



AGENDA

THE ARKANSAS COUNCIL FOR MILITARY CHILDREN

Thursday, March 7, 2024, 10:00 A.M.

White Hall School District
1020 W. Holland Avenue
White Hall, Arkansas

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82658879558?pwd=dVdzVU9OWWt2VzFzNGpRWmpYdy9ZQT09>

Meeting ID: 826 5887 9558

Passcode: 967781

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- I. Call to Order and Roll Call (J. Kaminar, A. Cress)
 - II. Pledge of Allegiance (J. Kaminar)
 - III. Recognition of Host District (J. Kaminar)
 - IV. Introduction of New Members and Guests
 - V. Approval of Agenda*** (J. Kaminar)
 - VI. Approval of Minutes (January 4, 2024)*** (J. Kaminar)
 - VII. Public Comments (J. Kaminar)
 - VIII. Guest Presentation – School Choice and Education Freedom Accounts (D. Wood, J.D.)
 - IX. Chair’s Report (J. Kaminar)
 - A. DMEC/SML Training Sessions
 - B. Purple Star School Update
 - X. Vice Chair’s Report (A. Wright)

- XI. Reports by Committees, Task Forces, or Liaisons**
 - A. Awards Committee (Dr. J. Walker)**
 - 1. Outstanding Military Scholar Award*****
 - 2. Service Awards for Council Members*****
 - B. Military Family Forum Committee (A. Wright)**
 - 1. February 28 Military Family Forum**
 - C. Outreach Committee (J. Kaminar)**
 - 1. Newsletter Update**
 - D. Strategic Planning Committee (J. Bergstrom)**
 - 1. Purple Star Community**
 - E. Military Family Education Liaison (B. Olles)**
 - F. Department of Defense Liaison (Col. N. Estelle)**
 - G. Special Education Liaison (R. Porter)**
 - H. Special Advisor (J. Saum)**
- XII. Old Business (J. Kaminar)**
 - A. LRAFB Focus Group (DESE)**
 - B. Survey of Military Families**
 - C. Council Membership (Student Advisory Committee) *****
- XIII. New Business (J. Kaminar)**
 - A. Reorganization of Committees*****
 - B. Month of the Military Child Activities**
 - C. Resolution for Month of the Military Child*****
- XIV. Date/Time/Place for Next Meeting – May 2, 2024, 10:00 AM, Location TBD (J. Kaminar)**
- XV. Adjournment*** (J. Kaminar)**

*** Indicates a vote is required



MEETING MINUTES
ARKANSAS COUNCIL FOR MILITARY CHILDREN
Thursday, March 07, 2024
10:00 A.M.

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

The Arkansas Council for Military Children (Council) met Thursday, March 07, 2024. Chair John Kaminar called the meeting to order at 10:03 A.M.

PRESENT:

Mr. John Kaminar, Chair
Ms. Andelyn Wright, Vice Chair
Ms. Jody Bergstrom
Mr. John Ciesla
Ms. Loreena Hegenbart
Ms. Allyson Pitts (proxy for Dr. Karla Neathery)
Ms. Lashawnda Noel
Ms. Bobbie Olles (MFEL)
Dr. Janice Walker (proxy for Dr. Jeremy Owoh)
Ms. Jennifer Reynolds
Dr. Kerry Schneider
Ms. Terri Williams

ABSENT:

Sen. Jane English - Excused
Rep. Karilyn Brown (proxy for Rep. Brian Evans)
Mr. James Hopkins (proxy for Rep. Brian Melton)
Ms. Christyal Parker
Ms. Emily Taylor (Proxy for Dr. Tony Thurman)
Col. N'Keiba Estelle (DOD Liaison, non-voting) - Excused
Mr. Rick Porter (Special Education Liaison, non-voting)
Ms. Jessica Saum (Special Advisor, non-voting) - Excused

A quorum was established.

II. Pledge of Allegiance (J. Kaminar)

Chair Kaminar asked Captain Brian Hutchinson to lead the Council members in the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Recognition of Host School District (J. Kaminar)

Chair Kaminar thanked Captain Hutchinson, Senior Army Instructor for the Junior ROTC program, and the White Hall School District for allowing the committee to use their facility for this month's meeting.

IV. Introduction of New Members and Guests

Chair Kaminar announced the new proxy for Dr. Karla Neathery, Allyson Pitts. Ms. Pitts is the Director of Counseling at the Sheridan School District. Ms. Brittany Edwards from Camp Robinson has resigned her seat on the council. Chair Kaminar acknowledged several visitors: Ms. Cherise Imai, Executive Director of the Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission; Mr. Dustin Wood, the Director of School Choice; Ms. Mary Perry, Assistant to the Deputy Commissioner of Education; Dr. Lydia McDonald, Education Freedom Account Program Manager; and Ms. Angela Roots, Education Freedom Account Administrator, all with the Arkansas Department of Education.

V. Approval of Agenda (J. Kaminar)

Chair Kaminar asked for a motion to amend the meeting agenda to address the voting items at the beginning of the meeting, due to a possibility of losing the quorum. Dr. Schneider made the motion, seconded by Ms. Reynolds. Without objection, the agenda was amended.

VI. Approval of Minutes (January 4, 2024) (J. Kaminar)

Ms. Wright moved to approve the minutes from the Council's January 4, 2024 meeting as presented, seconded by Ms. Bergstrom. Without objection, the minutes were approved.

VII. Public Comments (J. Kaminar)

Ms. Williams introduced Ms. Amy Imme, spouse of the deputy commander of the 19 Airlift Wing at the Little Rock Air Force Base. Ms. Imme has an educational background, is an advocate for military children, and is knowledgeable on dyslexia.

Chair Kaminar recognized Ms. Laurie Lee, of the Reform Alliance. The Reform Alliance advocates for the EFA and also administers the Philanthropic Investment in Arkansas Kids scholarships. She discussed eligibility for the programs and offered to help in any way they can to make sure parents and schools get accurate information as they go forward in this process.

Chair Kaminar recognized Mr. Wood, who said that he and Ms. Reynolds will be setting a date to tour the Arkansas Military and First Responders Academy together. He said they would let the Council know when that day is finalized if anyone else would like to attend.

Chair Kaminar recognized Mr. Don Berry. Mr. Berry requested to make his comments at the end of the meeting, which Chair Kaminar approved. (Mr. Berry's comments are recorded here.) Mr. Berry said that the military families survey had fascinating results and he was impressed for the second year in a row.

VIII. Guest Presentation – School Choice and Education Freedom Accounts (D. Wood, J.D.)

Chair Kaminar introduced Mr. Dustin Wood, Director of School Choice for the Arkansas Department of Education. Mr. Wood discussed school choice options, intradistrict transfers, and the LEARNS Act and how it pertains to military families. He explained that Education Freedom Accounts, created under the LEARNS Act, can be used for private school tuition, home schooling, and related costs, and that this program will be phased in over three years. In the academic year 2024-2025 military families will be eligible for EFAs. The School Choice Office has received several calls from Military Families asking if EFAs would cover their child to attend a Pre-K program, but EFAs may not be used to cover those expenses. Mr. Wood explained the documentation that applicants must provide and explained some details of military family eligibility. Mr. Woods stated that currently there are 103 private schools in the state of Arkansas that are in the EFA program. Mr. Wood explained that no payments will be made directly to parents and said that one reason for that is it could potentially create a taxable income situation.

Chair Kaminar suggested that since school choice and EFAs are expanding and are now available to military families, he believed that the Council could benefit from appointing Mr. Wood to serve as an advisor to the Council on school choice issues. Chair Kaminar clarified that an advisor is essentially a non-voting member of the Council. Vice Chair Wright moved to appoint Mr. Wood or his designee as an advisor to the Council through the end of the 25-26 academic school year, seconded by Ms. Bergstrom. Motion carried.

IX. Chair's Report (J. Kaminar)

A. DMEC/SML Training Sessions

Chair Kaminar reported that he has held some one-on-one sessions to train school military liaisons for the individual schools that were seeking to become Purple Star Schools.

B. Purple Star School Update

Chair Kaminar reported that the Purple Star School status has remained stable since the last meeting until the addition of the six schools scheduled for a vote at today's meeting.

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

No report.

XI. Reports by the Committees, Task Forces, or Liaisons

A. Awards Committee (Dr. J. Walker)

1. Outstanding Military Scholar Award

Dr. Walker presented the Outstanding Military Scholar Award. She stated that the Awards Committee is still developing the nomination materials and that once the legal review of the documents is complete, the Committee will need to incorporate some minor changes to the wording. Chair Kaminar stated that the Awards Committee has done excellent work over the last two years to prepare the Outstanding Military Scholar Award program and it is now ready for the Council to vote on. Chair Kaminar asked for a motion to approve the Outstanding Military Scholar Award program and to implement it according to the timeline that was included in the materials for today's meeting, and to empower the Awards Committee to work with appropriate staff at the Department of Education to complete developing the materials, posting those on the Council's website, and publicizing it through appropriate media. Ms. Olles moved to approve the program and empower the Awards Committee to complete its work. Ms. Noel seconded. Motion carried.

2. Service Awards for Council Members

At Dr. Walker's request, Chair Kaminar presented a proposal for an award to be presented to Council members as they were nearing the end of their time on the Council. Ms. Hegenbart moved to approve the program. Ms. Bergstrom, seconded. Motion carried.

Dr. Walker reported the Awards Committee's next meeting date is March 11, 2024 at 11:00 AM at the Arkansas Activities Association main office in North Little Rock.

B. Military Family Forum Committee (A. Wright)

1. February 28 Military Family Forum

Ms. Wright reported the Council's virtual forum was held on Wednesday, February 28th from 10:00 AM through 2:00 PM. She reported they had 27 participants who called in ranging from National MIC3 members to National Guard Joint Force Headquarters leaders and guardians of military-connected children. Ms. Wright said this was the first time she had heard Mr. Wood's presentation on EFAs, and it was very informative. Ms. Wright said his presentation had many questions and answers and she learned a lot. She thanked Mr. Wood for the presentation during the forum and for staying in the forum for the entire period.

Ms. Wright reported that the 188th and Fort Chaffie family days are still pending. Once she receives the information, she will share that with Ms. Bergstrom. Ms. Wright said she will also be contacting Ms. Williams regarding the activities at Little Rock Air Force Base.

C. Outreach Committee (J. Kaminar)

1. Newsletter Update

Ms. Bergstrom reported the newsletter subscriptions are at 235 now. She said the newsletter subscriptions have plateaued a little bit but considering that Arkansas is the only state Council in the United States that is doing a newsletter for its military families, the Council can still pat themselves on the back.

D. Strategic Planning Committee (J. Bergstrom)

1. Purple Star Community

Ms. Bergstrom reported that the Purple Star community project is on hold temporarily.

Ms. Bergstrom suggested asking the regional Defense-State Liaison Officer, Ms. Jeremy Hilton, to speak to the Council about special education for military-connected.

E. Military Family Education Liaison (B. Olles)

No Report.

F. Department of Defense Liaison (Col. N. Estelle)

No Report.

G. Special Education Liaison (R. Porter)

No report.

H. Special Advisor (J. Saum)

Ms. Saum reported there are two art contests that close April 30th that are open to military-connected students. One is with the Military Child Education Coalition, and one is with the Armed Services-YMCA. There are different media and financial prizes. Ms. Saum said it is a really great thing to highlight military stories and experiences. Chair Kaminar said he will share that information with council members and a few other channels to get it out to our students.

XII. Old Business (J. Kaminar)

A. LRAFB Focus Group (DESE)

Chair Kaminar suggested that if the focus group has not started by the end of this academic year, the Council should write a letter to Secretary Oliva to formally request the creation of the focus group.

B. Survey of Military Families

Chair Kaminar shared the results of the survey of military families. He stated that the Council needs to improve in outreach and educating military families about the military resources available to them. He also said there is a significant number of military families that are having trouble in meeting some of their basic needs. Chair Kaminar suggested the Strategic Planning Committee develop suggestions for legislation that might assist in closing the gaps for those military families.

C. Council Membership (Student Advisory Committee)

Chair Kaminar reported the Strategic Planning Committee had put some work into the possibility of creating a student advisory committee to bring in two or three juniors and seniors, children of military service members, each year to serve as student advisors to the Council. He presented some parameters for the student advisory committee. The document included in the meeting packets is the marked-up version to reflect the discussion in the strategic planning committee about whether to include an at-large member from the Arkansas Military and First Responders Academy (AMFRA).

Chair Kaminar asked for a motion and a second to approve the student advisory group. Vice Chair Wright made a motion to approve the Student Advisory Committee (SCA) with representatives from the four congressional districts, with the fifth position to be open for an applicant from the AMFRA school. The Council would have to approve the applicant from AMFRA and it would not be an automatic appointment. Ms. Noel seconded.

Mr. Wood mentioned that AMFRA is one of only 13 JROTC specific charter schools in the country. He said it is a unique opportunity that Arkansas has been afforded this particular charter school with a fairly robust Navy JROTC program. He suggested that given the nature and the mission of AMFRA specifically, the Council could essentially benefit from having a standing student member from AMFRA.

