



West Virginia DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION

West Virginia Council for the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children

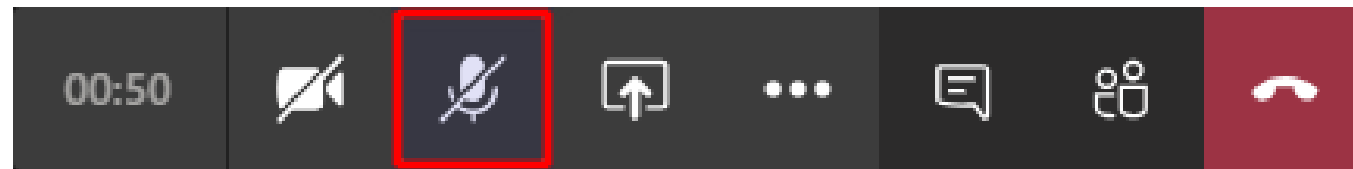
FY 2025 Meeting
Tuesday, January 14, 2025

Microsoft Teams Meeting Information

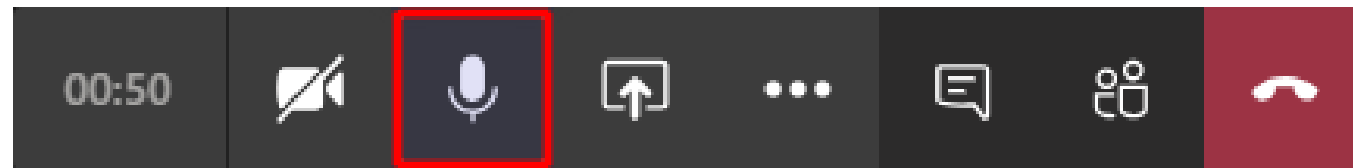
As we begin the meeting:

- If you are using a computer or cell phone application, please note that you may use the menu bar near the bottom of your screen to:
 - Turn your camera on or off
 - Mute and unmute your microphone

Camera and microphone turned off



Camera off and microphone on



*On a telephone, *6 will mute or unmute your audio. Press *1 for a complete list of telephone options.*

Meeting Agenda

1. Welcome, Roll Call and Introductions
 - *Military Family Education Liaison, Mr. Robert Mellace*
2. Approval of Agenda/Minutes and Remarks from the State Compact Commissioner
 - *Compact Commissioner, Mr. Nickolas Lambruno*
3. Remarks from the State Superintendent of Schools
 - *State Superintendent of Schools, Ms. Michele Blatt*
4. Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission (MIC3) Overview
5. Common Ground Partnership Overview
6. Roundtable Discussion on MIC3 and the Common Ground Partnership

Welcome

Office of Educator Preparation

Mr. Robert Mellace

Coordinator

Phone: 1-304-558-3119

E-mail: rmellace@k12.wv.us

Roll Call and Introductions

State Council Members:

Compact Commissioner – Mr. Nickolas Lambruno

State Superintendent of Schools – Ms. Michele Blatt

County Superintendent of Schools – Berkeley County Schools – Dr. Ryan Saxe

Military Installation Representative - WVNG – MAJ Brittany Watson

Executive Branch Representative – Cabinet Secretary, WVDVA – Mr. Edward Diaz

WV Senate Member – Mr. Ryan Weld

WV House of Delegates Member – Mr. Bill Anderson

Military Family Education Liaison – Mr. Robert Mellace

DOD Representative:

NRMA Regional School Liaison – Ms. Marcella Atwood

Approval of Agenda/Minutes

Remarks

State Compact Commissioner

Mr. Nickolas Lambruno

- Director West Virginia Mountaineer ChalleNGe Program



Remarks

State Superintendent of Schools

Ms. Michele Blatt

- 34th State Superintendent of Schools
- Appointed in June 2023
- Previously served as the following at the WVDE:
 - Leadership Development Coordinator
 - Executive Director of the Office of School Improvement
 - Chief Accountability Officer
 - Assistant Superintendent for the Division of Support and Accountability
 - Deputy State Superintendent





MILITARY INTERSTATE
CHILDREN'S COMPACT
COMMISSION

Overview

Summary Information

National Annual Business Meeting Update

West Virginia Case Update



MILITARY INTERSTATE
CHILDREN'S COMPACT
COMMISSION

The Military Interstate Children's Compact was developed in 2006 and has been adopted by all 50 states, the District of Columbia and the Department of Defense Education Activity. The Compact eases the educational challenges that military children encounter, and supports uniform treatment as they transfer between school districts.

The Compact only applies to public schools.

Compact Quick Fact Guide

Goal of the Compact

To overcome transitional issues experienced by military families when their children move to a new school in another state.

Member States

All states and the District of Columbia.

