

June 30, 2026

Ms. Lindsey Dablow
Executive Director
Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission (MIC3)
1776 Avenue of the States
Lexington, KY 40511

RE: Annual State Report for Maryland

Dear Ms. Dablow:

I am pleased to submit this report on Maryland's activities as a member of the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children. In Maryland the Interstate Compact is codified in §7-1303 of the Education Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland.

Maryland was represented at the Annual Business Meeting and the Executive Committee Meetings by Mary L. Gable, Assistant State Superintendent, Division of Student Support and Federal Programs, Maryland State Department of Education. Ms. Gable is the Maryland State Commissioner and the Vice Chair of the Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission (MIC3). As Commissioner, Ms. Gable annually shares information on the Interstate Compact with the Directors of Student Services, Coordinators of School Counselors across the 24 local education agencies (LEAs), and other groups. Ms. Gable addresses the concerns from military families and works with local education agencies (LEAs) to resolve concerns, when there are challenges in a student's transition.

As Commissioner and as Assistant State Superintendent, Ms. Gable has represented MIC3 and the interests of military connected students in the following ways:

- National Association of Federally Impacted Schools (NAFIS) conference in September 2025 in Washington, D.C.. Commissioners visited Capitol Hill and advocated for funding of Impact Aid.
- Maryland Military Installation Council, March 2026. Ms. Gable participated on behalf of the State Superintendent of Schools, and as the Maryland Commissioner.
- Maryland Department of Veterans and Military Families May 2026 convening on strengthening Maryland's Military and Veteran Community. Ms. Gable participated on behalf of the State Superintendent of Schools, and as the Maryland Commissioner.

The Maryland State Council for the Interstate Compact met on June 22, 2026. Attached are copies of the agenda and minutes of the June 22, 2026, meeting. Dr. Cheryl Dyson, Superintendent, Frederick County Public Schools, represented the Public School Superintendents Association of Maryland (PSSAM) at the

State Council on June 22, 2026, and plans to share the information on the Compact with all local Superintendents.

As a member of the Compact, Maryland's dues for FY 2026 were \$24,314 based on 21,143 military students.

In the most recent Session of the Maryland General Assembly, Maryland implemented the technical correction in Maryland Statute, recently identified by the MIC3. The model language of the Compact, which was adopted in Maryland Law, references "10 U.S.C. **Section** 1209 and 1211," The statute was amended to correctly refer to "10 U.S.C. **Chapters** 1209 and 1211." The language was corrected by [Senate Bill 844 \(Chapter 153\)](#) of the 2026 Session, on page 15.

Ms. Gable oversees the implementation of Maryland's Purple Star Schools Program, providing training and guidance, and evaluating applications for the Purple Star recognition. In 2026 Maryland designated 23 schools as Purple Star Schools to recognize efforts to increase support for military families. The Purple Star schools were publicly recognized at the April 2026 meeting of the Maryland State Board of Education. A summary of the Purple Star School program is included.

The following information is included with this letter:

- Minutes of the June 23, 2025 State Council Meeting
- Agenda and Minutes for the June 22, 2026, Maryland State Council Meeting
- Purple Star School Summary
- List of State Council Membership

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact me, by email at mary.gable@maryland.gov, or by telephone at 410-767-0472.

Sincerely,



Mary L. Gable
Assistant State Superintendent
MIC3 State Commissioner

Enclosures:

- Minutes of the June 23, 2025 State Council Meeting
- Agenda and Minutes for the June 22, 2026, Maryland State Council Meeting
- Purple Star School Summary
- List of State Council Membership