Vice Chair Wright stated that she thinks it is important that each of the four congressional districts have equal opportunity through the application process and with having a limited number of seats available to those students, she was concerned about having a seat reserved for one particular school, even though it seems like it would be well suited.

Chair Kaminar summarized the proposal for a total of five positions, one from each congressional district and one for a student from AMFRA. He clarified that designating a seat for a student from AMFRA did not mean the school administration would be able to name the student. He stated that AMFRA would still have to submit an application and it would still be the Council's decision whether to accept that student.

Vice Chair Wright stated that this was acceptable and amended her motion accordingly. Ms. Noel seconded. There was no further discussion. Motion carried. Chair Kaminar said the Strategic Planning Committee would work with staff at the Department of Education to get the information out and prepare the application materials and so forth. Chair Kaminar said he will be asking for two or three of the Council members to serve as a chair, vice chair, and mentors for that committee.

XIII. New Business (J. Kaminar)

A. Reorganization of Committees

Chair Kaminar reported the Strategic Planning Committee discussed the possibility of merging the Outreach Committee and the Military Family Forum Committee. Chair Kaminar said he believes the suggestion is a good one in that the family forum is an exercise in outreach and it will streamline the operations of the

council. This will take the council to three standing committees, with the newly approved creation of the Student Advisory Committee. Ms. Bergstrom has graciously agreed to chair that combined committee. Ms. Wright moved to merge the Outreach Committee and the Military Family Forum Committee, seconded by Ms. Hegenbart. Motion carried.

B. Month of the Military Child Activities

Chair Kaminar provided lists of some activities for the month of the military child. He reported they have shared those with the network of district military education coordinators and school counselors.

C. Resolution for Month of the Military Child

Chair Kaminar presented a resolution recognizing April as Month of the Military Child. Dr. Schneider moved to adopt the resolution Dr. Schneider, seconded by Ms. Reynolds. Motion carried.

XIV. Date/Time/Place for Next Meeting

Chair Kaminar stated that the next Council meeting would be May 2, 2024, at 10:00 AM, in the Bryant School District. He said he would provide the address as soon as it was confirmed. A zoom link will be provided.

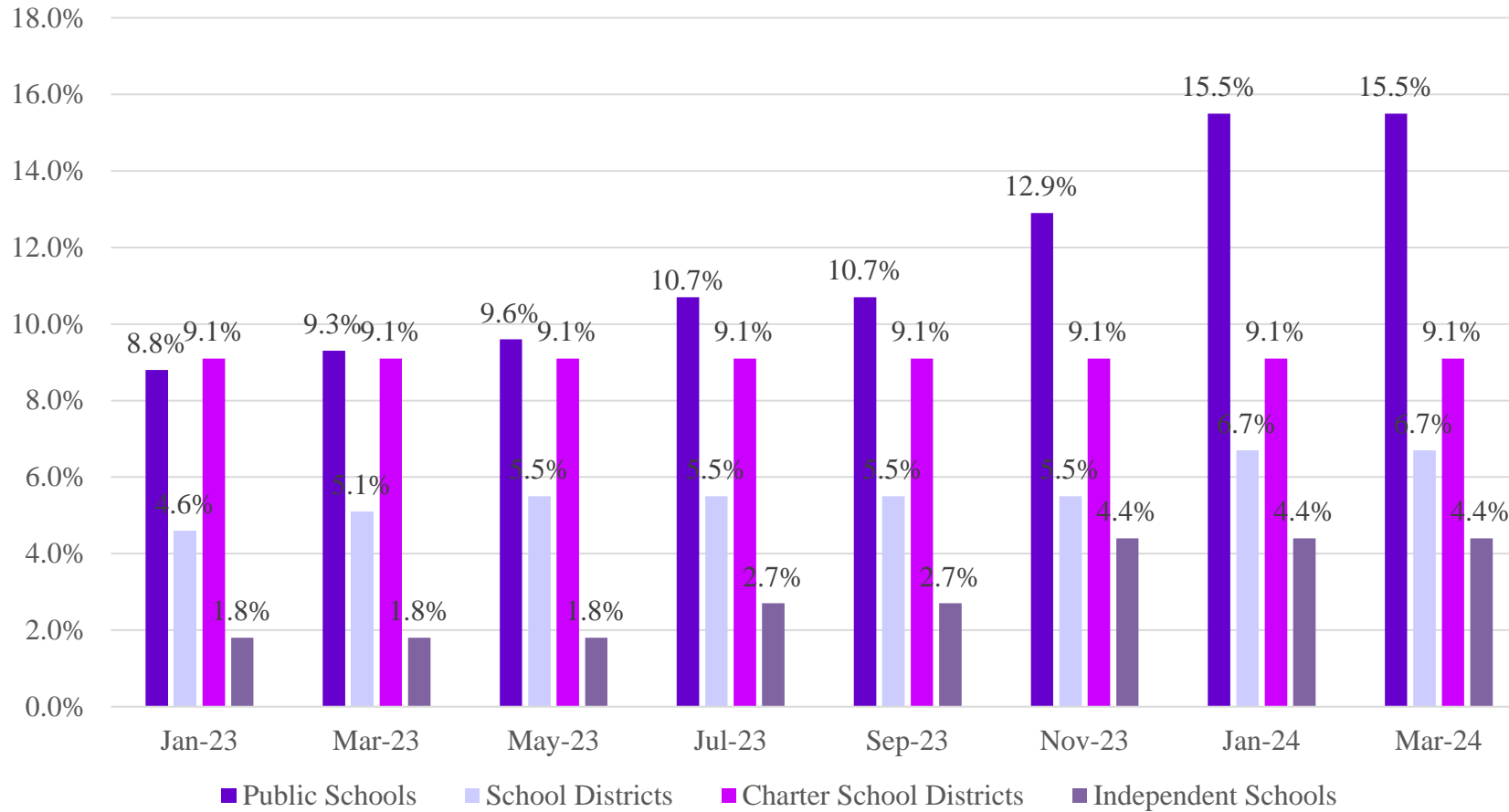
XV. Adjournment (J. Kaminar)

Chair Kaminar asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion made by Ms. Reynolds, seconded by Dr. Schneider. No discussion. The meeting adjourned at 11:24 AM.

Minutes recorded by A. Cress

Purple Star School Status

As of March 1, 2024



Schools: 1056 (Including Charter Schools)

Traditional School Districts: 237

Charter School Districts: 22

Independent Schools: 113

The background of the slide features a faded, light-colored image of the Arkansas State Capitol building. The building is a grand, classical structure with a prominent central dome and a portico supported by columns. In front of the building, three flags are visible: the Arkansas state flag on the left, the United States flag in the center, and the Arkansas state flag on the right. The entire scene is set against a light blue sky with soft, white clouds. The slide is framed by a dark blue curved border at the top and a green curved border at the bottom.

The Arkansas **OUTSTANDING MILITARY SCHOLAR AWARD**

Information Briefing



State winner receives

- **Plaque provided by the Council**
- **Congratulatory letter from Council chair**
- **Laptop computer provided by Forge Institute**

Each finalist receives

- **Certificate of achievement from the Council**
- **Congratulatory letter from Council chair**

Timeline Going Forward



- **March 7, 2024 – Council votes to create the OMSA**
- **April 2024 – press release during Month of the Military Child announcing creation of the award**
- **August 2024 – participation by Governor, Secretary of Education, and Adjutant General decided**
- **September 2024 – commissioner’s memo published; content placed on Council web page**
- **January 2025 – charter class of nominations received**
- **April 2025 – first winner and finalists announced**
- **April/May 2025 – prizes presented**

Decisions Needed



- **Will DESE allow publication of a commissioner’s memo?**
- **Will the Governor provide a congratulatory letter to the winner?**
- **Will the Secretary of Education and Adjutant General provide congratulatory letters and challenge coins to the finalists?**
- **Would the Governor, Secretary of Education, or Adjutant General wish to present the prizes?**
- **If so, do the Governor, Secretary of Education, or Adjutant General have a preference for the presentation venue?**



OUTSTANDING MILITARY SCHOLAR AWARD

WHAT IS THE ARKANSAS OUTSTANDING MILITARY SCHOLAR AWARD?

The Arkansas Outstanding Military Scholar Award (OMSA) is presented by the Arkansas Council for Military Children (the Council) annually during the spring semester to a scholar enrolled in grade 12 in an Arkansas school and who is the child of a current or former member of the uniformed services. The Council will select four Finalists.

HOW DOES A SCHOLAR ENTER COMPETITION FOR THE AWARD?

The scholar (the Nominee) must be nominated by one of the following Nominating Officials of the school or district in which the Nominee is enrolled at the time of the nomination: district superintendent, assistant superintendent, principal, assistant principal, or school guidance counselor. Each high school (public, charter, and private) is limited to a single Nominee during any academic year. The nominee's school must have previously been designated as a Purple Star School by the Arkansas Council for Military Children.

WHAT DO THE FINALISTS AND WINNER RECEIVE?

Each Finalist will receive

- A certificate from the Arkansas Council for Military Children
- A congratulatory letter from the Adjutant General of the Arkansas National Guard and the Arkansas Secretary of Education

The State Winner will receive

- A plaque from the Arkansas Council for Military Children
- A laptop computer (provided by Forge Institute)

- A congratulatory letter from the Governor, the Adjutant General of the Arkansas National Guard and the Arkansas Secretary of Education and challenge coin from the Adjutant General

WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR THE AWARD?

To be eligible for this award, the Nominee must:

1. Be the child, stepchild, or legal ward of a current or former member of the active or reserve components of the uniformed services of the United States. See the Definitions section at the end of this packet for more information on qualifying uniformed service.
2. Be a scholar enrolled in grade 12 in an Arkansas Purple Star School, including public schools, open-enrollment charter schools (including Arkansas Virtual Academy and Arkansas Connections Academy), private or parochial schools at the time the nomination is made. Home school scholars are ineligible unless enrolled in an academic or extracurricular activity in an Arkansas school district at the time the nomination is made. Each high school is limited to a single nominee.
3. Have no transcript grades of D or F.
4. Have never been suspended or expelled from school, including in-school suspension and suspensions or expulsions from other schools, including schools in other states.

WHEN WILL NOMINATIONS BE ACCEPTED?

The Council accepts nominations January 1 through January 31 each year.

WHAT DOES THE NOMINATION PACKET INCLUDE?

The nomination is made online and **must include the following documents:**

1. The [Arkansas Outstanding Military Scholar Nomination Form](#) signed by an approved Nominating Official (superintendent, assistant superintendent, principal, assistant principal, or school guidance counselor). A digital signature is acceptable. The nomination form includes a statement of assurance that the Nominee's transcript includes no grade of D or F and that the Nominee has never been suspended or expelled.
2. [OMSA Form 1 \(Fillable\)](#) Academic Achievement This form is used to summarize the Nominee's academic record and any academic awards received. All five pages of the form must be submitted in pdf format as an attachment to the nomination form. Click here for an [Example of OMSA Form 1](#).
3. [AOMS Form 2 \(Extracurricular Participation and Leadership\)](#) This form summarizes the Nominee's participation in extracurricular activities, including leadership positions held and awards received. More information on extracurricular activities can be found in the Definitions section. Click here for an [Example of OMSA Form 2](#).

4. [AOMS Form 3 \(Community Service Learning Record\)](#) This form is used to document any community service learning the Nominee has performed. The Nominating Official must collect forms from the supervisor of the community service learning activities in which the Nominee has been involved. The Nominating Official may use as many forms as necessary. More information on community service learning is available in the Definitions section.
5. **Essay by the Nominee.** Parameters for the essay are found in the Definitions section. The [essay evaluation rubric](#) is available for download.
6. **Three letters of support.** One letter of support is required. Up to three may be submitted. Parameters for the letters of support are found in the Definitions section.
7. Examples of correctly completed OMSA Forms 1, 2, and 3 are included at the end of this document.

HOW ARE NOMINATIONS SUBMITTED?

Nominations are made online only. **All supporting documents** (letters of support, service records, etc.) **must be submitted** in .pdf format as attachments to the nomination form **at the time the nomination form is submitted. Documents submitted separately will not be accepted.**

WHAT ARE THE TIMELINE AND PROCESS FOR SELECTING THE FINALISTS AND WINNER?

The timeline and process for receiving and processing nominations and selecting the Finalists and State Winner is:

January 1 - January 31: Nominations may be submitted online.

February 1 - February 14: The Council's Awards Committee screens all nomination packets for eligibility and completeness. Nominations that are incomplete or that do not meet all eligibility criteria will be eliminated from the selection process.

February 15 - February 28: The Awards Committee evaluates all complete and eligible nominations based on the Nominee's academic record, participation in extracurricular activities, community service learning, and leadership experience. The nomination packets will be scored and rank-ordered. The four Nominees with the highest scores will become the Finalists. The Awards Committee will forward all complete and eligible nominations to the selection team, which will consist of a representative from each of the Council's standing committees and will be presided over by the Council Vice Chair.