Applies to

Active duty members of uniformed services including the National Guard and Reserve members on active duty orders pursuant to 10 U.S.C. §1209 and 1211, as well as veterans who are severely injured and medically discharged for one year after medical discharge or retirement, and veterans who die on active duty for a period of one year after death.

Educational Records

Receiving member states must accept unofficial records for initial enrollment and then the sending member state must submit official records within 10 days of receipt of the request for records.

Immunizations

A child who is unable to provide official documented proof of at least one dose of each required vaccination must be automatically enrolled and/or homebound services will be provided within 3 days, to ensure educational services are immediately provided while the first dose(s) of all required immunizations are confirmed. Note: Tuberculosis testing is currently not required for enrollment in WV schools.

Kindergarten and 1st Grade

Entrance Age

A student who moves may continue in the same grade in the receiving state regardless of the entrance age requirements of the receiving state.

Course and Educational Program Placement

School districts must initially honor equivalent course enrollment or program placement (ex. Gifted, AP, etc.), if available. Then, evaluation may occur to ensure appropriate placement. Space must be available, and member states must demonstrate reasonable accommodations.

Special Education

Receiving schools must use the sending state's IEP until a new IEP may be conducted/evaluated.

Placement Flexibility

The Compact encourages schools to waive course prerequisites as appropriate to the content, when similar coursework was completed (ex. Requirement to pass Geometry before taking Algebra).

Absence Related to Deployment

The Compact establishes guidelines for enhanced flexibility with excused absences for military families on active duty orders (one month before deployment and six months after return).

Enrollment

During deployments it may be necessary for students to stay with a non-custodial parent or someone in loco parentis. Guardianship of a student under these circumstances should not prevent or negatively impact enrollment (a power of attorney is sufficient). The family may keep their school as long as the guardian provides transportation.

Extracurricular Participation

Deadlines for application are not grounds for disqualification. The school must demonstrate reasonable accommodation, but is not required to hold open or create additional space on teams.

Course Waivers

Substituting equivalent coursework is required (ex. West Virginia History for Ohio History). Reasonable justification is required for denial of a course waiver.

Transfers as a Senior in High School

The receiving state works with the sending school district to issue a diploma, if the student is a senior in High School (ex. using a memorandum of understanding between schools).



Importance of MIC3 in WV

- Military children transition between 6-9 times during K-12.
- Soldiers experiencing deployments can focus on missions knowing provisions protect their families.
- The participation of every state in the Compact supports military readiness across the nation.
- Soldiers with families transitioning from other states into West Virginia receive reasonable accommodations provided by Compact.
- Soldiers from West Virginia transitioning into other states for the completion of their active-duty military orders are supported by other states participating in the Compact.

West Virginia's Approach: Proactive Communications with Educators and Military Families Statewide

Including -

- Annual State Superintendent's update message or presentation at County Superintendent meeting
- Distribution of brochures and handouts at conferences and events
- WV Common Ground Partnership Activities
 - WVDE MIC3 page on the Common Ground website
 - Purple Star School Military Family Points of Contact receive MIC3 training
 - MIC3 professional development

MIC3 Annual Business Meeting (ABM)

- Meeting in 2024, was Albuquerque, NM.
- Meeting in 2025, will be Indianapolis, IN.
- Approval of the FY 2026 budget
- Procedural votes occurring on bylaws and rules amendments, etc.
- A five-year strategic plan was discussed

MIC3 Annual Business Meeting (ABM)

- MIC3 National Policy requires two years of operating expenses be secured in reserves. In FY 2026 it is projected reserves will not be met.
 - Dues may increase from \$2,300 to \$4,000 in FY 2027 (2nd dues increase since 2008)
 - At next year's ABM, proposal to rotate in-person and virtual ABMs every other year considered
- West Virginia identified as compliant in FY 2024
- States still encouraged to make technical corrections to existing MIC3 Compact language



MILITARY INTERSTATE
CHILDREN'S COMPACT
COMMISSION

Cases Reported to the State and Qualifying for Provisions of MIC3:

FY 2020 – 1

FY 2022 – 0 (1 inquiry reported, did not qualify)

FY 2024 – 0 (1 inquiry reported, did not seek qualification)

FY 2025 - 1



MILITARY INTERSTATE
CHILDREN'S COMPACT
COMMISSION

Qualifying Inquiry – Occurring FY 2020

Issue: A student moved from WY to WV with a high school level integrated science course completed, but high school equivalency was not identified on the transcript and the name of the course did not match Earth and Space Science, which was a required prerequisite in WV for the student to begin Biology I at the appropriate grade level.

Resolution: The student received course credit equivalent to Earth and Space Science at the high school level in WV, allowing enrollment in Biology I at the appropriate grade level.

Qualifying Inquiry – Occurring FY 2025

Issue: Family requested educational services during the 30-day period for immunizations.

Resolution: Family received educational services during the 30-day period. Family moved to another state near the end of 30 days, no longer needing provisions in West Virginia.