**Maryland State Council
June 23, 2025**

Attending

Name	Organization
Tashina Andrus	Regional School Liaison/Dept of the Navy
Carol Beck	Maryland State Department of Education
Michelle Boone	School Liaison, NSA Annapolis – US Naval Academy
Andrea Bridgewater-McCarthy,	School Liaison, Fort Detrick
Matrice Brooks	School Liaison, Joint Base Andrews
Jennifer Cole-Pharro	School Liaison, NSA Bethesda
Don Corbin	Safety Specialist, MSDE
Teresa Dantzler	Ombudsman, MSDE
Cheryl Dyson*	Superintendent, Frederick County Public Schools
Brad Engel	School Engagement Specialist, MSDE
Mary Gable*	Assistant State Superintendent, MSDE
Col Yolanda Gore*	Garrison Commander, Fort George G. Meade
Lolita Gunter	School Liaison, NSA South Potomac
Charise Imai	Executive Director, Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission (MIC3)
Brittany Johnson	School Liaison, Aberdeen Proving Ground
Meredith McCandless	School Liaison, Fort George G. Meade
Kaitlin Quigley	Coordinator of Special Projects, MSDE
Brook Schmidt	Military Specialist, Parents' Place of Maryland
Ryan Voetglin*	Assistant Superintendent, Student Service, Anne Arundel County Public Schools
Flavia Walton*	Military Family Representative
Andrew Warner	Executive Director, Maryland Public Schools Athletic Association, MSDE

*Member of the State Council

Invited, Unable to Attend

Name	Organization
Akilah Allyene	Executive Director, Government Affairs, MSDE
Rene Averitt-Sanzone	Executive Director, Parents Place of Maryland
Cynthia Chance	School Liaison, Aberdeen Proving Ground
Alonso Hay	School Liaison, Joint Base Andrews
Kimberly Johnson	School Liaison, Ft. Detrick
Anne Kaiser*	Delegate, Maryland House of Delegates
Talissa McMullen	School Liaison, Fort George G. Meade
Dawn Simpson	School Liaison, Patuxent River Naval Air Station
Gerrod Tyler	Free State PTA
Ronald Wolfe	School Liaison, NSA Annapolis – US Naval Academy

Update on Purple Star Program

The Purple Star program was established by Legislature to acknowledge schools doing exemplary work to support military students. There are now 31 schools that have earned the designation. There is not a cap on the number of schools that can participate. There is an application process; the school must apply.

Statute and regulation state that the status is for two years. Schools that were recognized in April are Purple Star schools for the next two school years, 2025-2026 and 2026-2027. Feedback is provided to schools if the school applied and did not meet the criteria, so that the application can be revised for the next submission. It was suggested that Technical Assistance to interested schools and include representatives of schools that already had the designation. The re-application process is not yet final. The re-application will request updates on progress made since the original designation as a Purple Start school, including the three year plan that was a part of the original application.

Liaisons noted that schools and school systems should make it easy for a military family to locate contacts and resources, and the military sites should ensure that families can find the military school liaison and the local school contacts easily. It is important the good work happening in many schools and by the school liaisons be communicated widely.

Interstate Compact

The Interstate Compact is the main focus of the Council and is the legal commitment of states to ease school transitions for military connected students. The Interstate Compact is incorporated into state law, and in Maryland, regulation. Identification of families who are relocating should be a priority and is managed differently in the military branches and installations. School liaisons reach out to families and work with external partners in the school systems. In at least one case, the liaison receives a list of all service members coming in to and departing from an area. Liaison outreach can be directed to these families.

Technical Correction to the Interstate Compact.

The MIC3 has identified that in the model language for the Compact, incorporated in the law in all 50 states, there is an error. The error is an incorrect reference to the U.S. Code defining “active duty military.” In Maryland, the General Assembly passes an Annual Corrective Bill which enacts changes for technical errors that make no change to the substance of the statute. MSDE’s government relations team will work with the legislature to request this correction in the next session of the Maryland General Assembly.

Legal Advisory by MIC3

A summary of recent advisory opinions was provided and reviewed by Ms. Imai of the national office of the Commission. When questions arise in states, they can be addressed by counsel for the compact, if needed, so that the answer is available to all states.

A commissioner can request a rule change to address a specific question, but there are also ways to address situations within the State such as through a local waiver. This flexibility means that the rules are broad enough to accommodate variance in law and policy at the state level.