March 1 - March 15: The selection team will review the recommendations and interview the four Finalists. All interviews will be conducted via Zoom or a similar web-based meeting platform. The interview score will be factored into the Nominee's overall score. The [interview evaluation rubric](#) is available for download. The Nominee with the highest overall score will be recommended as the state winner. If two Nominees receive the same score, the tie will be broken by a vote of the selection team.

March 16 - March 31: At the next regular or special Council meeting the Council Vice Chair will present the recommendations to the Council for approval by majority vote of the Council. The recommendations and vote by the Council will be held in a closed door executive session.

April 1 - April 30: The announcement of the Finalists and State Winner will be made and awards presented during the Month of the Military Child (April each year).

While the Council will strive to adhere to this timeline, the Council reserves the right to change the timeline as circumstances may require.

DEFINITIONS

QUALIFYING PARENTAL MILITARY SERVICE

1. The parent of the nominee must be or have been a member of any of the following:
 - a. Army (including Army Reserve and Army National Guard)
 - b. Navy (including Navy Reserve)
 - c. Marine Corps (including Marine Corps Reserve)
 - d. Air Force (including Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard)
 - e. Coast Guard (including Coast Guard Reserve)
 - f. Space Force (including Space Force Reserve)
 - g. Public Health Service
 - h. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
2. The parent need not be in the service at the time the nomination is made. Service at any time in the past qualifies. Parents who are retired from the uniformed services, including medically retired, and parents who died on active duty or as a result of wounds received in action, are included. The parent's discharge status is immaterial.
3. Service as a dual status military technician is considered qualifying uniformed service.
4. Service solely as a civilian employee of any of the uniformed services is not considered qualifying uniformed service.

5. Service solely in a state military organization or in any militia organization other than the National Guard is not considered qualifying uniformed service. An example of a state military organization other than the National Guard is the Texas State Guard.
6. Parental status includes noncustodial parents, adoptive parents, stepparents, and legal guardians.
7. The Nominating Official may be required to provide evidence of the parent's uniformed service.

EXTRACURRICULAR PARTICIPATION

1. The Nominee must have participated in at least one extracurricular activity for one complete season as established by the Arkansas Activities Association during an academic year (defined as July 1 through June 30). If the extracurricular activity does not have a season, then the Nominee must have participated in the activity for two complete semesters.
2. The activity must be sponsored by a school, civic organization, or religious organization. Activities governed by the Arkansas Activities Association meet OMSA application requirements.
3. Activities sponsored by political organizations or by organizations that promote racial, ethnic, or gender bias do not meet OMSA application requirements. The Council reserves the right to determine which organizations meet OMSA application requirements.
4. The Nominating Official must provide evidence of the Nominee's participation using OMSA Form 2.

COMMUNITY SERVICE LEARNING

1. The Nominee must perform a minimum of 80 hours of [community service learning](#). A maximum of 120 hours may be counted toward the award.
2. The service must have been performed during the Nominee's 9th through 12th grade years. The service must directly benefit one or more organizations from DESE's [Community Service Learning Partner Sites](#) list.
3. The Nominating Official must document the community service learning hours using OMSA Form 3. Upon request by the Council, the Nominee may be required to produce verification of the community service learning from the Community Service Learning Partner organization.
4. The following will not be counted for the Nominee's community service learning hours:
 - a. Court mandated community service.
 - b. Any service for which a scholar benefited financially or materially.
 - c. Family related activities or service to family members (e.g., babysitting, completing assigned chores, etc.)

ESSAY BY THE NOMINEE

1. The essay must be on one of the following themes:

- a. How the parent/guardian's military service has influenced the Nominee's perspective on public service.
 - b. How the parent/guardian's military service has enriched the life of the Nominee with regard to his/her civilian peers.
 - c. How the uniformed parent/guardian's absence for military service has influenced or developed the Nominee's leadership abilities.
2. The essay must be a minimum of 1,000 words and a maximum of 2,000 words, written in 12-point Times New Roman font with one-inch margins, double spaced, submitted in pdf format.
 3. The essay should not include acronyms. The essay may refer to military rank but should not refer to military pay grade. Abbreviations for military rank may be used.
 4. The Nominating Official must submit a statement of assurance that the essay is the nominee's own work. The statement of assurance is included as a question in the online nomination form.

LETTERS OF SUPPORT

1. One letter of support is required. The nomination packet may include up to three letters of support. Letters of support written by the following individuals do not meet OMSA application requirements:
 - a. The Nominating Official.
 - b. Members of the Nominee's immediate family.
 - c. Leaders of religious organizations (unless serving in the role of classroom teacher, school administrator, or supervisor of the Nominee's community service learning activity).
 - d. Any person holding an elected office unless that person supervised the scholar's community service learning project.
2. Letters may be typed or legibly hand-written and may not exceed two pages in length. Minimum font size for typewritten letters is 12 point.
3. Letters must be signed by hand by the author and attached to the nomination form in pdf format. Digitally signed letters of support or letters bearing a type-written signature do not meet OMSA application requirements.
4. Each letter must include a contact phone number or e-mail address for the author.

ARKANSAS COUNCIL FOR MILITARY CHILDREN

COUNCIL MEMBER SERVICE AWARDS

Awards for service on the Arkansas Council for Military Children will be presented to any Council member, proxy for a Council member, advisor or liaison to the Council, or Department of Education staff support to the Council. Two awards are presented:

I. Longevity Award

A Certificate of Service will be awarded for every four years of service to each individual who meets the following criteria for the four-year period:

- The individual must have attended at least four Council meetings, either in person or virtually.
- The individual must have served on a standing or ad hoc committee.
- The individual must have participated in at least one military family forum.

II. Termination of Service Award

A Certificate of Appreciation will be awarded to when the individual leaves the Council, whether by resignation or appointment of a successor, who meets the following criteria:

- The individual must have served on the Council for at least two full years.
- The individual must have attended at least two meetings per year, either in person or virtually.
- The individual must have participated in at least one military family forum.

Commissioner's Memo
2/26/2024

Military Family Forum

Memo Information

Memo Number **COM-24-072**

Memo Date 2/26/2024

Memo Type Informational

Unit Public School Accountability

Regulatory Authority ACA § 6-24-208(f)

Response Required NO

Attention Assistant Principal; Assistant Superintendent; Communications Manager / Director; Parent Involvement Coordinators/Facilitators; Principals; School Counselors; Superintendents

Primary Contact Information

Name John Kaminar

Phone Number 501-683-5188

Email John.Kaminar@ade.arkansas.gov

Secondary Contact/s Information

Name Bobbie Olles

Phone Number 501-682-7159

Email Bobbie.Olles@ade.arkansas.gov

OR

Name Dustin Wood

Phone Number 501-682-4579

Email Dustin.Wood@ade.arkansas.gov

Memo Text

The Arkansas Council for Military Children will hold an online forum on Wednesday, February 28, 2024, from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. The forum is an opportunity for military families to discuss their needs and concerns with members of the Council. Military families can join the forum at any time during that period using the zoom link below. From 10:00 to 10:30, a representative of the Office of School Choice and Parental Empowerment, Dustin Wood, will present information regarding Education Freedom Accounts. For the 2024-25 academic year, Education Freedom Accounts will be expanded to include children of those individuals who serve in reserve units, the Arkansas National Guard, or are honorably discharged veterans. As with the 2023-24 academic year, children of active duty service personnel are also eligible. Mr. Wood will remain in the online forum until 11:00 to answer any additional questions which participants may wish to ask.

Zoom link information is:

[Join the Military Family Forum](#)

Meeting ID: 826 5887 9558

Passcode: 967781

One tap mobile

+16469313860,,82658879558#,,,,*967781# US

PLEASE JOIN US!

February 28, 2024

10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

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Zoom link information is:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82658879558?pwd=dVdzVU9OWWt2VzFzNGpRWmpYdy9ZQT09>

Meeting ID: 826 5887 9558

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FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

John Kaminar, Council Chair

John.kaminar@ade.arkansas.gov

Dustin Wood, Director of School Choice

dustin.wood@ade.arkansas.gov

Arkansas Purple Star School Application - 2023 Version

This form is for use by schools in Arkansas to apply to be recognized by the Arkansas Council for Military Children as a Purple Star School. It supersedes previous applications for Purple Star School status. **Applications for Purple Star School status are due by August 1 each year.**

Part 1: Administrative Information.

Please provide names and contact information for school officials.

Name of School *

Arkadelphia High School

Name of School District (If the school is a private school, use Independent) *

Arkadelphia

Name of Principal *

Callie Hunley

Principal's Phone Number *

870-246-7373

Principal's E-Mail Address *

callie.hunley@arkadelphiaschools.org

Name of Person Submitting This Application *

William Jeremy Bell

Phone Number of Person Submitting This Application *

870-246-5563

E-Mail Address of Person Submitting This Application *

William.Bell@arkadelphiaschools.org

Position of Person Submitting This Application *

DMEC

Part 2: Required Activities

The school must complete all of the following six activities before submitting the application.

Has the school designated a School Military Liaison (SML) to serve as a point of contact for military-connected students and families? *

Yes

No

Name of School Military Liaison *

Col. Phillip Foster

E-Mail Address of School Military Liaison *

philip.foster@arkadelphiaschools.org

Has the School Military Liaison completed training with the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education on special considerations for military-connected students and families similar to training provided for District Military Education Coordinators under ACA 6-4-309? *

Yes

No

When did the School Military Liaison attend this training?

MM DD YYYY

02 / 01 / 2024

Has the School Military Liaison identified children of military families and informed teachers of the children of military families students in their classrooms and the special considerations military-connected students and families should receive? *

- Yes
- No

Does the school have a dedicated page on its website featuring resources for military families? *

- Yes
- No

Provide the link to the web page of resources for military families. *

<https://www.arkadelphiaschools.org/o/ahs/page/military>

Does the school have a military service member, spouse of a service member, or other representative of the military community on its family engagement committee? *

- Yes
- No

Name of the Engagement Committee's Military Representative *

William Jeremy Bell

E-Mail Address of the Engagement Committee's Military Representative *

William.Bell@arkadelphiaschools.org

Has the school addressed military family issues in its school family engagement plan? *

Yes

No

Provide a link to the school's family engagement plan. *

<https://www.arkadelphiaschools.org/documents/state-required-documents/parent-family-and-community-engagement-plans-and-related-resources/116>

Part 3: The school must complete ONE of the following three activities.

1. The SML coordinates professional development on federally identified special considerations for military-connected students and families in the areas of a) records and enrollment, b) placement and attendance, c) eligibility, and d) graduation; or
2. The SML coordinates awareness training for military-connected family members; or
3. The school hosts a military recognition event to demonstrate a military-friendly culture at the school.

Which activity has the school conducted? *

- The SML coordinates professional development on federally identified special considerations for military-connected students and families in the areas of a) records and enrollment, b) placement and attendance, c) eligibility, and d) graduation.
- The SML coordinates awareness training for military-connected family members.
- The school hosts a military recognition event to demonstrate a military-friendly culture at the school.

Does the principal of the school know about this application and approve of this application? *

- Yes
- No

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Google Forms

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Part 1: Administrative Information.

Please provide names and contact information for school officials.

Name of School *

Don Tyson School of Innovation

Name of School District (If the school is a private school, use Independent) *

Springdale School District

Name of Principal *

Amy Harrison

Principal's Phone Number *

479-750-8780

Principal's E-Mail Address *

aharrison@sdale.org

Name of Person Submitting This Application *

Cindy Lyons

Phone Number of Person Submitting This Application *

479-750-8780

E-Mail Address of Person Submitting This Application *

clyons@sdale.org

Position of Person Submitting This Application *

Teacher

Part 2: Required Activities

The school must complete all of the following six activities before submitting the application.

Has the school designated a School Military Liaison (SML) to serve as a point of contact for military-connected students and families? *

Yes

No

Name of School Military Liaison *

Cindy Lyons

E-Mail Address of School Military Liaison *

clyons@sdale.org

Has the School Military Liaison completed training with the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education on special considerations for military-connected students and families similar to training provided for District Military Education Coordinators under ACA 6-4-309? *

Yes

No

When did the School Military Liaison attend this training?

MM DD YYYY

11 / 30 / 2023

Has the School Military Liaison identified children of military families and informed teachers of the children of military families students in their classrooms and the special considerations military-connected students and families should receive? *

- Yes
- No

Does the school have a dedicated page on its website featuring resources for military families? *

- Yes
- No

Provide the link to the web page of resources for military families. *

This is in process
.....

Does the school have a military service member, spouse of a service member, or other representative of the military community on its family engagement committee? *

- Yes
- No

Name of the Engagement Committee's Military Representative *

This is being determined TODAY!
.....

E-Mail Address of the Engagement Committee's Military Representative *

Will send after determination.
.....

Has the school addressed military family issues in its school family engagement plan? *

Yes

No

Provide a link to the school's family engagement plan. *

Our Assistant Principal is working on this.
.....