MIC3

MILITARY INTERSTATE
CHILDREN'S COMPACT
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Overview: Common Ground Partnership



Mission Established in 2011:
Supporting the Success of All Students

West Virginia Board of Education Career Readiness Goals:

**Every Student
Prepared for Success:**

Education, Employment, or Enlistment



24 Partnering Organizations

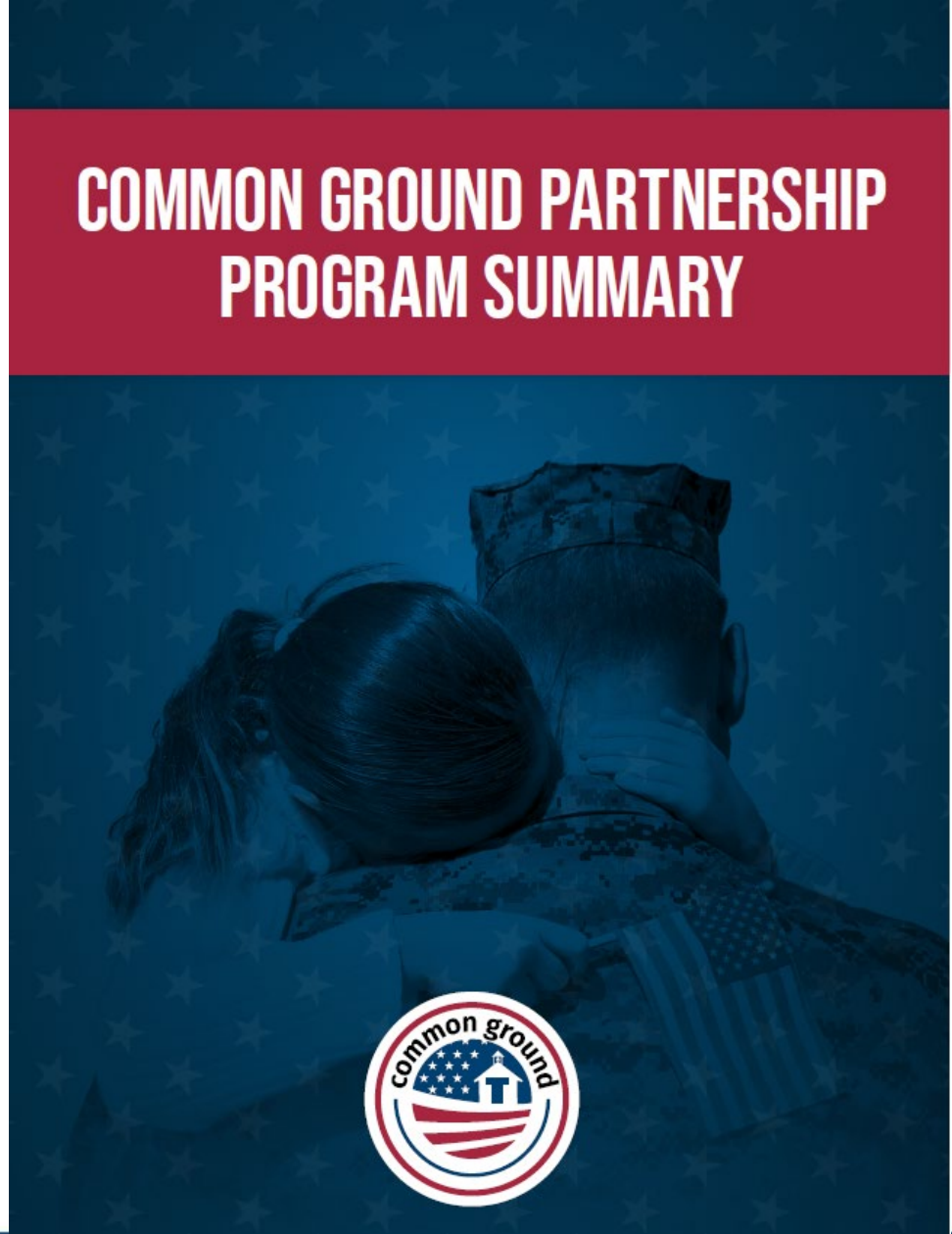
- 338th Recruiting Squadron of Wright Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio
- Department of West Virginia Marine Corps League
- Military Entrance Processing Command Beckley
- Military Officers Association of America for West Virginia
- Navy Talent Acquisition Group Ohio River Valley
- Navy Talent Acquisition Group Pittsburgh, PA
- Office of the Governor of West Virginia
- Prevent Suicide West Virginia
- United States Army Recruiting Battalion Columbus, OH
- United States Army Recruiting Battalion Richmond, VA
- United States Marine Corps Recruiting Stations in West Virginia (KY and MD Command)
- West Virginia Board of Education
- West Virginia Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc.
- West Virginia Department of Education
- West Virginia Department of Veterans Assistance
- West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission
- Office of Veterans Education and Training Programs
- West Virginia National Guard
- West Virginia Task Force Miner
- West Virginia University Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math Technical Assistance Center
- West Virginia Veterans of Foreign Wars
- West Virginia Wing of the Civil Air Patrol
- United States Coast Guard Marine Safety Unit Huntington
- West Virginia American Legion

