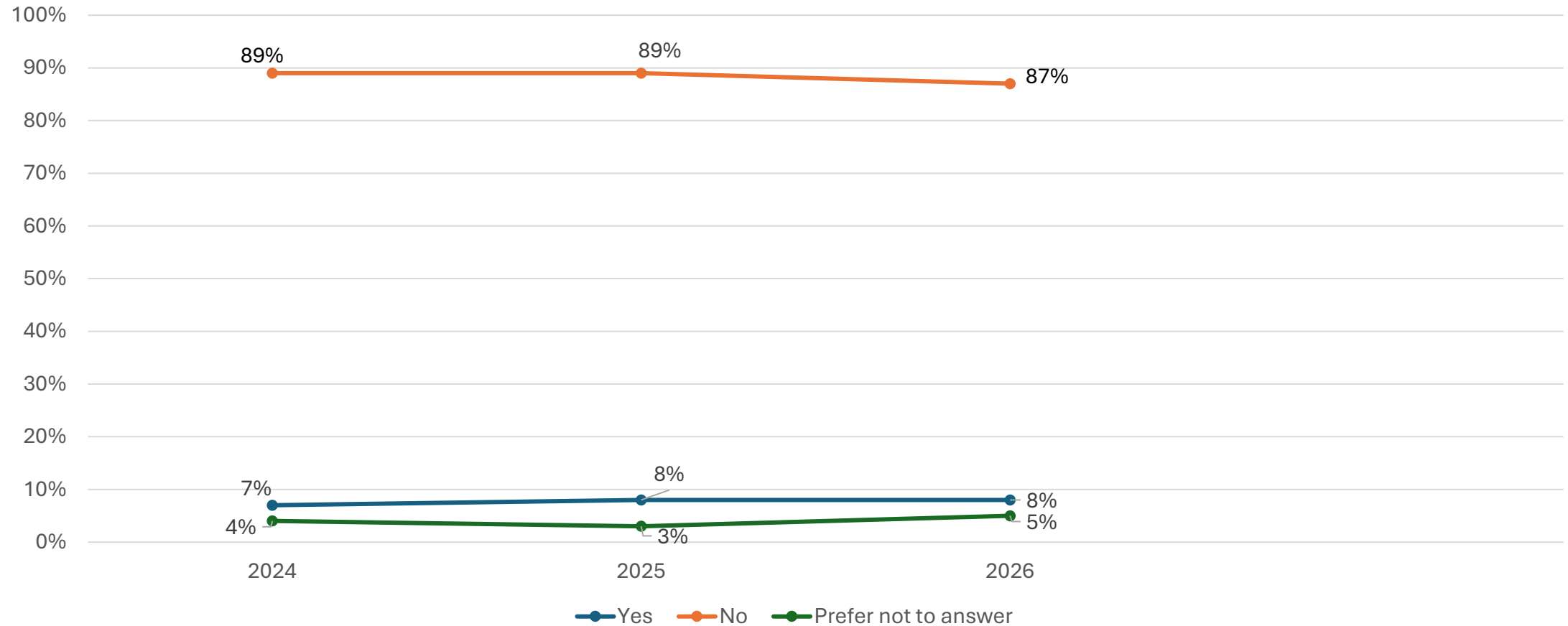
At any time during the past twelve months were you unable to afford adequate groceries to feed your family?



At any time during the past twelve months has your family been unable to afford adequate housing?



At any time during the past twelve months has your family been unable to afford adequate childcare?





REPORT TO THE
ARKANSAS JOINT PERFORMANCE REVIEW COMMITTEE
CONCERNING MEETINGS OF THE
ARKANSAS COUNCIL FOR MILITARY CHILDREN

Pursuant to Arkansas Code § 25-1-106(c), this report is submitted regarding the meeting dates and member attendance of the Arkansas Council for Military Children (the Council) and its three standing committees (the Awards Committee, Outreach Committee, and Strategic Planning Committee) for the biennium ending June 30, 2026.

Section A presents the meeting schedules and member attendance for the Council and its standing committees for the period of July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025 (Tables 1 through 4).

Section B presents the meeting schedules and member attendance for the Council (Table 5) and its standing committees for the period of July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026 (Tables 5 through 8).

The Council does not typically record information on all visitors at its meetings.

Point of contact for this information is Col. (Ret.) John I. Kaminar, Council Chair, 501-683-5188, john.kaminar@ade.arkansas.gov.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/

John I. Kaminar
Chair, Arkansas Council for Military Children
June __, 2026

Table 1: Council Meetings and Membership Attendance, July 1, 2024-June 30, 2025

NAME	7/18/2024	9/5/2024	11/7/2024	1/23/2025	3/6/2025	3/21/2025	5/8/2025
Bergstrom, Jody	Excused	Present	Present	Present	Present	Excused	Present
Brown, Karilyn	Present	Present	Present	Excused	Excused	Excused	Present
Ciesla, John	Absent	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Absent
English, Jane	Present	Present	Excused	Excused	Excused	Excused	Excused
Garvey, James	Present	Present	Excused	Present	Excused	Present	Present
Harper, Christina	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present
Kaminar, John	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present
Melton, Brian	Absent	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present
Noel, LaShawnDa	Absent	Present	Absent	Present	Present	Present	Present
Olles, Bobbie	Excused	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Excused
Owoh, Jeremy	Present	Absent	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present
Parker, Christyal	Excused	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present
Pitts, Allyson	Absent	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Excused
Reynolds, Jennifer	Absent	Present	Present	Present	Absent	Excused	Absent
Saum, Jessica	Absent	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present
Schneider, Kerry	Present	Present	Present	Present	Excused	Present	Present
Taylor, Emily	Absent	Present	Present	Excused	Absent	Excused	Present
Williams, Terri	Present	Present	Absent	Present	Present	Present	Present
Wright, Andelyn	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present
Estelle, N'Keiba (DOD Liaison)	Absent	Absent	Present	Absent	Present	Excused	Present
Porter, Rick (Special Education Advisor)	Present	Present	Present	Excused	Excused	Present	Excused
Price, Alisha (Legal Advisor)	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present
Swindle, Chelsey (Gold Star Family Advisor)	NA	NA	Present	Excused	Present	Excused	Present
Wood, Dustin (School Choice Advisor)	Excused	Present	Present	Present	Excused	Present	Present
Arnett, Weston (Student Advisor)	Present	Absent	Present	Present	Absent	Excused	Present
Smith, Sonya (Student Advisor)	Present	Present	Present	Absent	Present	Excused	Present
Williams, Madison (Student Advisor)	Present	Absent	Present	Present	Present	Excused	Excused