Part 3: The school must complete ONE of the following three activities.

1. The SML coordinates professional development on federally identified special considerations for military-connected students and families in the areas of a) records and enrollment, b) placement and attendance, c) eligibility, and d) graduation; or
2. The SML coordinates awareness training for military-connected family members; or
3. The school hosts a military recognition event to demonstrate a military-friendly culture at the school.

Which activity has the school conducted? *

- The SML coordinates professional development on federally identified special considerations for military-connected students and families in the areas of a) records and enrollment, b) placement and attendance, c) eligibility, and d) graduation.
- The SML coordinates awareness training for military-connected family members.
- The school hosts a military recognition event to demonstrate a military-friendly culture at the school.

Does the principal of the school know about this application and approve of this application? *

- Yes
- No

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Part 1: Administrative Information.

Please provide names and contact information for school officials.

Name of School *

Goza Middle School

Name of School District (If the school is a private school, use Independent) *

Arkadelphia

Name of Principal *

Tisha Hunter

Principal's Phone Number *

870-246-4291

Principal's E-Mail Address *

tisha.hunter@arkadelphiaschools.org

Name of Person Submitting This Application *

William Jeremy Bell

Phone Number of Person Submitting This Application *

870-246-5563

E-Mail Address of Person Submitting This Application *

William.Bell@arkadelphiaschools.org

Position of Person Submitting This Application *

DMEC

Part 2: Required Activities

The school must complete all of the following six activities before submitting the application.

Has the school designated a School Military Liaison (SML) to serve as a point of contact for military-connected students and families? *

Yes

No

Name of School Military Liaison *

Jason Freeman

E-Mail Address of School Military Liaison *

jason.freeman@arkadelphiaschools.org

Has the School Military Liaison completed training with the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education on special considerations for military-connected students and families similar to training provided for District Military Education Coordinators under ACA 6-4-309? *

Yes

No

When did the School Military Liaison attend this training?

MM DD YYYY

02 / 14 / 2024

Has the School Military Liaison identified children of military families and informed teachers of the children of military families students in their classrooms and the special considerations military-connected students and families should receive? *

- Yes
- No

Does the school have a dedicated page on its website featuring resources for military families? *

- Yes
- No

Provide the link to the web page of resources for military families. *

<https://www.arkadelphiaschools.org/o/goza/page/military>

Does the school have a military service member, spouse of a service member, or other representative of the military community on its family engagement committee? *

- Yes
- No

Name of the Engagement Committee's Military Representative *

William Jeremy Bell

E-Mail Address of the Engagement Committee's Military Representative *

William.Bell@arkadelphiaschools.org

Has the school addressed military family issues in its school family engagement plan? *

Yes

No

Provide a link to the school's family engagement plan. *

<https://www.arkadelphiaschools.org/documents/state-required-documents/parent-family-and-community-engagement-plans-and-related-resources/116>

Part 3: The school must complete ONE of the following three activities.

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Which activity has the school conducted? *

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Does the principal of the school know about this application and approve of this application? *

- Yes
- No

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Google Forms

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Part 1: Administrative Information.

Please provide names and contact information for school officials.

Name of School *

Trinity Catholic School

Name of School District (If the school is a private school, use Independent) *

Independent

Name of Principal *

Zach Edwards

Principal's Phone Number *

479-782-2451

Principal's E-Mail Address *

zedwards@thinktrinity.org

Name of Person Submitting This Application *

Brandy Rinke

Phone Number of Person Submitting This Application *

479-782-2451

E-Mail Address of Person Submitting This Application *

brinke@thinktrinity.org

Position of Person Submitting This Application *

Asst. Principal

Part 2: Required Activities

The school must complete all of the following six activities before submitting the application.

Has the school designated a School Military Liaison (SML) to serve as a point of contact for military-connected students and families? *

Yes

No

Name of School Military Liaison *

Brandy Rinke

E-Mail Address of School Military Liaison *

brinke@thinktrinity.org

Has the School Military Liaison completed training with the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education on special considerations for military-connected students and families similar to training provided for District Military Education Coordinators under ACA 6-4-309? *

Yes

No

When did the School Military Liaison attend this training?

MM DD YYYY

02 / 13 / 2024

Has the School Military Liaison identified children of military families and informed teachers of the children of military families students in their classrooms and the special considerations military-connected students and families should receive? *

- Yes
- No

Does the school have a dedicated page on its website featuring resources for military families? *

- Yes
- No

Provide the link to the web page of resources for military families. *

<https://www.thinktrinity.org/page/military-families>

Does the school have a military service member, spouse of a service member, or other representative of the military community on its family engagement committee? *

- Yes
- No

Name of the Engagement Committee's Military Representative *

Master Sgt. Jessica Wilson

E-Mail Address of the Engagement Committee's Military Representative *

jessica.wilson6717@gmail.com

Has the school addressed military family issues in its school family engagement plan? *

Yes

No

Provide a link to the school's family engagement plan. *

https://5il.co/2epk1

Part 3: The school must complete ONE of the following three activities.

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Part 1: Administrative Information.

Please provide names and contact information for school officials.

Name of School *

Lavaca High School

Name of School District (If the school is a private school, use Independent) *

Lavaca School District

Name of Principal *

Felicia Owen

Principal's Phone Number *

479-377-1237

Principal's E-Mail Address *

felicia.owen@lavacaschools.com

Name of Person Submitting This Application *

Steve Moody

Phone Number of Person Submitting This Application *

479-377-1237

E-Mail Address of Person Submitting This Application *

steve.moody@lavacaschools.com

Position of Person Submitting This Application *

High School Counselor

Part 2: Required Activities

The school must complete all of the following six activities before submitting the application.

Has the school designated a School Military Liaison (SML) to serve as a point of contact for military-connected students and families? *

Yes

No

Name of School Military Liaison *

Steve Moody

E-Mail Address of School Military Liaison *

steve.moody@lavacaschools.com

Has the School Military Liaison completed training with the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education on special considerations for military-connected students and families similar to training provided for District Military Education Coordinators under ACA 6-4-309? *

Yes

No

When did the School Military Liaison attend this training?

MM DD YYYY

11 / 30 / 2023

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- Yes
- No

Does the school have a dedicated page on its website featuring resources for military families? *

- Yes
- No

Provide the link to the web page of resources for military families. *

<https://www.lavacaschools.com/page/military-families>

Does the school have a military service member, spouse of a service member, or other representative of the military community on its family engagement committee? *

- Yes
- No

Name of the Engagement Committee's Military Representative *

Lacey Robertson

E-Mail Address of the Engagement Committee's Military Representative *

lacey.robertson@lavacaschools.com

Has the school addressed military family issues in its school family engagement plan? *

Yes

No

Provide a link to the school's family engagement plan. *

https://core-docs.s3.us-east-1.amazonaws.com/documents/asset/uploaded_file/3997/LPSD/4038695/LHS_Military_Families_Engagement_Plan.pdf

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Does the principal of the school know about this application and approve of this application? *

- Yes
- No

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Google Forms

PLEASE JOIN US!

February 28, 2024

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FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

John Kaminar, Council Chair

John.kaminar@ade.arkansas.gov

Dustin Wood, Director of School Choice

dustin.wood@ade.arkansas.gov

Commissioner's Memo
2/26/2024

Military Family Forum

Memo Information

Memo Number **COM-24-072**

Memo Date 2/26/2024

Memo Type Informational

Unit Public School Accountability

Regulatory Authority ACA § 6-24-208(f)

Response Required NO

Attention Assistant Principal; Assistant Superintendent; Communications Manager / Director; Parent Involvement Coordinators/Facilitators; Principals; School Counselors; Superintendents

Primary Contact Information

Name John Kaminar

Phone Number 501-683-5188

Email John.Kaminar@ade.arkansas.gov

Secondary Contact/s Information

Name Bobbie Olles

Phone Number 501-682-7159

Email Bobbie.Olles@ade.arkansas.gov

OR

Name Dustin Wood

Phone Number 501-682-4579

Email Dustin.Wood@ade.arkansas.gov

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Passcode: 967781

One tap mobile

+16469313860,,82658879558#,,,,*967781# US

Twenty-Four Ideas

To Celebrate Month of the Military Child 2024

1. **Kick-Off Breakfast.** Kick off the Month of the Military Child with a breakfast or lunch for military children in the school. Include their parents or other family members associated with the military.
2. **Special Announcements.** Have a military child do the announcements and share an interesting fact about their life as a military child.
3. **Daily Factoids.** Have a daily or weekly announcement with military-connected student facts. Start with the national facts and move into school facts.
4. **Purple Up Day.** Observe Purple Up Day (**April 19**). Challenge students, faculty, and staff to wear purple. Class with the most purple wins a prize. Post pictures on social media.
5. **Dress Up Theme Day.** Have a dress-up theme for each week in April. Ideas include favorite service logo day, patriotic day, etc.
6. **Military Memorabilia.** Decorate display cases and bulletin boards throughout April with military focused memorabilia, or items brought by military children reflecting their experiences (where they have live or traveled, family members' service memorabilia, parts of a uniform, patches, coins, etc.)
7. **Where in the World?** Create a world map and pinpoint where students and staff have lived because of their military lifestyle.
8. **Poster Contest.** Decorate the school. Have a group of kids design posters thanking military children and their parents for their service. Have military children make posters reflecting their experiences. Have a contest for students to choose their favorite poster.
9. **Adopt a Soldier (or Sailor or Airman or Marine or Coastguardsman).** Adopt a deployed service member or unit. Send cards, letters, and care packages to deployed troops.
10. **Adopt a Family.** Adopt a family whose military member is deployed. Find out what the family needs help with - yard work, in home technology, childcare, tutoring, homework help, etc. – and have a class or club step in to help out.
11. **Guest Speaker.** Ask a military member (a parent or sibling of someone in the class) to be a guest speaker and share their perspective on life in the military as well as their profession.

12. **Wall of Heroes.** Create a Hero Wall to honor members. They could be family members of students or historical figures.
13. **Time Zone Wall.** In a main hallway set up a series of clocks showing the time in different countries where military children's family members are deployed.
14. **Show-n-Tell.** Have students bring in something military related, such as memorabilia from an installation or service branch, favorite airplane, or a book.
15. **Skype.** Hold a LIVE SKYPE session with a deployed service family member in the classroom or at an assembly.
16. **Web Site Feature.** Promote the Month of the Military Child on the school web site. List activities that will take place on different days during the month.
17. **Salute to Military Children at Sporting Events.** Have the announcer make a special announcement before, during or after sporting events recognizing all military children. Have them raise the flag, sing the National Anthem or recite the Pledge of Allegiance.
18. **Dress Right!** Have a t-shirt drawing contest for the Month of the Military Child and make t-shirts for the school to show their support.
19. **Hit the Drill Field.** Invite a neighboring JROTC to your campus for a demonstration of close order drill.
20. **Military Parade.** All students dress up in patriotic outfits and parade through the school; ending in the courtyard. Each grade level performs a song and the Principal delivers a short speech thanking the children and families for their service.
21. **Military Family Liaison.** Name a faculty member as the school's "go-to" person to help military families. Post the liaison's information on the school web site. Ask for training for the liaison from the Arkansas Council for Military Children. <http://www.arkansased.gov/divisions/legal/military-families>
22. **Food Drive.** Hold a food drive or fundraiser for an organization that addresses food insecurity among military families. Coordinate your efforts with the Arkansas Foodbank or a local food pantry.
23. **Post the Colors!** Start the morning announcements by playing a recording of the bugle call "To the Colors" over the intercom and then have a military-connected student lead the Pledge of Allegiance.
24. **Military Trivia.** Finish up the morning announcements each day with an interesting piece of military trivia. Have a different Military Kid do the honors!



Month of the Military Child Ideas

Let's Celebrate our Youngest Heroes

In 1986, Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger designated April as Month of the Military Child. Military bases, cities and school districts around the world will honor these young American heroes with special events just for them. As part of this month-long celebration, local communities are invited to take part in **PurpleUp Day!** established by your state and wear or display purple to recognize our military children.

Here are a few suggestions on how your school can celebrate the Month of the Military Child. Plan now for how you can show your support for military children in your schools. Work with your students, staff, PTA or Boosters to do recognition.