Common Ground Compact Signing



November 12, 2024

COMMON GROUND PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM SUMMARY



Activities Summary Video



Supporting the Success
of All Students

Speaker Series

Topics:

- Career exploration
- Promoting literacy
- Substance abuse prevention
- Bullying prevention
- Importance of staying in school and graduating
- American flag protocols
- Patriotic holidays or events
- Other



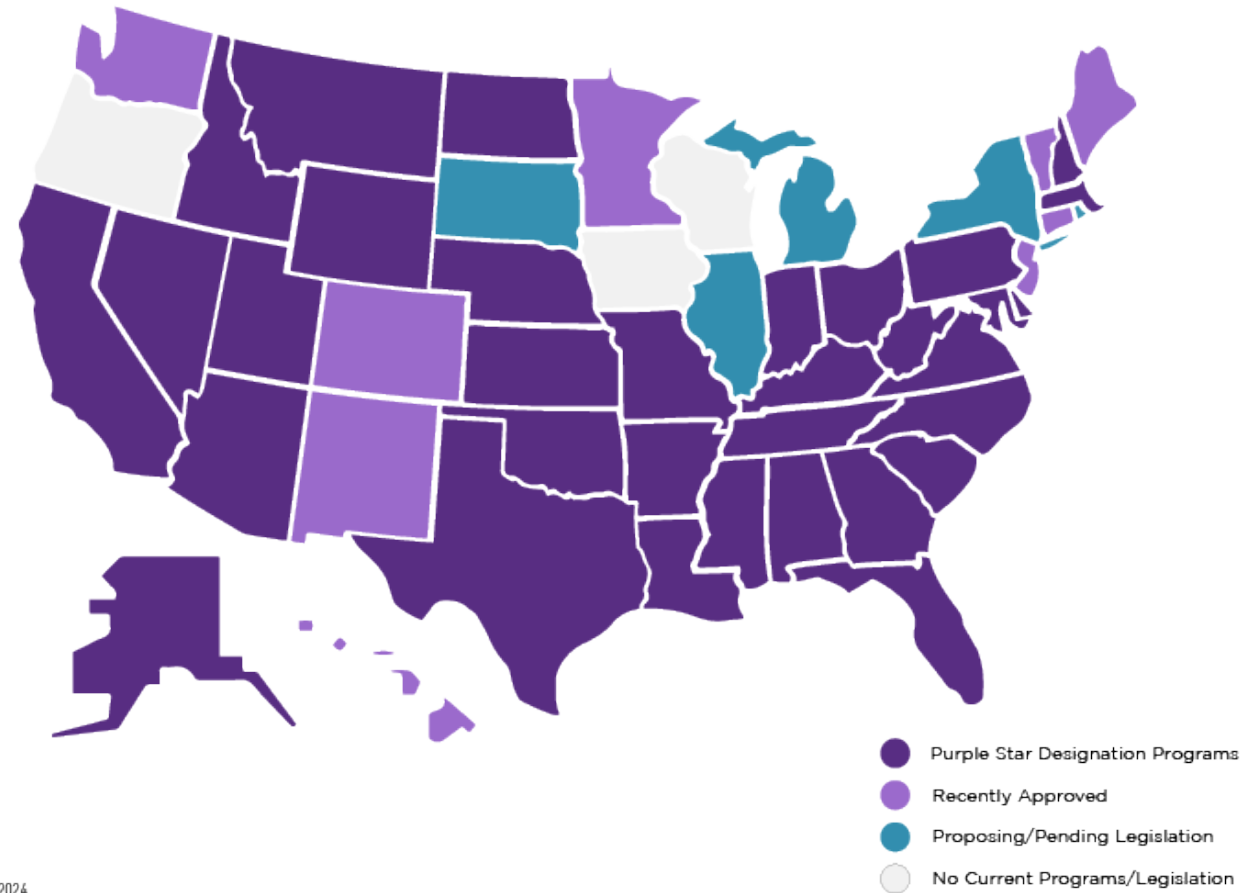


PURPLE STAR AWARD

WEST VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Purple Star Award Programs Across America