National Case Review

Statistics were provided regarding cases that are reviewed at the national level. Note that this does not include matters that are resolved at the local level. The national office will conduct a five year review of the data.

Cases that are received at the national level can result from outreach of parent, or a commissioner. The majority of requests are from parents, then from compact Commissioners. Many are unrelated to the

Compact, or regarding issues that are not covered by the Compact. The most common areas of questions are placement and graduation requirements (Articles 5 and 7 of the Compact, respectively).

Financial Report/Dues Recommendation of the Commission

States pay dues to support the operations of the national office. The national office of the Commission provides printed and online materials, technical assistance, case review, and staff support for convenings of the Commission and its committees. Dues are based on the number of military-connected students in the state. There has not been an increase in the rate used to determine state dues since 2015.

If there is an increase, it will take effect two years after approval. Currently the per student rate is \$1.15. The proposal of the Commission is that the new rate be set at \$1.78 for FY 2027, with a 4% increase annually to account for inflation. Previously there was a cap on the total amount of dues, which does impact Maryland, but this will also be removed.

All members of the State Council present support the proposed rule change to increase the State dues.

Adjourn

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Agenda

MONDAY, JUNE 22, 2026

Welcome and Introductions

Mary Gable
Assistant State Superintendent, Division of Student Support and Federal Programs
Maryland Commissioner

Strategic Plan

Mary Gable
Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission
2026-2028 Strategic Plan

Advance Enrollment

Mary Gable
House Bill 102, Ch 644, 2026
Education – Dependent Children of Active Service Members –
Advance Enrollment Procedures

Maryland's Purple Star Schools Program

Mary Gable

Dr. Kaitlin Quigley
Coordinator of Policy Initiatives, Division of Student Support and Federal Programs

Updates: Maryland

- Updates on Cases/MD
- Correction of Citation in Maryland Law
- Update on National Cases
- Dues
- New Executive Director for MIC3 – Lindsey Dablow

Updates/Requests from State Council Members

Compact Training – Date and Registration Link

Compact 201 Training: [July 9, 2026, 12:00 PM ET](#)
Compact 101 Training: [July 13, 2026, 7:00 PM ET](#)

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Don Corbin	Safety Specialist, MSDE
Teresa Dantzier	Ombudsman, MSDE
Cheryl Dyson*	Superintendent, Frederick County Public Schools
Brad Engel	School Engagement Specialist, MSDE
Mary Gable*	Assistant State Superintendent, MSDE
Lolita Gunter	School Liaison, NSA South Potomac
Brittany Johnson	School Liaison, Aberdeen Proving Ground
Meredith McCandless	School Liaison, Fort George G. Meade, also representing Col. Gore
Kaitlin Quigley	Coordinator of Special Projects, MSDE
Alexmi Lugo Reverol	Uprooted Chesapeake
Mel Frasqueri Santiago	Uprooted Chesapeake
Brook Schmidt	Military Specialist, Parents' Place of Maryland
Ryan Voetglin*	Assistant Superintendent, Student Service, Anne Arundel County Public Schools
Andrew Warner	Executive Director, Maryland Public Schools Athletic Association, MSDE

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Rene Averitt-Sanzone	Executive Director, Parents Place of Maryland
Col Yolanda Gore*	Garrison Commander, Fort George G. Meade
Laurel Crastley	Maryland State Department of Education
Alonso Hay	School Liaison, Joint Base Andrews
Anne Kaiser*	Delegate, Maryland House of Delegates
Talissa McMullen	School Liaison, Fort George G. Meade
Dawn Simpson	School Liaison, Patuxent River Naval Air Station
Gerrod Tyler	Free State PTA

Welcome and Introductions

Materials included in the folder and sent to online participants include: The MIC3 Strategic Plan for 2026-2028, List of State Council Members and Liaisons, HB102(Chapter 644), Purple Star Program Summary, and dues summary for MIC3.