Table 2: Awards Committee Meetings and Membership Attendance, July 1, 2024-June 30, 2025

NAME	9/24/2024	12/3/2024	5/19/2025
Ciesla, John	Absent	Absent	Present
Kaminar, John	Present	Present	Present
Parker, Christyal	Present	Present	Present
Walker, Janice	Present	Present	Present
Williams, Terri	Present	Present	Excused

Table 3: Outreach Committee Meetings and Membership Attendance, July 1, 2024-June 30, 2025

NAME	7/3/2024	7/18/2024	8/22/2024	5/5/2025	6/11/2025
Bergstrom, Jody	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present
Harper, Christina	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present
Kaminar, John	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present
Saum, Jessica	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present
Williams, Terri	Present	Present	Excused	Present	Present
Wood, Dustin	Present	Excused	Excused	Present	NA

Table 4: Strategic Planning Committee Meetings and Membership Attendance, July 1, 2024-June 30, 2025

NAME	9/20/2024	11/21/2024
Garvey, James	Excused	Excused
Kaminar, John	Present	Present
Noel, LaShawnDa	Present	Present
Olles, Bobbie	Present	Excused
Reynolds, Jennifer	Present	Present
Wright, Andelyn	Present	Present

Table 5: Council Meetings and Membership Attendance, July 1, 2025-June 30, 2026

NAME	8/7/2025	10/2/2025	12/4/2025	2/12/2026	2/27/2026	4/2/2026	6/4/2026
Bergstrom, Jody	Present	Present	Excused	Present	Present	Present	
Brown, Karilyn	Present	Present	Excused	Present	Present	Excused	
Ciesla, John	Excused	Present	Present	Present	Excused	Present	
English, Jane	Excused	Present	Excused	Absent	Present	Present	
Garvey, James	Present	Present	Excused	Present	Present	Present	
Harper, Christina	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	
Kaminar, John	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	
Malham, Whitney	Present	Present	Present	Present	Absent	Present	
Melton, Brian	Present	Present	Absent	Present	Present	Present	
Noel, LaShawnDa	Present	Present	Absent	Present	Absent	Present	
Olles, Bobbie	Excused	Excused	Excused	Present	Present	Excused	
Owoh, Jeremy	Present	Present	Excused	Present	Present	Excused	
Parker, Christyal	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	
Pitts, Allyson	Present	Present	Excused	Excused	Absent	Present	
Reynolds, Jennifer	Present	Present	Excused	Present	Present	Excused	
Saum, Jessica	Excused	Excused	Absent	Present	Present	Present	
Taylor, Emily	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	
Williams, Terri	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	
Wright, Andelyn	Excused	Excused	Present	Excused	Present	Present	
Smith, Katrina (DOD Liaison)	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	
Porter, Rick (Special Education Advisor)	Absent	Excused	Present	Absent	Absent	Present	
Price, Alisha (Legal Advisor)	Present	Present	Excused	Present	Present	Excused	
Ruthven, Wayne (ADVA Liaison)	NA	NA	NA	Present	Present	Excused	
Swindle, Chelsey (Gold Star Family Advisor)	Present	Present	Present	Absent	Present	Present	
Arnett, Weston (Student Advisor)	Present	Present	Excused	Absent	Excused	Present	
Berryhill, Ava (Student Advisor)	Present	Excused	Present	Present	Excused	Present	
Carranco, Caleb (Student Advisor)	Present	Present	Present	Present	Excused	Absent	
Teeter, Carly (Student Advisor)	Present	Present	Excused	Absent	Present	Excused	

Table 6: Awards Committee Meetings and Membership Attendance, July 1, 2025-June 30, 2026

NAME	9/18/2025	1/21/2026	2/23/2026	3/19/2026	6/18/2026
Ciesla, John	Present	Present	Excused	Absent	
Kaminar, John	Present	Present	Present	Present	
Parker, Christyal	Present	Present	Present	Present	
Walker, Janice	Present	Present	Excused	Present	
Williams, Terri	Present	Present	Present	Present	

Table 7: Outreach Committee Meetings and Membership Attendance, July 1, 2025-June 30, 2026

NAME	8/6/2025	9/17/2025
Bergstrom, Jody	Present	Present
Harper, Christina	Present	Absent
Kaminar, John	Present	Present
Saum, Jessica	Excused	Present
Williams, Terri	Present	Absent

Table 8: Strategic Planning Committee Meetings and Membership Attendance, July 1, 2025-June 30, 2026

NAME	9/29/2025	11/5/2025	12/2/2025
Garvey, James	Present	Present	Present
Kaminar, John	Present	Present	Present
Noel, LaShawnDa	Absent	Absent	Present
Olles, Bobbie	Absent	Excused	Present
Reynolds, Jennifer	Present	Present	Present
Wright, Andelyn	Present	Present	Present