1. Kick off the Month of the Military Child with a breakfast, or lunch for Military Connected Youth (MCY) in the school. Include their parents or other family members associated with the military. Don't forget to invite staff who were once military kids, too, or who may have a close family member serving our country. Ask everyone to wear purple and invite all military members to wear their uniform. PTO/PAB could pick up the tab.
2. Identify one day each week in April to highlight military families. Ideas include: favorite service logo day, patriotic day, Purple day, etc. Dress-up throughout the month of April. Decorate the school with purple, purple camo, military insignias, etc.
3. Highlight April as Month of the Military Child on the school's marquee, and in staff and parent newsletters.
4. Have a daily or weekly announcement with military-connected student facts. Start with the national facts and move into school facts. (i.e. Military Monday ...Did you know?) Followed by a public "thank you" for their service to our country.
5. Throughout the month, ask military connected kids or family members to do the announcements, or share an interesting fact about their life as a military child on the morning news show.
6. Decorate display cases and bulletin boards throughout April with military focused memorabilia, or items brought by military kids reflecting their experiences (where they have live or traveled, family members' service memorabilia, parts of a uniform, patches, coins, models of planes etc.)
7. Create a world map and pinpoint where students and staff have lived because of their military lifestyle. This is a fantastic way to connect military kids with their peers. It's total conversation starter when their peers say to them, "Wow! You lived in Japan?"
8. Take pics and decorate using flag as a backdrop and unique to their branch of service.
9. Decorate the school in flags, purple, and posters! Have a group of kids design posters thanking their families for their service. Have military kids make posters reflecting their experiences. Decorate with purple balloons. Have staff and students wear purple ribbons or carnations on the designated Purple UP day!
10. "Wall of Honor" Recognition: Schools are encouraged to display a "Wall of Honor" as a visual depiction of the school's military student population. These bulletin boards typically display pictures of military-connected students, or different color graphics (based on military branch) representing the number of military students in the school.
11. "Share Your Story" Project: Whether a military dependent yourself, classmate, friend, or neighbor of a military student, we are all impacted by the military community in Texas. Teachers are encourage to incorporate Month of the Military Child recognition in their instruction by having students share their military-connection story through the visual arts, creative writing, musical composition, poetry, etc.
12. Adopt a deployed service member or unit. Create Care Packages for deployed troops. As a service project collect items from a class, grade, school group, or whole school. Packages can be sent to a student's family member or another unit identified through the school or community. Don't forget notes, card, pictures etc. For ideas of what to send contact a family member, local installation, or Red Cross.
13. As a service project adopt a deployed family. Find out what a family with a deployed service member needs help with. A class or school group can help with yard work, in home technology, childcare, tutoring, homework help, a

For more information on how to support our youngest heroes – please reach out to your closest School Liaison. They are your "boots on the ground" for connecting to the military! A worldwide listing of these professionals can be found at <https://dodea.edu/partnership> They offer a variety of services to assist schools and community partners.



Month of the Military Child Ideas

Let's Celebrate our Youngest Heroes

- weekend buddy, care package for the kids in the family and/or deployed member. This can be Tricky for some families with deployed member because of confidentiality, but it might be able to be done if handled correctly.
14. Create an atmosphere in individual classrooms to bring an awareness of MCY's lifestyle to their peers through conversations – ask questions, share experiences and point out the relatable experiences that all children have like: Talk about what it may feel like going to new school or on the first day of school, having parents leave on business trip, struggling making new friends or having to say goodbye to friends.
 15. Ask a military member (a parent or sibling of someone in the class) to be a guest speaker and share their perspective on life in the military as well as their profession.
 16. Time Zone Wall: A series of clocks on a wall identifying different time zones from around the world, with a focus on where a deployed family may be, where a MCY lived in the past, or where a MCY might be moving to.
 17. Story time using books about military kids' experience, the military lifestyle, being the new kid in school, or appreciating differences in one another.
 18. Show-n-Tell – Have students in something military related. Examples: memorabilia from an installation or service branch, favorite airplane, book, military character, items or pictures from prior living locations, pictures or anything related to being a mil kid.
 19. Have a tshirt drawing contest for the Month of the Military Child and make tshirts for the school to show their support.
 20. Write letters or draw pictures and send to deployed family members. They “serve too” and would benefit from a class pick me up.
 21. As a class service project to send thank you cards to a local military installation, a local veteran home or get well cards to service members in a local military hospital. Blue Skies of Texas (formerly Air Force Village) Debbie Zazeela, Life Enrichment Manager, BST East: (210) 568-5200, BST West: (210) 568-3296 Cell: (210) 725-8162 debbiezazeela@blueskiestx.org ; Wounded Warriors; Have a Drive to make a donation to Operation Homefront; Have a drive for a Cup of Joe for Joe
 22. Salute to Military Children at Sporting Events - Have the announcer make a special announcement before, during or after sporting events recognizing all military children. Have them raise the flag, sing the National Anthem or recite the Pledge of Allegiance.
 23. Work with your School Liaison Office and bring in Senior Leadership (Male & Female) as guest speakers in High School Classes
 24. During the daily morning announcements acknowledging military such as:
 - a. Thanking military parents/faculty
 - b. Play music such as I'm Proud to be an American
 - c. Read a military poem
 25. Do guidance lesson H is for Honor
 26. Create Bulletin Board “What does HONOR mean to you...”
 27. Designate a spirit week and have activities every day such as: Monday: Flag ceremony, Tuesday: wear red, white, and blue, Wednesday: Write a letter to thank a military person, etc...(Mon- Service Branch t-shirt, Tuesday Purple, Wed Orange for Unity
 28. Invite neighboring JROTC to your campus for demonstration
 29. Encourage leadership by military students in the planning and implementation of the activities.
 30. Create a postcard with the banner design on one side; write your thanks and give to a military family, individually or in an assembly
 31. At an assembly or recognition tea, give a certificate of thanks to each military child. Invite military leadership or principal or military parents to hand out the certificates to each child.
 32. Invite military parents to visit in their children's classrooms or at an assembly.
 33. Have students create “thank you” cards for class-room or main hall bulletin boards to support military children.

For more information on how to support our youngest heroes – please reach out to your closest School Liaison. They are your “boots on the ground” for connecting to the military! A worldwide listing of these professionals can be found at <https://dodea.edu/partnership> They offer a variety of services to assist schools and community partners.



Month of the Military Child Ideas

Let's Celebrate our Youngest Heroes

34. Tie yellow or purple ribbons, one per military child in the school, on a tree outside the school or attach on the walls of the lunchroom or main hallway
35. Create a Transition Center with flyers and other district, school, SLO resources, and community resources for parents and staff.
36. Recognize Month of Military Child in your community via district and/or school webpages, school newsletters, school, social media and community readerboards, encouraging the local paper to do an article.
37. Have students create a banner each year to hang at the school entrance, on the fence, in the commons or gym for the month.
38. Create and share your school's activities with parents, children, and community members! Tag us on social media
Twitter: @jbsa_slo Facebook: JBSA School Liaison Office use hashtags #momc #milkids #PurpleUpTexas
39. Cafeteria serves Purple Foods during MOMC
40. Military Parade All students dress up in patriotic outfits and parade through the school; ending in the courtyard. Each grade level performs a song and the Principal delivers a short speech thanking the children and families for their service.
41. Invite students to participate in an Essay Contest to describe how they do or can better support this nation and its military community; winners could be recognized by installation leadership.
42. Bootcamp challenge – invited Active Duty volunteers to conduct various games with advisory classes (i.e., relay games, sit up challenges, etc.)
43. Door Decorating Contest – Theme – The Military Child – One winner per grade level – class would receive popcorn, or some kind of treat from PTSO.
44. “Purple Ball”: It's an evening that is all about the military child. The children dress up in their nicest clothes and The Active duty parent wear the dress uniform. There's music and food and fun. A photographer donated time and an 8x10 photo of the family. We had the Disney princesses and princes lead the procession in to the place where it was being held. If the parent was deployed we had volunteers in dress Uniform available to escort the child as they were announced.
45. Host a Military Art Fair: have students provide images of military life or experiences; winners could be acknowledged by installation leadership or Adopt-a-School partners
46. Host a military luncheon for active duty parents to have lunch with their children
47. Web Site Feature - Schools can promote the Month of the Military Child on their web sites. Provide links to sites that offer resources for military families.
48. Publicize Installation/Community Events - Use the school newsletter to publicize Month of the Military Child events and activities hosted by the installation/community. Look for ways schools can contribute to these celebrations (setting up an information or activity booth, having teachers volunteer at events and activities, etc.).
49. Host an Assembly for Month of the Military Child - Hold a school assembly honoring military children. Include a performance by the band. Have students write a poem about what it means to be a military child and select several student volunteers to read their poems.
50. Teachers Salute Military Children - Ask teachers at your school make a special project with their classes such as a picture frame, bookmark, journal, etc., that ties into the Month of the Military Child.
- 51.

Stay in contact with your school liaison to join in on the celebrations within your state and local communities!

For more information on how to support our youngest heroes – please reach out to your closest School Liaison. They are your “boots on the ground” for connecting to the military! A worldwide listing of these professionals can be found at <https://dodea.edu/partnership> They offer a variety of services to assist schools and community partners.



SURVEY OF MILITARY FAMILIES
FALL 2023
RESULTS

The Arkansas Council for Military Children (the Council) conducted a survey of military families during the fall of 2023. The purpose was to assess

- a) The familiarity of military families in Arkansas with various resources available to them and
- b) The ability of military families in Arkansas to fulfill basic needs.

The survey opened on September 7, 2023 and closed on December 31, 2023. The survey was announced via e-mail to the network of District Military Education Coordinators, school counselors, and school district family and community engagement coordinators. The survey was also publicized on the Council's e-newsletter published on October 1, 2023, November 1, 2023, and December 1, 2023.

A total of 255 persons responded to the survey. Six responses included no information. 29 responses were supplied by individuals with no connection to the military. The remaining 240 responses (i.e., responses with a current or former connection to the military) are presented in the following pages.

The survey consisted of 28 questions. Question 9 consisted of 11 subquestions.

Questions 1 through 4 elicited demographic information on the respondents.

Questions 4 through 8 elicited information on the schools which the respondents' children attended.

Questions 9 and 10 sought to establish how familiar the respondents were with various organizations or services that support military families.

Questions 11 through 14 sought to determine the respondents' knowledge of and interaction with the Council. Please note that Question 14 appears out of sequence in this report in order to allow questions pertaining to the Council's military family forum to appear on the same page.

Questions 15 through 19 sought to determine the respondents' knowledge of and interaction with the Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission.

Questions 20 through 23 elicited information about the respondents' use of school choice.

Questions 24 through 30 elicited information about the respondents' use of advance enrollment and virtual enrollment opportunities.

Questions 31 through 38 elicited information about the respondents' ability to fulfill basic needs.

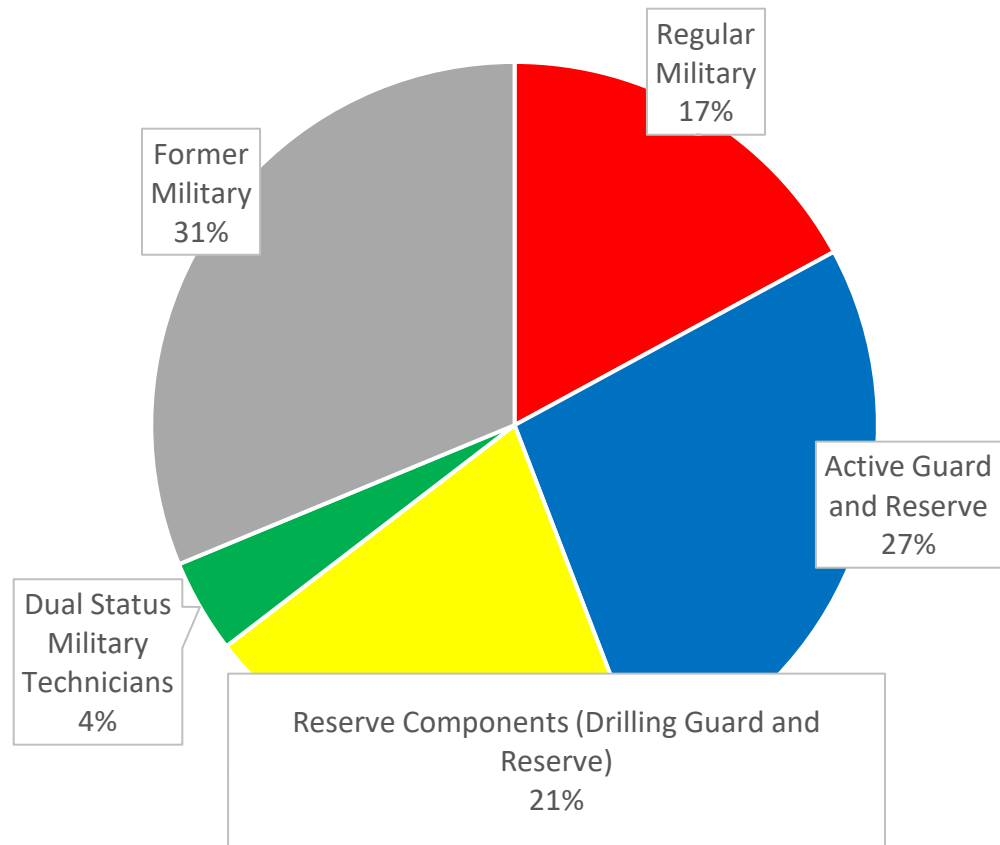
The results of this survey indicate the following:

- a) Significant numbers of military families in Arkansas are unaware of many of the resources and organizations that exist to support them.
- b) Significant numbers of military families were unable to fulfill some basic needs (medical care, child care, and food).
- c) Inability to fulfill basic needs was more prevalent among reserve component service members than among active duty service members.
- d) Inability to fulfill basic needs was more prevalent among enlisted members, especially among noncommissioned officers, than among commissioned officers and warrant officers.