Strategic Plan for MIC3

An overview of the MIC3 Strategic Plan was shared. Highlights are captured in the presentation, included with the minutes. Three main goals focus on culture, fidelity, and engagement. An organizational goal of the MIC3 is to continue to build capacity of Commissioners especially as there is turnover, and Commissioners serving who come from different roles (education, military, other). The Commission oversees the Compact and has established rules to guide states in serving military families. A balance is needed to establish or revise rules and consistency; if the rules are too specific, schools and families could encounter unintended consequences. The Commission works to build and maintain relationships with agencies at the local, state, and federal level.

Advanced Enrollment

HB 102, Chapter 644 was enacted in the 2026 Session of the Maryland General Assembly. The bill requires each Maryland local education agency (LEA) to allow dependent children to advance enroll with orders, if a final residence is not determined. The LEA must have an online method for enrollment, so that a family can enroll a student without being physically present. The bill requires timely sharing of IEPs and 504 plans.

For example, in Anne Arundel County, there is an existing remote enrollment system. A family may enroll with orders if residency is not yet established. The address that will be used is the work location on the assignment orders.

Anne Arundel County principals have experience with students with Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) in which the receiving school does not receive the IEP from the sending school in a timely manner. In these cases, the students may have to be re-assessed. It is hoped that the legislation's emphasis on serving students with disabilities will help with this. In Prince George's County, the liaison works to get the IEP to the County Schools central office so that it can be reviewed to help ensure that students receive services without interruptions. Guidance will be issued by MSDE.

Update on Purple Star Program

Kaitlin Quigley shared an overview of the Purple Star program that was established by Legislature to acknowledge schools doing exemplary work to support military students. Presentation is included with the minutes. There are criteria to receive the designation, including staff training, and peer-led transition program, making resources available, and a designated liaison for families. The designation is earned for two years. During the second year, the school can apply to renew the designation. In 2026, eight schools were eligible to renew the designation and all eight earned the renewal.

In a typical year, the application is released by 12/1, and is due in early March. In the interim technical assistance is provided. Applications are reviewed by a team at MSDE. Announcements have been made in April, the month of the military child. A school that does not earn the designation is advised and encouraged to submit a second time. The renewal is a more streamlined application. MSDE appreciates the collaboration of the military school liaisons in developing the application and supporting the school teams.

Maryland Cases

MSDE receives relatively few requests to intervene in cases that involve military connected students. Issues are most often resolved by school liaisons and the staff of the LEA. Questions that come to the attention of MSDE most often include enrollment and transfer of courses. The resolution typically entails making a connection to the right person in the LEA, or helping the family navigate an unfamiliar system.

National Case Review

Statistics were provided regarding cases that are reviewed at the national level. Note that this does not include matters that are resolved at the local level. Cases that are received at the national level can result from outreach of parent, or a commissioner. The majority of requests are from parents, then from Compact Commissioners. Many are unrelated to the Compact, or regarding issues that are not covered by the Compact.

Dues of the Commission

States pay dues to support the operations of the national office. The national office of the Commission provides printed and online materials, technical assistance, case review, and staff support for convenings of the Commission and its committees. Dues are based on the number of military-connected students in the state. There has not been an increase in the rate used to determine state dues since 2015. With agreement among the states, dues will increase in the 2026-2027 school from

\$1.15 per military connected student to \$1.78, with a 4% increase annually to account for inflation. Previously there was a cap on the total amount of dues, which is removed. All members of the State Council present supported the proposed rule change to increase the State dues at the 2025 meeting of the State Council.

Executive Director

A new Executive Director for MIC3 has been named - Lindsey Deblow. Lindsay has served on the staff of the Commission and was serving as interim executive director, helping ensure a smooth transition.

Adjourn

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Background

The Maryland State Board of Education (MSDE) adopted [Code of Maryland Regulation 13A.06.10 Purple Star Schools Program](#) in February 2023. At a minimum, schools seeking Purple Star designation must demonstrate that they have:

1. **A military liaison** who serves as the point of contact for military-connected students and their families;
2. An easily accessible **resource webpage for military-connected students and their families** containing information that facilitates a smooth transition to the school;
3. **A peer-led transition program** tasked with orienting military-connected students to the school's physical and academic environments; and
4. **Appropriate training for school staff** aimed at fostering an understanding of life as a military-connected student.

