



900 S.W. Jackson Street, Suite 102
Topeka, Kansas 66612-1212
(785) 296-3201
www.ksde.org

July 6, 2023

Ms. Cherise Imai, Executive Director
Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission
1776 Avenue of the States
Lexington, KY 40511

Dear Ms. Imai,

The following information is provided in accordance with MIC3 Policy 01-2017, state coordination, for the period of July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023. Points of contact for the Kansas State Council are myself and Sherry Root, Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE). Ms. Root may be reached at 785-296-3871 or via e-mail at sroot@ksde.org.

The Kansas Military Child Education Council (Council) held its annual meeting by ZOOM on February 24, 2023. The agenda and minutes for that meeting are being submitted with this letter and are posted on the Kansas Military Families [website](#).

The Council reviewed basic and historical information concerning MIC3 in Kansas. The dues for FY24 were quickly reviewed, but most of the meeting was spent preparing for the Purple Star Program Kickoff and Recognition during the Kansas State Board of Education's April meeting. Members discussed the importance and purpose of the Purple Star School Program, as well as the presentation formats for the State Board meeting. Additionally, the team developed the key points to bring to the attention of the State Board of Education. The team agreed to do their best to bring in military children, their parents, as well as others in uniform to represent all the military-connected students in Kansas and present to the Board of Education the importance of this program to this special group of students in Kansas.

Process to establish the Kansas Purple Star School Program:

At the Kansas State Board of Education meeting on October 11, 2022, Craig Neuenswander (on behalf of the Council) and Reggie Eggleston, Geary County Superintendent, presented an overview of this program highlighting its importance and how military-connected students and families would benefit.

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Kansas leads the world in the success of each student.

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A Purple Star School designation will be awarded to military-friendly schools that apply to KSDE, complete specific activities and meet all criteria and requirements. The Board voted unanimously 10-0 to approve the program.

To receive this designation, an application was developed by members of the Council for schools to complete and submit to KSDE. It outlined criteria and requirements that must be met to be designated as a Kansas Purple Star School. Applications were accepted Oct 15, 2022, until Feb 1, 2023. In early February, the Council met to review the applications submitted and approve schools and districts meeting the criteria to receive this designation in April.

At the April 11, 2023, Kansas State Board of Education meeting, each of the four Purple Star School districts were recognized and presented a slide show with photos from each school supporting military families. Addressing the board were superintendents, students, garrison commanders and school liaison officers representing three military bases. The speakers provided narratives from several perspectives, each supporting the importance of the Purple Star School Program. They exemplified the impact of welcoming new students to make the military transition as smooth as possible. Additionally, members of the State Board of Education were thanked by all for establishing this program for Kansas schools.

The Purple Star School Recognition Program is a partnership between the Kansas State Department of Education and the Kansas Military Children Education Council. KSDE website posts information for schools to apply for the Kansas Purple Star School designation: [Military Families \(ksde.org\)](https://www.ksde.org/military-families). Materials, resources, guidance and recommendations to establish a program are provided.

If you should have any questions regarding the information presented in this letter or the minutes, please do not hesitate to call me 785.296.3872. Have a super day and Be GREAT!

Respectfully,



Dale R. Brungardt
Commissioner, Kansas State Council

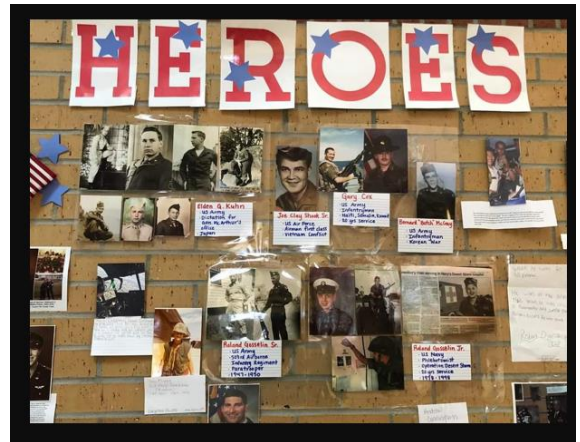
Photos taken at the State Board meeting on April 11, 2023:
Link: [Purple Star Designation | Flickr](#)



Patriot's Day Freedom Walk



USD 263 Mulvane Public Schools



Welcoming Faces

make kindness the norm.





Kansas Logo above designed by Joshua Ferguson, a former student attending Geary County Public Schools (Fort Riley).

Above, Dr. Reginald Eggleston, Superintendent of Geary County Public Schools, addresses the Kansas State Board of Education. Geary County was the first school district in Kansas to be designated a Purple Star School by MCEC. Dr. Eggleston’s leadership on KMCEC was helpful in establishing this program in Kansas.



Kansas State Board of Education members and representatives from school districts recognized as a Kansas Purple Star School on April 11, 2023.