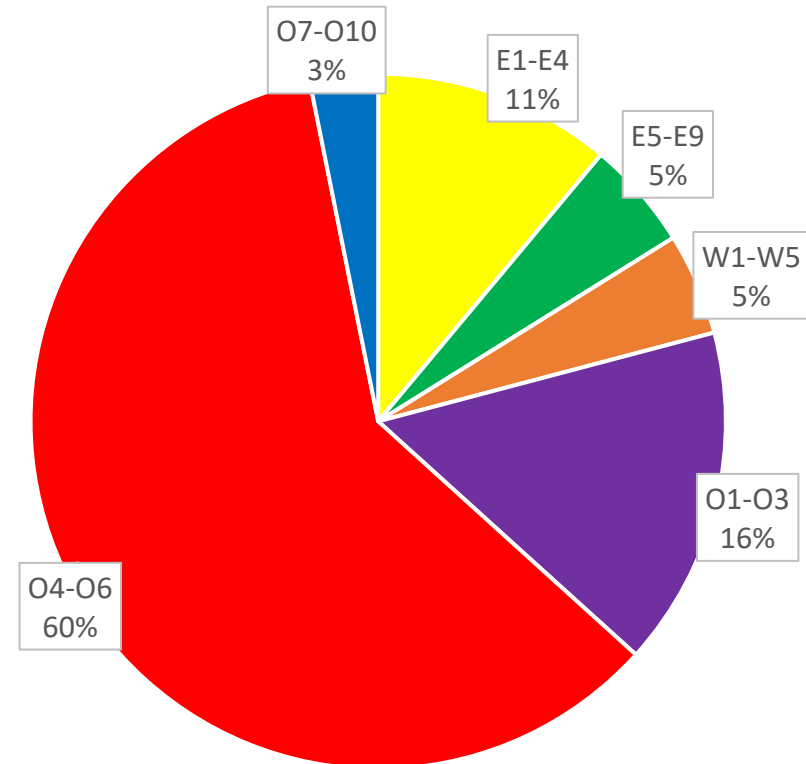
The raw survey data were published to District Military Education Coordinators and school counselors on February 2, 2024. The raw data may be accessed at [this link](#).

For more information, please contact John Kaminar, Council Chair, at 501-683-5188 or john.kaninar@ade.arkansas.gov.

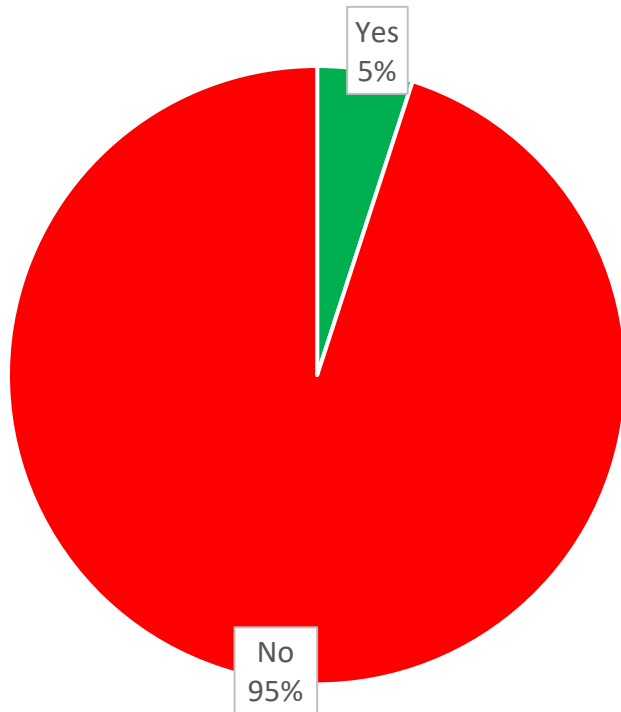
1. Military Status of Respondents (240)



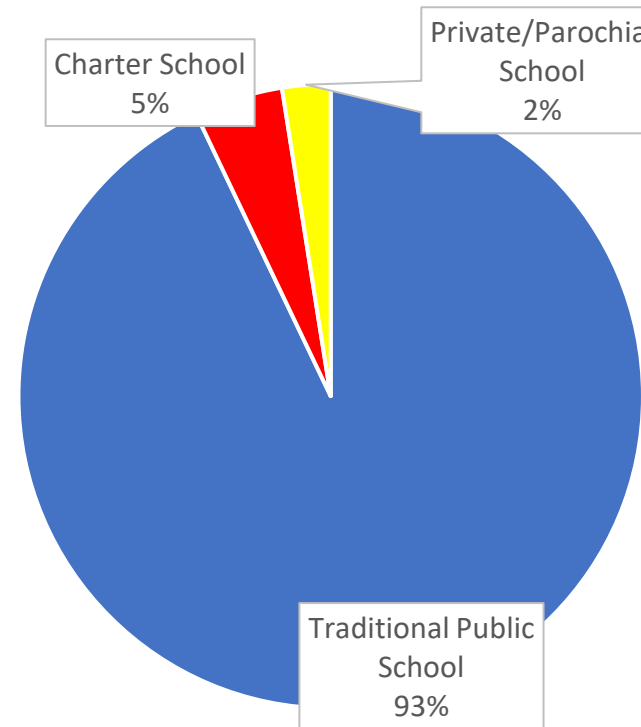
2. Rank Group of Respondents (178)



3. In the last twelve months, has your family relocated to Arkansas from another state since FOR MILITARY SERVICE? (240)



4. Which of the following best describes the type of school in which your child is currently enrolled? (240)



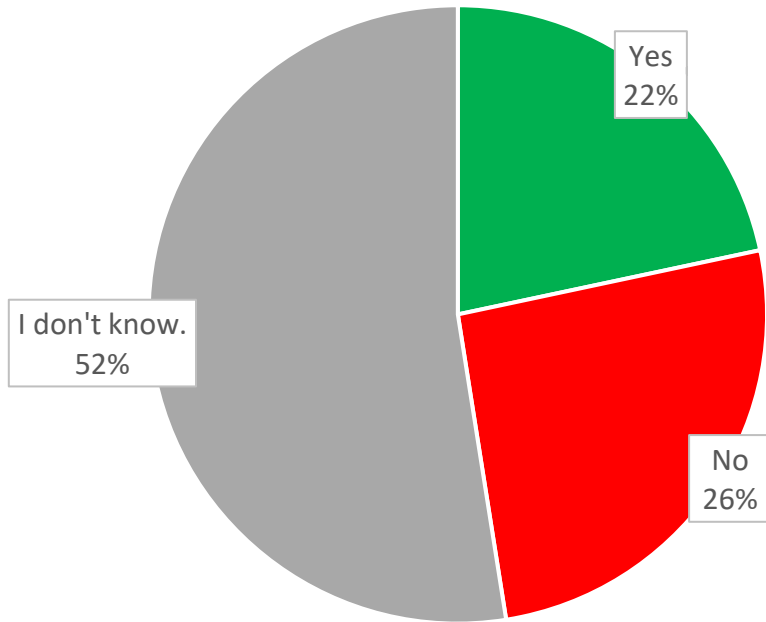
5. If your child is enrolled in a traditional public school, in which district is your child enrolled? (224)

Alma	16	Jessieville	1
Arkadelphia	1	Lavaca	1
Bauxite	7	Lincoln	2
Bentonville	8	Marmaduke	1
Bryant	55	Mena	1
Cabot	10	Prarie Grove	27
Cedarville	5	Rogers	1
Clarksville	1	Searcy	14
Conway	10	Sheridan	14
Fort Smith	6	Sloan-Hendrix	1
Genoa	1	South Conway Cty	2
Greenbrier	1	Southside	2
Greene County Tech	1	Van Buren	8
Greenwood	17	West Fork	2
Hackett	1	Westside	1
Harmony Grove	2	Wynne	1
Jacksonville	3		

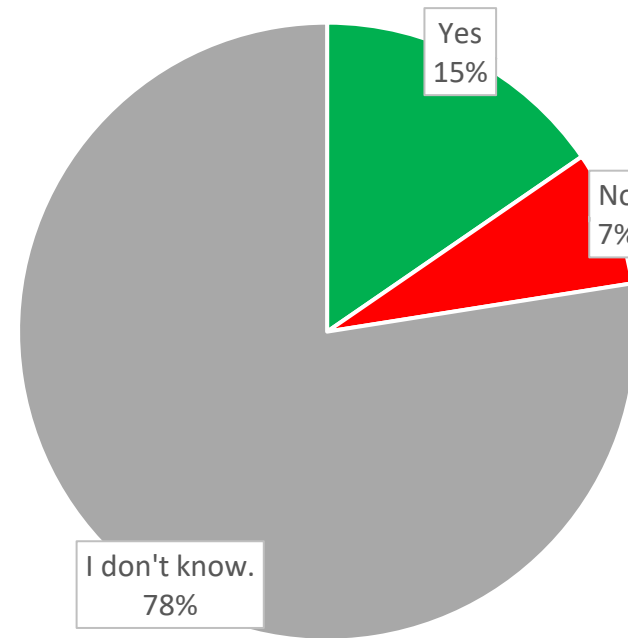
6. If your child is enrolled in a public charter school, in which school is your child enrolled? (9)

Academncs Plus	1
Arkansas Arts	1
Arkansas Virtual Academy	3
Graduate Arkansas	1
Lighthouse	1
LISA Academy	2

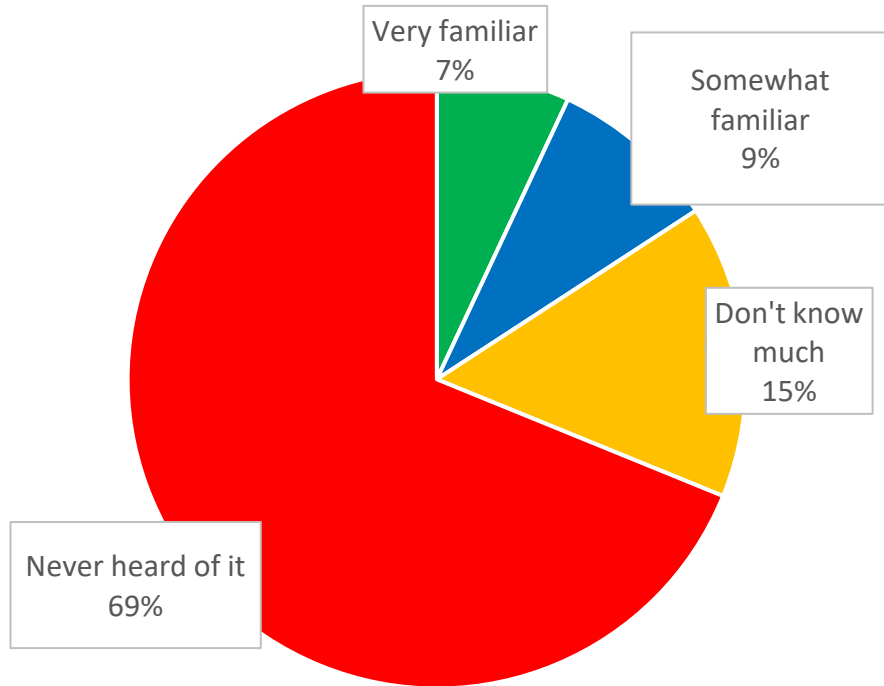
7. Is your child currently attending school in a Purple Star School? (240)



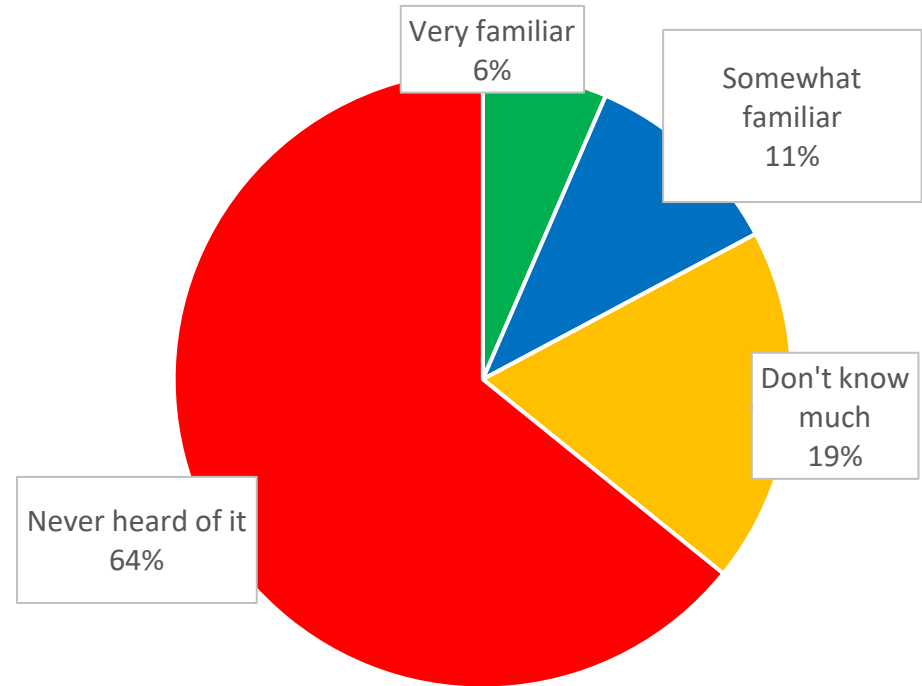
8. Does your child's school district have a District Military Education Coordinator (DMEC)? (240)