In addition to assessing the fulfillment of the elements outlined in COMAR 13A.06.10, the application provides the opportunity to detail any measures the school has taken above and beyond the statutory requirements to support military-connected students and their families. Schools maintain Purple Star designation for a period of two years and may reapply in the second year.

2026 Purple Star Schools

The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) releases the Purple Star Schools application annually on December 1. In addition to the criteria outlined above, schools seeking Purple Star distinction are required to demonstrate they have taken additional measures above and beyond COMAR requirements to support military-connected students and their families. Each application was carefully reviewed to determine that the school met all of the criteria.

Schools that have earned Purple Star designation are eligible to reapply in the second year of the two-year designation period. The renewal application requires the schools to demonstrate continued adherence to the established Purple Star Schools criteria. Eight schools earned the distinction in April 2024 and were eligible to reapply this year. Of the applications received this year, MSDE is proud to share that 19 schools from seven local education agencies earned initial Purple Star designation. Additionally, all eight schools who earned the distinction in 2024 reapplied and were successful in renewing their designation for another two years. Maryland's 2026 Purple Star Schools are:

Anne Arundel County Public Schools

- **MacArthur Middle School:** MacArthur Middle School's military liaison, David Pickens, is a veteran of the army reserves who was deployed twice. His lived experience as both the

parent of a military-connected student and as a former (self-described) “army brat” himself provide Mr. Pickens with unique perspective and clear understanding of the needs of military-connected students, which are invaluable in designing and implementing Purple Star initiatives. MacArthur Middle earned Purple Star designation for the second time.

- **Magothy River Middle School:** At Magothy River Middle School, newly enrolled military-connected students are provided with a list of FAQs about the school. Providing communication and clear guidance helps to reduce uncertainty and build trust right from the start. The school also incorporates creative and meaningful initiatives for military families, including a “Cookies and Connections” event.
- **Meade High School:** At Meade High School, military-connected students are actively engaged in leadership and planning of Purple Star initiatives through its ambassador and BRATs programs. These programs underscore Meade’s student-centered approach to programming for military-connected students. Meade High School earned Purple Star designation for the second time.
- **West Meade Early Education Center:** West Meade Early Education Center recognizes that leaving a school due to a parent or guardian’s military service can be just as difficult as transitioning into a new school. To ensure military-connected students are supported on both ends, West Meade holds “Friendship Celebrations” to honor departing students. West Meade earned Purple Star designation for the second time.

Calvert County Public Schools

- **Barstow Elementary School:** A key strength is the balance between schoolwide community-building events, such as family engagement nights, and targeted opportunities that affirm and honor military-connected identities, like partnership with Naval Air Station Patuxent River. These efforts not only support military-connected students but also build awareness and empathy across the broader school community.
- **Dowell Elementary School:** Dowell Elementary School takes a comprehensive approach to supporting military-connected students, offering peer buddies, counselor-led “lunch bunch” groups, coordinated mental health services, and timely IEP review. These efforts demonstrate a well-structured system designed to support both academic and social-emotional needs.
- **Huntingtown Elementary School:** Huntingtown Elementary makes a concerted effort to involve military-connected families in its Purple Star programming. Through regular check-ins, family surveys, a monthly newsletter and collaboration, the school ensures that families feel connected and have a voice in school activities and decision-making.
- **Huntingtown High School:** Rather than offering its newly enrolled military-connected students a one-day orientation to the school, Huntingtown High Counselors meet with students and parents regularly throughout the entire first month of enrollment to

ensure all needs are met and the student is on track for their desired graduation pathway.