Revised 09.09.2024

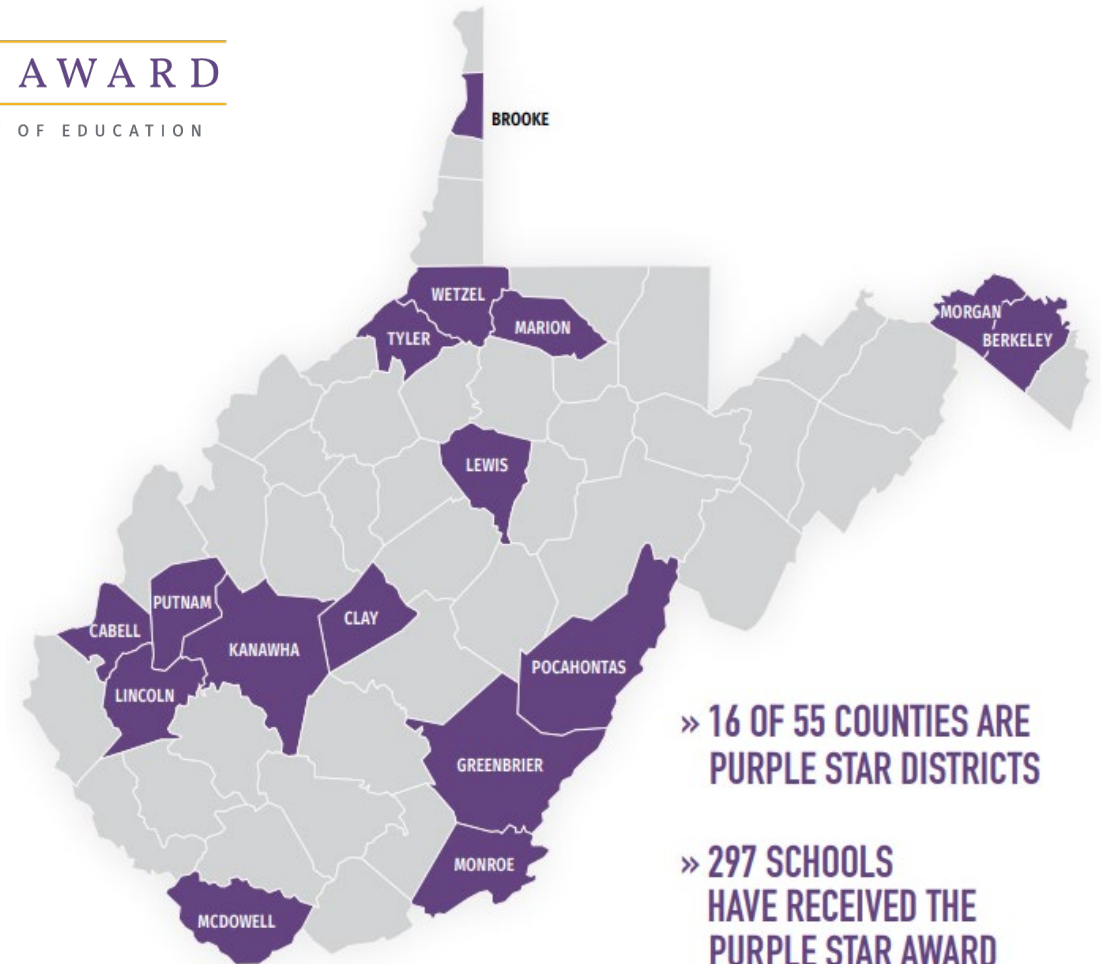


PURPLE STAR AWARD

WEST VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Requirements Include:

- Trained Military Family Point of Contact
- Link to Common Ground Partnership homepage
- Describe local plan of support for military families
- Annually celebrate Purple Up Day
- Conduct 2 qualifying military support activities





PURPLE STAR INFORMER

Preparing for Events in April, the Month of the Military Child



The West Virginia Department of Education (WVDE) and Common Ground Partnership are enthusiastically preparing for activities that are bound to inspire students and honor those in public service who are defending our country in the United States Armed Forces. As you begin planning activities and events, please remember that if you share those experiences on social media, you may connect them to our collective efforts by using [#CommonGroundWV](#).

Military Signing Week and Spirit Week on April 7-11, 2025

Purple Up Day on April 11, 2025



This year for the first time ever, **the state-recognized Spirit Week and Military Signing Week take place during the same week, culminating with Purple Up Day.** The WVDE launched a **Purple Up Month Toolkit for educators**, which you may access by [clicking here](#). It offers a wide variety of helpful ideas for activities and templates promoting participation, including this year's [Spirit Week poster](#).

Registration for schools hosting Military Signing Week and related events launched on December 9th. Already, 23 schools have signed up to identify their local events on the Common Ground Partnership's website and receive useful planning templates. Schools registering will also receive a celebratory video prior to April, which they may use at their events. [Click here](#) for complete details and the list of events. Schools may [click here](#) to register their events.