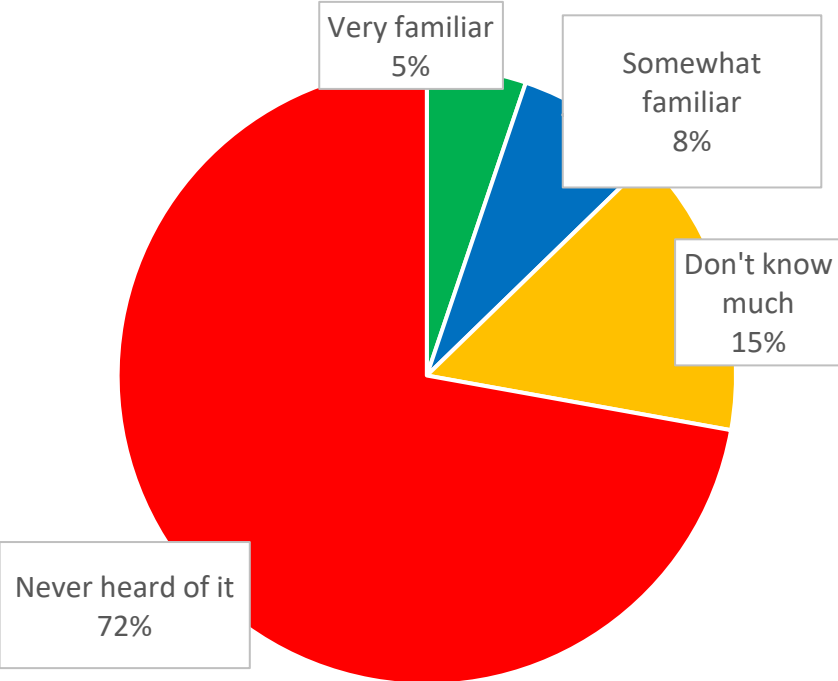
9a. Military Child Education Coalition (216)



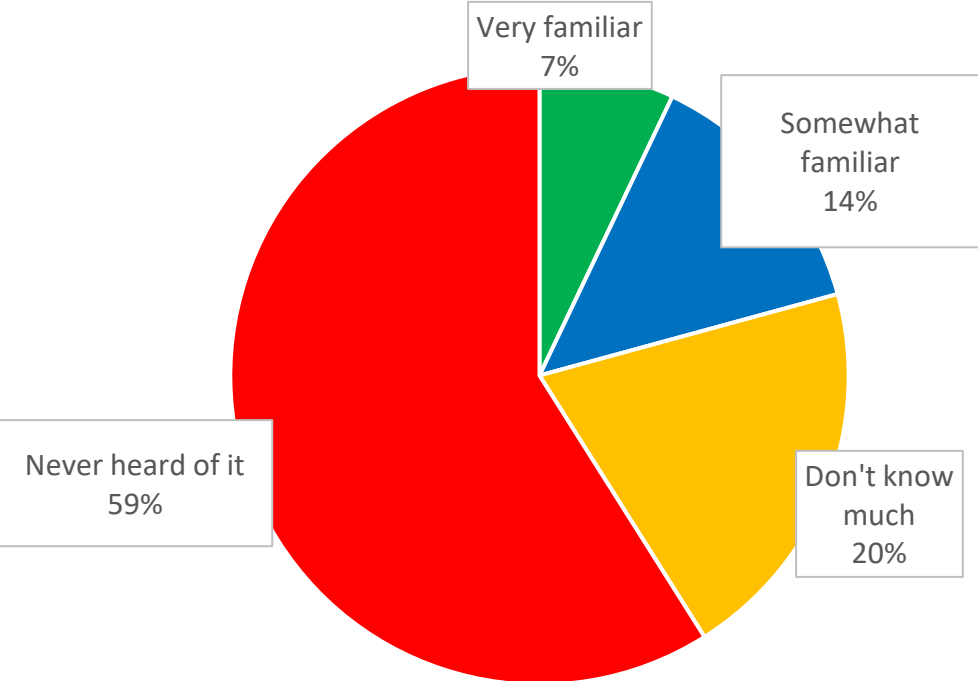
9b. National Military Family Association (215)



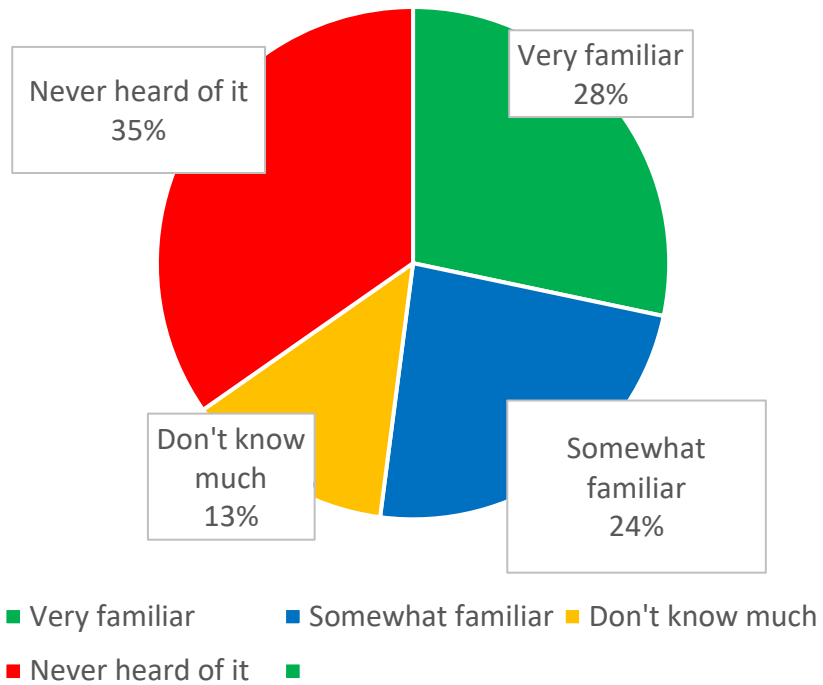
9c. Military Family Advisory Network (213)



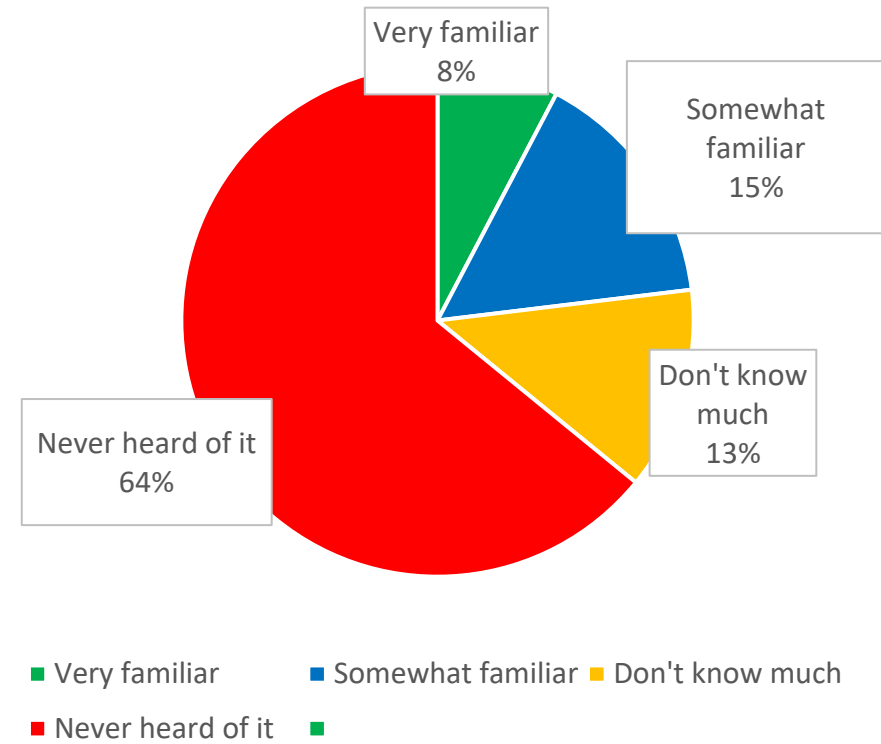
9d. School Liaison Program (213)



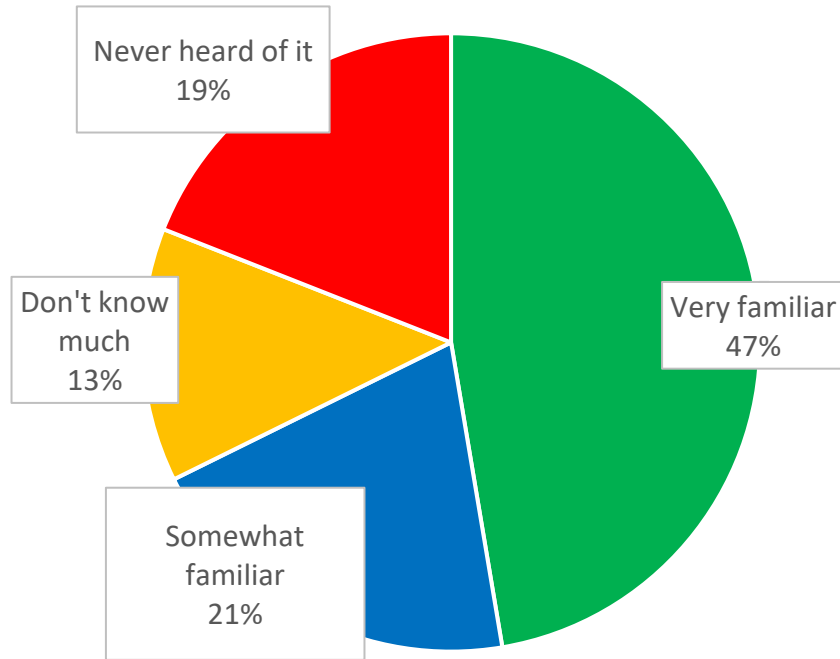
9e. Soldier/Airman and Family Readiness Specialist (220)



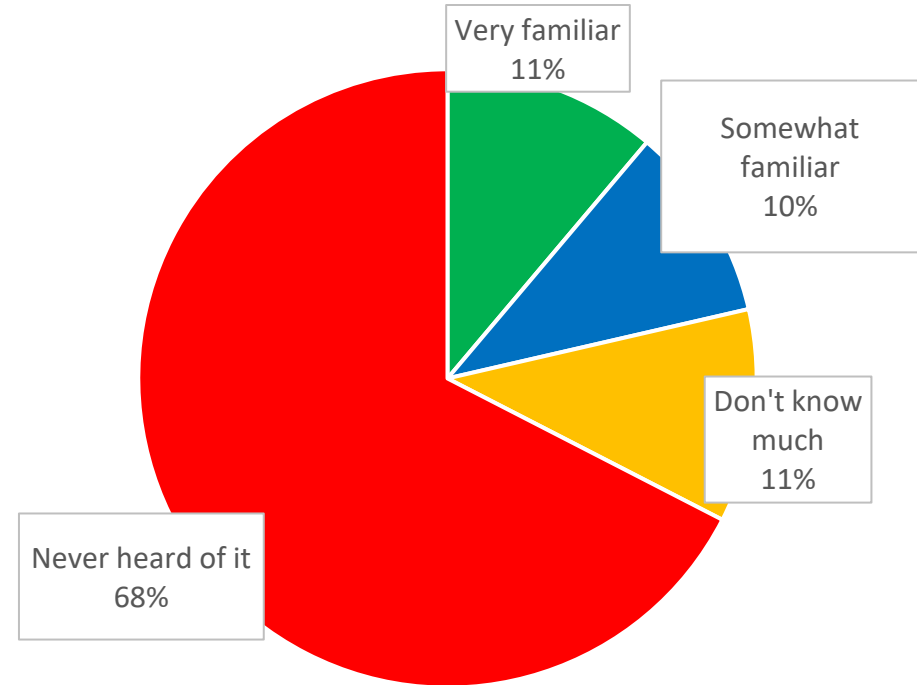
9f. Military Family Life Counselor (214)