- **Mt. Harmony Elementary School:** As we all know, teachers consistently carry a very heavy workload that can make it difficult to find time to attend extra professional development sessions. To ensure all staff receive meaningful training on the unique needs of military-connected students, Mt. Harmony intentionally integrates strategies and insights from each professional learning session with specific applications for supporting military-connected students and families. Mt. Harmony earned Purple Star designation for the second time.
- **Mutual Elementary School:** Mutual Elementary’s transition program is well-designed, addressing the academic, social, and emotional needs of military-connected students. The combination of peer support, guided tours, structured orientation, and ongoing check-ins ensures students feel welcomed and included from day one. The program’s scalability full-circle approach—where former students become ambassadors—strengthens continuity and leadership development.
- **Patuxent High School:** Patuxent High School’s Purple Star activities are data driven. The school collects feedback from students and parents, which is then reviewed and analyzed through school teams to set goals, address areas of need, and implement new strategies. This feedback loop ensures that Patuxent High’s Purple Star programming is meaningful and effective for its students.
- **Southern Middle School:** Southern Middle School fosters a culture of inclusion through initiatives such as Month of the Military Child celebrations, military family recognition events, peer mentorship opportunities, and schoolwide activities that build awareness and appreciation for the experiences of military-connected students.
- **Sunderland Elementary School:** Sunderland Elementary’s transition program includes “Flight Ambassadors” and “Flight Guides,” student mentors who help new students navigate school routines, build friendships, and feel connected from their very first day. Sunderland also hosts free Military Family Dinners each fall and spring, where staff members personally serve meals to military families as a gesture of appreciation and connection.

Harford County Public Schools

- **Roye-Williams Elementary School:** Roye-Williams Elementary understands that it truly takes a village to raise a child. It has created Purple Up Goal Team—comprised in part of military spouses and a former military child— that works to continuously strengthen and expand supports for families. The school also partners with organizations such as UProoted Chesapeake and the local military installation, Aberdeen Proving Ground, to provide staff training, family resources, and social-emotional supports for students.

Howard County Public Schools

- **Bellows Springs Elementary School:** At Bellows Springs, family comes first. The school prioritizes family engagement and community connection through initiatives such as Veterans Day breakfasts, Military Family Appreciation Nights, PTA involvement, and partnerships with organizations like the Howard County Office of Veterans & Military Families and Blue Star Families. Bellows Springs earned Purple Star designation for the second time.
- **Thunder Hill Elementary School:** The military liaison at Thunder Hill provides a thoughtful welcome experience that includes personalized materials and ongoing check-ins. The school also offers creative touches such as welcome certificates and neighborhood guides written by military families, helping both students and families feel connected and supported from the outset. Military-connected staff are identified by a purple star on their classroom door as well as a purple star sticker on their ID badges, so that they are easily identifiable and military-connected students know there are staff who can relate to their experiences.
- **Veterans Elementary School:** Veterans Elementary fosters a culture of recognition and appreciation of military-connected students through impactful events such as Veterans Day celebrations—featuring student essays, guest speakers, and community partnerships—and Month of the Military Child activities that include spirit weeks, classroom lessons, and celebratory gatherings. These initiatives reflect a program that prioritizes connection, belonging, and sustained support for military-connected students and their families.

Prince George's County Public Schools

- **Melwood Elementary School:** Melwood Elementary School has developed an innovative and highly proactive approach to supporting military-connected students, centered on the concept of “immediate belonging” and anticipatory support. From the moment a military-connected student is identified, a coordinated system of faculty-led orientation and peer mentorship ensures students are quickly integrated both socially and academically. Unique touches such as welcoming students through the school’s morning news show help create a strong sense of visibility and care from day one.

Queen Anne's County Public Schools

- **Centreville Middle School:** Centreville Middle’s transition process includes thoughtful touches such as a Purple Star Welcome Bag filled with local and military resources, guided tours, and a student ambassador buddy program that connects new students with peers even before the school year begins. These efforts are complemented by the Purple Star Club, which serves as both a support network and a leadership opportunity for students navigating military life and transitions
- **Kent Island High School:** Kent Island’s Purple Star Club serves as a central hub for connection and advocacy, intentionally partnering with existing student organizations

like National Honor Society and Interact to expand impact while avoiding duplication. This club both strengthens student leadership and enhances community engagement through coordinated events such as Veterans Day programming, wreath-laying ceremonies, and other service projects for the local military community. Kent Island High earned Purple Star designation for the second time.