Research Preview on Purple Star Award

West Virginia Schools Receiving the Purple Star Award in 2021-2022 = 200

- Schools participating in the survey = 179
- Schools not participating in the survey = 21 (3 schools closed)

School administrators and military family points of contact at these schools which responded to the survey = 76 administrators and 127 military family points of contact

Data as of 12/30/2024

Final results will be available in May 2025

Research Preview on Purple Star Award

How would you rate the award's overall impact within your school and community?

- Very Positive = 37%
- Positive = 52%
- Neutral = 11%
- Negative = 0
- Very Negative = 0

Research Preview on Purple Star Award

Which best describes your school's overall experience in meeting requirements of the award?

- Our school felt award requirements were appropriate with an acceptable degree of effort needed to receive the recognition = 98%
- Our school felt award requirements were either inappropriate or too demanding of staff efforts needed to receive the recognition = 2%

Research Preview on Purple Star Award

How would you rate information provided in the award's required military family point of contact training?

- Great = 37%
- Good = 55%
- Average = 2%
- Poor = 0%
- I was not required to complete the Military Family Point of Contact Training = 6% (e.g., administrators who are not military family points of contact)

Research Preview on Purple Star Award

How would you describe the Purple Star Informer newsletter and professional development offered on the Purple Star Award section of the Common Ground Partnership's website?

- Very useful and informative = 34%
- Useful and informative = 66%
- Not Useful and/or informative = 0%

Research Preview on Purple Star Award

Has a military-connected child at your school experienced a deployment of a family member or school transition due to military orders during the award period (2021-2024)?

- Yes = 25%
- No = 75%

Research Preview on Purple Star Award

For those military-connected students who experienced a deployment or transition, did you feel like the professional development and resources offered on the Common Ground Partnership's website were adequate and beneficial to you in your efforts to support that child and their family's well-being?

- Yes = 96%
- No = 4%

April is...



MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

Our PURPLE UP!

day is...

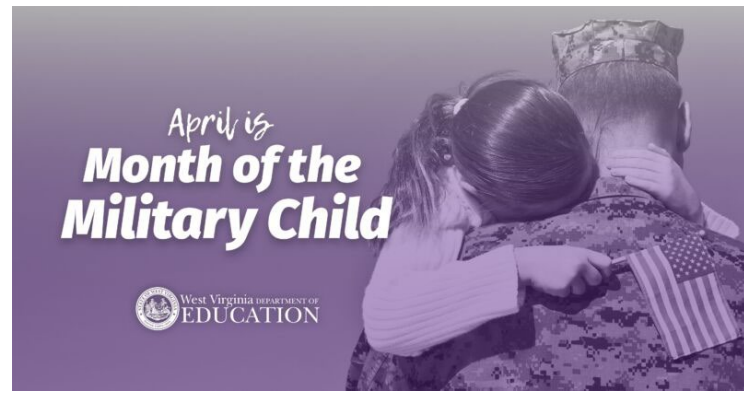
April

11th

WEAR PURPLE

to support our military students!

www.MilitaryChild.org



The WVDE provides a Purple Up Month Toolkit at <https://wvde.us/commonground/purple-up-month-toolkit/>

MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD SPIRIT WEEK

#NGCYS25 #WVNGCYP #COMMONGROUNDWV



MONDAY 7 APRIL

Military Monday

Army, Air Force, Marine, Navy, Coast Guard... wear a shirt to show your favorite branch.

TUESDAY 8 APRIL

Crazy Camo Day

Wear your favorite camouflage clothing.

WEDNESDAY 9 APRIL

Red, White & Blue Day

Wear red, white, and blue to support our military families.

THURSDAY 10 APRIL

RED Day

Wear red to remember everyone deployed.

FRIDAY 11 APRIL

Purple Up Day

Wear purple in honor of our military kids.

Thank You for taking part in supporting Military Kids!

We are excited to see your pictures supporting our military kids during Spirit Week! Email Susan, Lisa, & Robert below or post to our social media using the hashtags: #WVNGCYP and #CommonGroundWV

To Email your pictures send to:

Susan Izzo: susan.c.izzo.nfg@army.mil | Lisa Dixon: lisa.a.dixon22.nfg@army.mil | Robert Mellace: rmellace@k12.wv.us