- **Matapeake Middle School:** A particularly notable aspect of Matapeake’s Purple Star program is its emphasis on meaningful service and personal connection. Students actively engage in heartfelt initiatives such as writing letters and creating cards for veterans—delivered directly to hospitals—as well as participating in events like parade floats and Honor Wall displays that recognize military families.
- **Queen Anne’s County High School:** At Queen Anne’s, initiatives including large-scale campus flag displays, student-produced Veterans Day videos, and community-centered events like Heroes Night create highly visible, schoolwide moments of recognition and unity. Together, these efforts reflect a dynamic and engaging program that prioritizes student leadership, authentic connection, and meaningful opportunities for military-connected students to feel honored and supported within the school community. Queen Anne’s High earned Purple Star designation for the second time.
- **Stevensville Middle School:** Stevensville Middle partners with organizations like Blue Star Families to link families with local resources and community events and hosts virtual information sessions with experts from the Military Child Education Coalition on topics such as scholarships, ROTC programs, and service academies—providing valuable, forward-looking guidance even at the middle school level.
- **Sudlersville Middle School:** The Purple Star Club at Sudlersville Middle school has outlined ambitious and creative plans for military-connected students, including developing a multi-year “stationed here” guide for families, creating networking opportunities and social events, and introducing an ombudsman-style support role to help families navigate the local community.

St. Mary’s County Public Schools

- **Captain Walter Francis Duke Elementary School:** Captain Walter Francis Duke has fostered meaningful connections with the local military community through events such as Veterans Day parades and military career days in partnership with Naval Air Station Patuxent River. The school’s Purple Star program blends peer leadership, social-emotional support, and strong military partnerships to ensure military-connected students feel seen, supported, and valued. Captain Walter Francis Duke earned Purple Star designation for the second time.
- **Leonardtwn Middle School:** What makes Leonardtown’s program particularly distinctive is its emphasis on systematizing support through clear, sustainable structures. The school is implementing monthly counselor check-ins to monitor students’ academic, social, and emotional well-being, paired with intentional data-sharing among staff to proactively address needs.

- **Park Hall Elementary School:** One particularly notable aspect of Park Hall’s Purple Star programming is that the military liaison extends outreach beyond the school walls by meeting families at events such as the Back-to-School Bash hosted by Naval Air Station Patuxent River—creating an early, personal connection even before students officially begin school.

MARYLAND STATE COUNCIL ON EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY FOR MILITARY CHILDREN – 2026

Chief State School Officer

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

Education Designee

Mary L. Gable, Maryland Commissioner, Assistant State Superintendent, Maryland State Department of Education

Attorney

Alan Dunklow, Principal Counsel, Maryland State Department of Education

Military Representative

Col. Yolanda Gore, Garrison Commander, Fort George G. Meade

State Council Members

Mary L. Gable, Maryland Commissioner, Assistant State Superintendent, Maryland State Department of Education

Teresa Dantzer, Ombudsman, Maryland State Department of Education

Dr. Cheryl Dyson, Superintendent, Frederick County Public Schools

Brad Engel, School Engagement Specialist, Maryland State Department of Education

Delegate Anne R. Kaiser, Maryland House of Delegates

Ryan Voegtlin, Assistant Superintendent, Student Services, Anne Arundel County Public Schools

Mel Frasqueri Santiago, Founder & President, UProoted Chesapeake

School Liaisons

Tashina Andrus, Naval District Washington

Lolita Gunter, NSA South Potomac - NSF Dahlgren
and NSF Indian Head

Brooke Brock, NSA Annapolis, U.S. Naval Academy

Brittany Johnson, Aberdeen Proving Ground

Andrea Bridgewater-McCarthy, US Dept. of the
Army, Fort Detrick

Meredith McCandless, Fort George G. Meade

Matrice Brooks, Joint Base Andrews

Talissa McMullen, Fort George G. Meade

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