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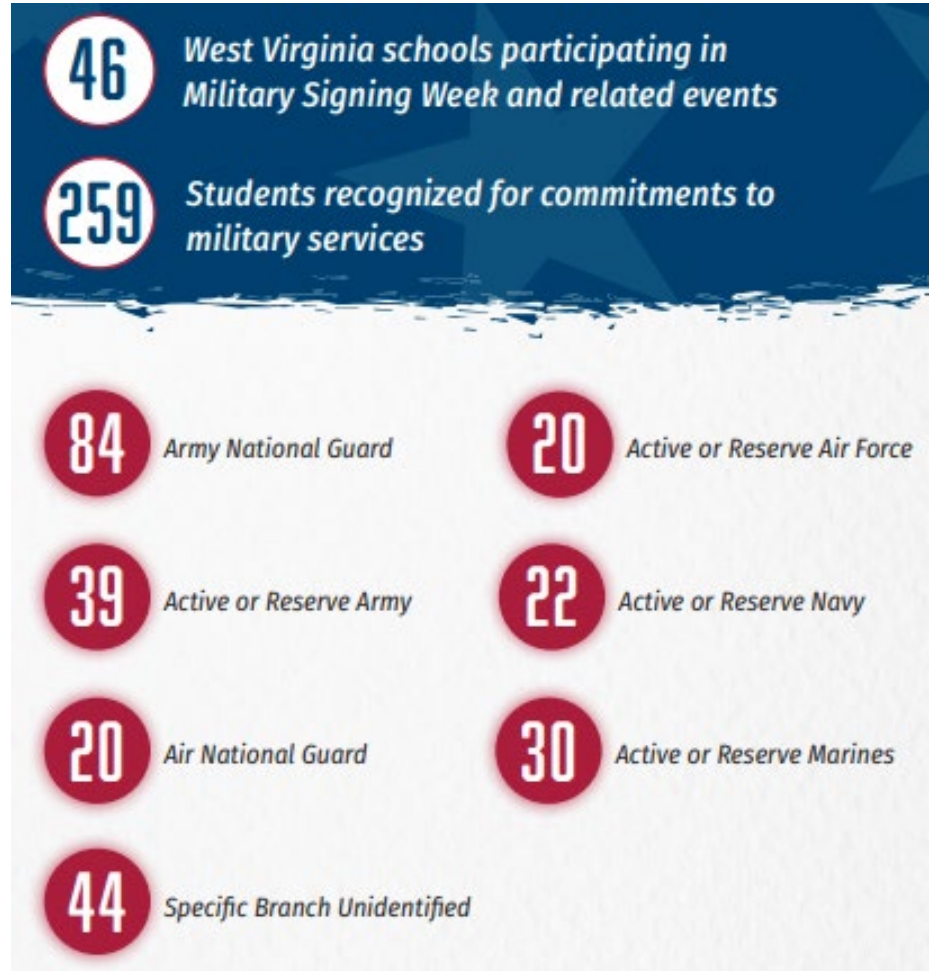


MILITARY SIGNING WEEK

THE 3RD ANNUAL MILITARY SIGNING WEEK OCCURRED ON

APRIL 22-26, 2024

Schools were encouraged to conduct local events celebrating students attending high school who made a special commitment to serve and defend the public as a member of the United States Armed Forces. While some events occurred outside of the recognized week, all provided students a unique opportunity to learn about military career paths which may be available to them upon graduation.





MILITARY SIGNING WEEK

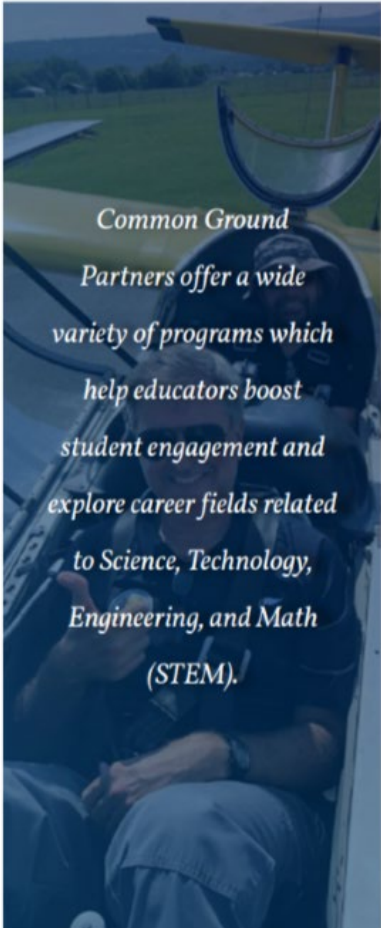
April 7 - 11, 2025

- School registration launched on December 9, 2024
- 23 Schools holding local events recognizing students committing to public service in the military
- Review the complete event list and information:

<https://wvde.us/commonground/military-signing-week/>



Military-Based STEM Programs Brochure



Common Ground Partners offer a wide variety of programs which help educators boost student engagement and explore career fields related to Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM).



The Department of Defense STEM website may be accessed at dodstem.us.

To learn more about the Common Ground Partnership, please contact:

Robert P. Mellace III
E-mail: rmellace@k12.wv.us
Phone: 304-558-3119

<https://wvde.us/commonground>



CIVIL AIR PATROL

As a non-profit auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force, students participating in this program contribute to a real-life mission in service to the public. Cadet members of the West Virginia Wing learn about leadership, are immersed in aerospace education and mentored in physical fitness. Cadet experiences may lead to earning credit for promotion(s) if they decide to enlist into the military or a private pilot certificate. For complete details, visit www.cap.gov.

AEROSPACE EDUCATION MEMBER (AEM) PROGRAM FOR EDUCATORS

The Civil Air Patrol's Aerospace Education Member (AEM) program is designed to support education in grades K-12. Educators who become members may use an online portal to request STEM kits with lesson plans which can be integrated into classroom instruction and kept by the school upon completion of activities. Teacher orientation program (TOP) flights are offered in aircraft stationed at local airports to educators who are members of the AEM program. AEM members may participate in one TOP Flight per fiscal year (1 Oct - 30 Sept) in powered or glider aircraft where available and as funding allows. To learn more, visit www.govcivilairpatrol.com/programs/.



PATRIOT GUARDIANS

This grant-funded program provides non-formal agricultural education and hands-on learning opportunities to veterans, active duty members of the military, and their families. Patriot Guardians is actively piloting partnerships with elementary, middle, and high schools in collaboration with the Future Leaders Program in Putnam County. Contact Melissa Stewart, Director of Patriot Guardians, at melissa.lstewart22.nfg@army.mil.



WEST VIRGINIA ARMY NATIONAL GUARD (WVARN) ROBOTICS KITS

The WVARNG's Recruiting and Retention office has five recruiting sectors covering the entire state and each sector has a STEM Robotics Kit that they can brief educators on at the beginning of the school year. To learn more about this opportunity and request an educator brief, schools may visit the Common Ground Partnership's website to review an *informative handout* and contact MSG Derek Tilley at derekL.tilley@army.mil or 304-561-6389.

AIR FORCE AND SPACE FORCE STEM

The Air and Space STEM Outreach websites at <https://dafstem.us> and <https://afstem.nepris.com/> offer information about the STEM to Sky Program, connecting educators with Airmen and Guardians for guest speaking encounters which inspire students to learn about their careers and passions surrounding STEM. Educators may view live events, sign up for their newsletter and request 1:1 classroom connections with professionals from the Air Force and Space Force.



NAVY STEM OPPORTUNITIES

Navy Talent Acquisition Group (NTAG) Pittsburgh, is seeking partnerships with high school educators in Barbour, Brooke, Calhoun, Doddridge, Gilmer, Hancock, Harrison, Lewis, Marion, Marshall, Monongalia, Ohio, Preston, Ritchie, Taylor, Tucker, Tyler, Upshur, and Wetzel counties and offers SeaPerch underwater robotics STEM kits on a limited basis. Educators interested in this activity may contact Samuel Lenhardt at 1-724-691-5651 or samuel.j.lenhardt.mil@us.navy.mil.

ARMY EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH PROGRAM (AEOP)

This program strives to enhance STEM literacy by offering competitions, symposiums, and summer enrichment programs. The eCYBERMISSION initiative offers a student competition and mini-grants to qualifying educators. To learn more, visit www.usaeop.com/educators/.

STARBASE



This premier educational program engages students through an inquiry-based curriculum on a National Guard facility. The 25 hours of stimulating "hands-on, minds-on" activities in STEM are provided with the primary focus being fifth grade. There are two Department of Defense STARBASE sites located within West Virginia. STARBASE Martinsburg is located at the 16th Airlift Wing and STARBASE Charleston is located at the 130th Airlift Wing. To inquire about opportunities to partner with the program, contact:

» **Martinsburg**
Sherra Triggs
sb.martinsburg@dodstarbase.org
304-616-5501

» **Charleston**
Kayla Bossie
sb.wv-charleston@dodstarbase.org
304-341-6441


Connecting Classroom Content to Military Careers

Common Factor Episode 8 at the West Virginia Air National Guard



Career Support for Military Families

Veteran Teacher Recruitment



TeachWV


**Discover your potential.
Find your purpose.
Become a teacher.**

Whether you're a high school student, a college graduate, a certified teacher from out-of-state, returning to the classroom, or somewhere in-between, there is a pathway for you. Let us help you get there!

Choose your education level

No Degree or Diploma

Let's Go!



Veterans in the Classroom

West Virginia recognizes veterans' unique qualities in the classroom and provides specialized career counseling that can aid in transitioning veterans into a career in education.

Military Resources



Superintendent Michele L. Blatt Message To Retired Military

Watch later Share

Watch on YouTube

A Message for Retiring Veterans

State Superintendent of Schools, Mrs. Michele Blatt, encourages retiring military service members to serve in West Virginia schools.

West Virginia National Guard in Education

MCA and FLP



Roundtable Discussion:



Closing Remarks

Compact Commissioner:

Mr. Nickolas Lambruno

nickolas.w.lambruno@wv.gov

Military Family Education Liaison:

Mr. Robert Mellace

rmellace@k12.wv.us or 1-304-558-3119