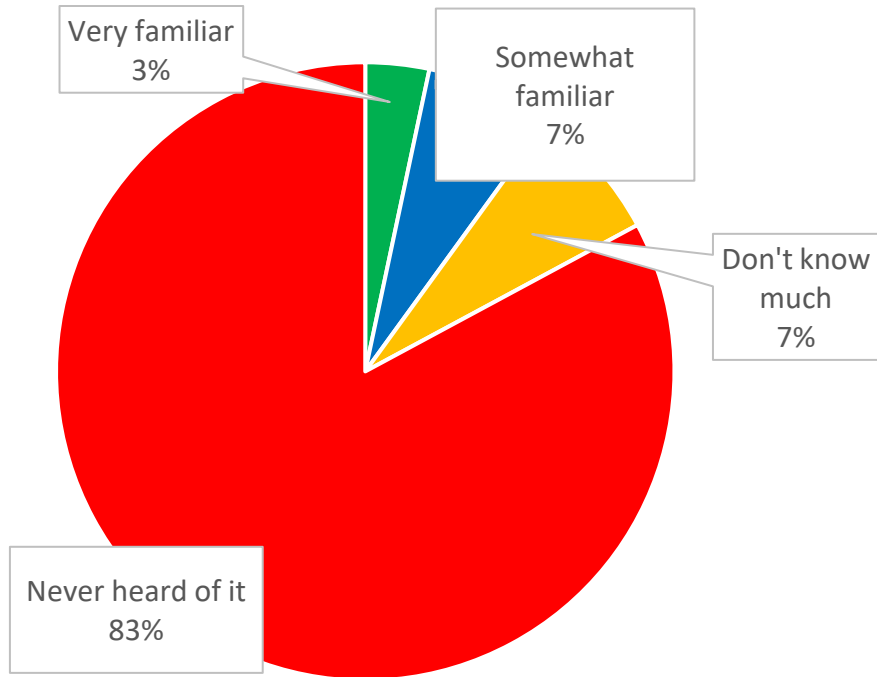
9g. Military OneSource (226)



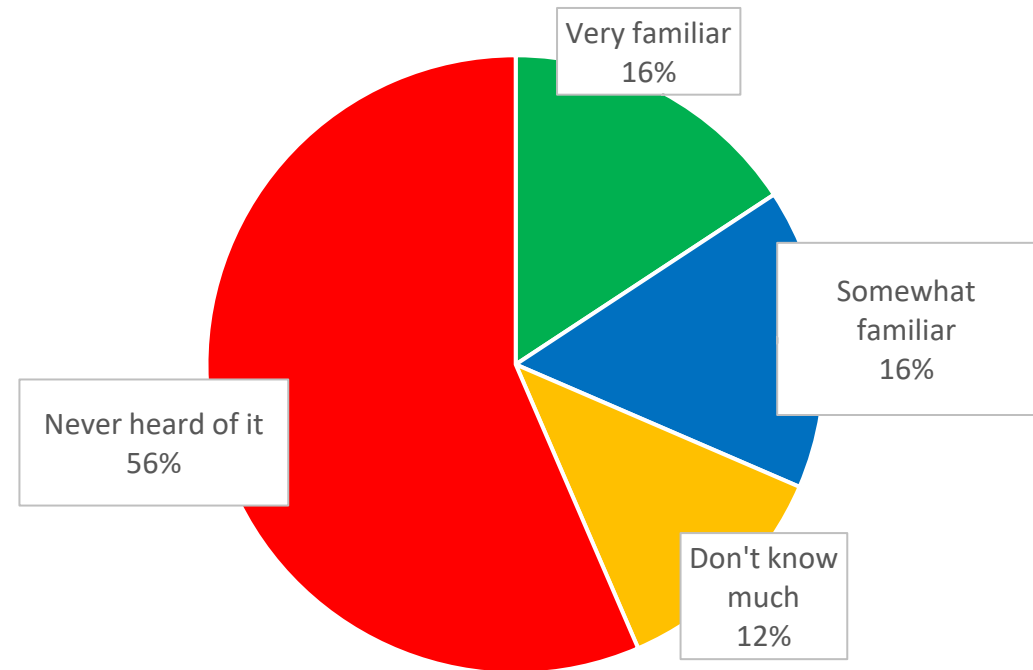
9h. Our Military Kids (215)



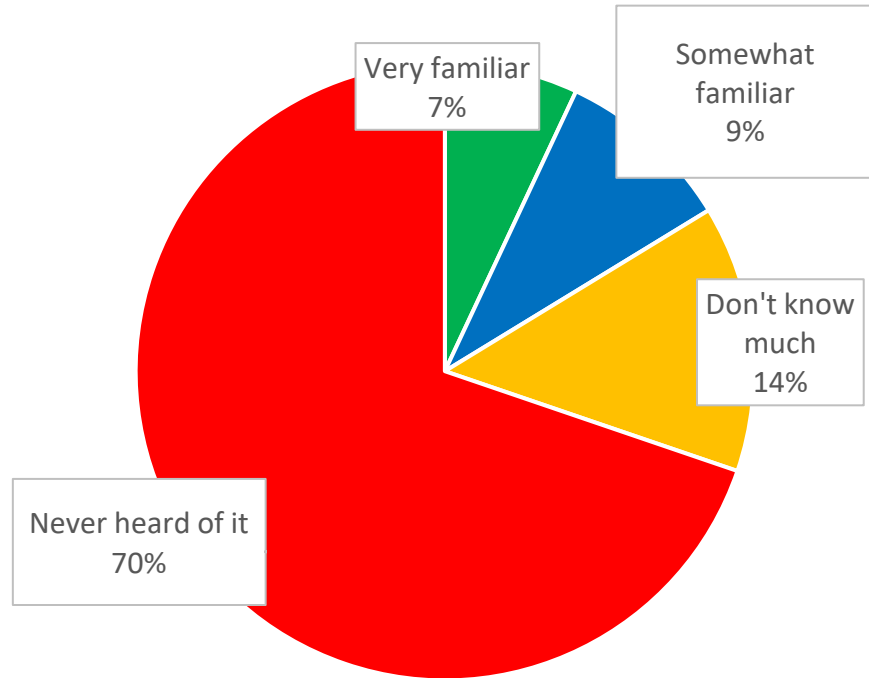
9i. BLOOM (210)



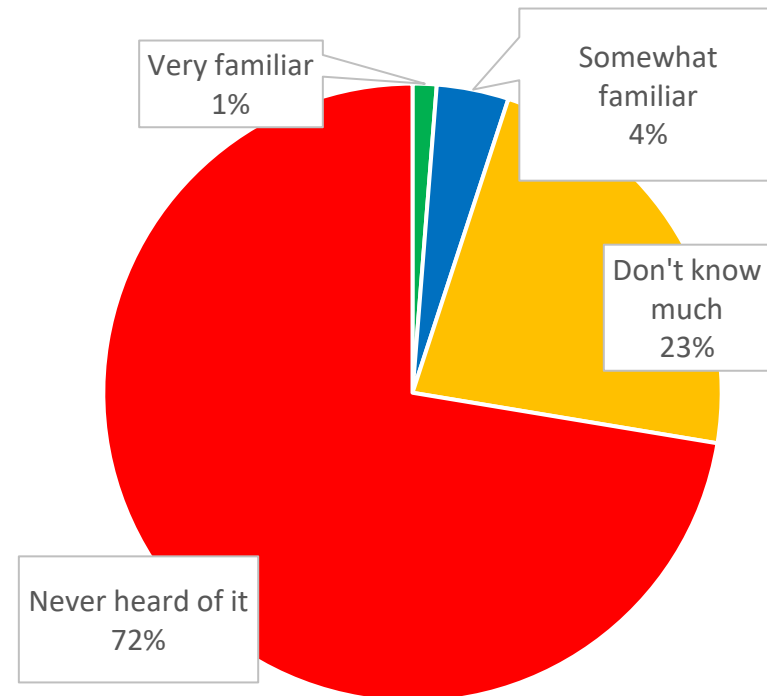
9j. Pinnacle Pointe Behavioral Healthcare System (217)



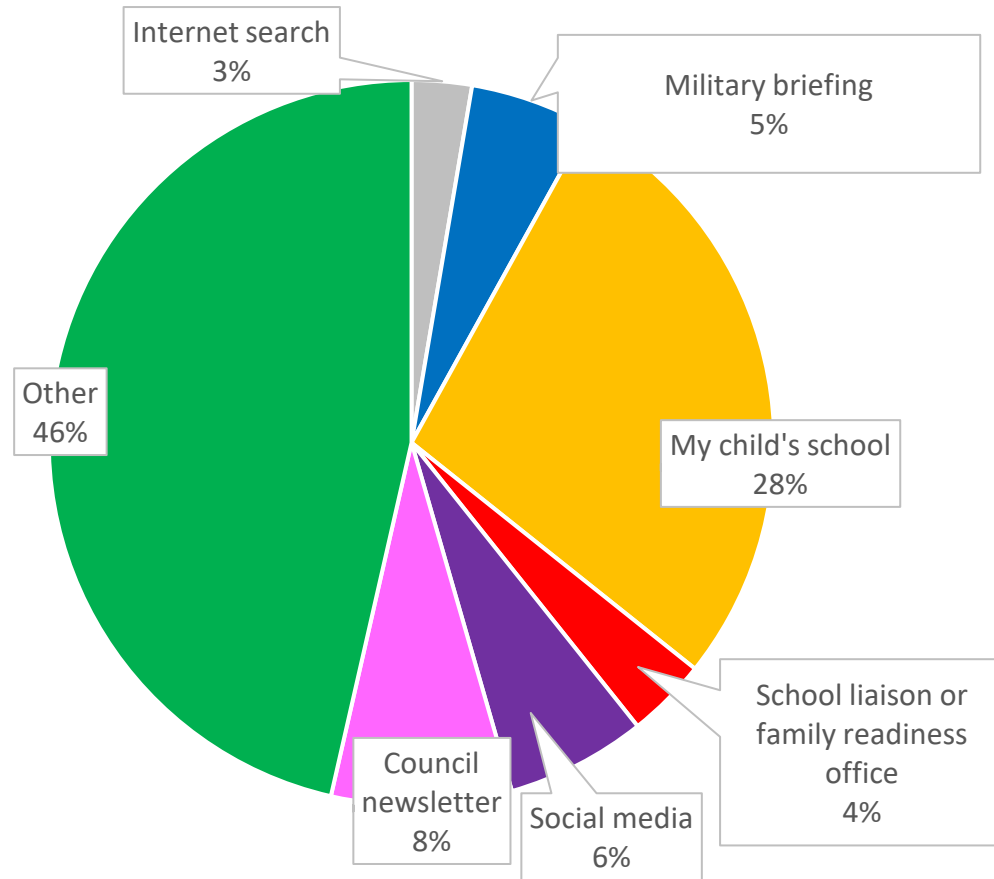
9k. ADE Community Resources Portal (215)



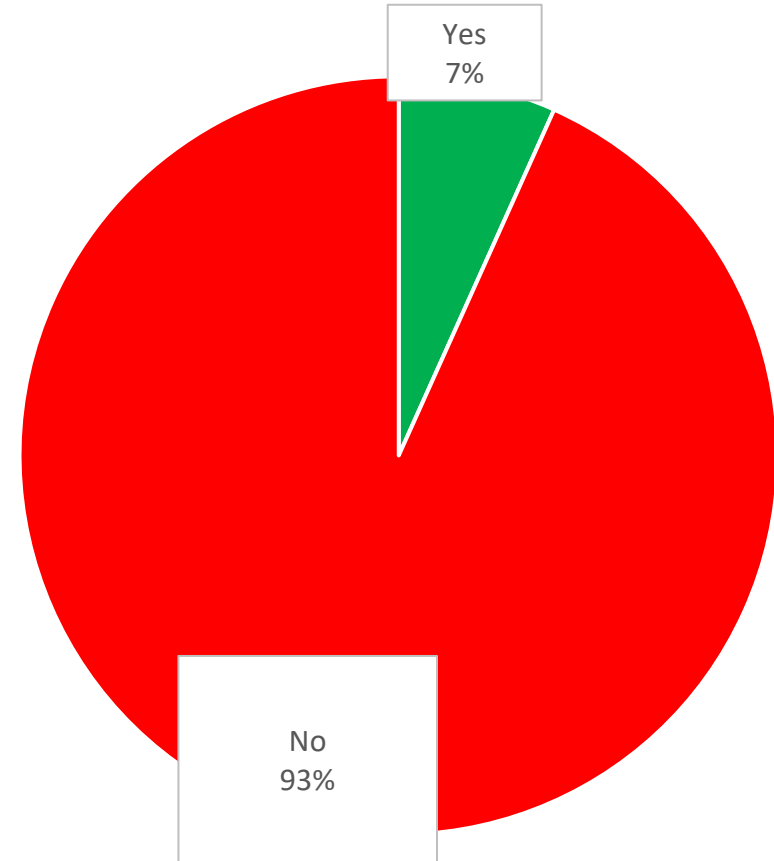
10. Arkansas Council for Military Children (240)



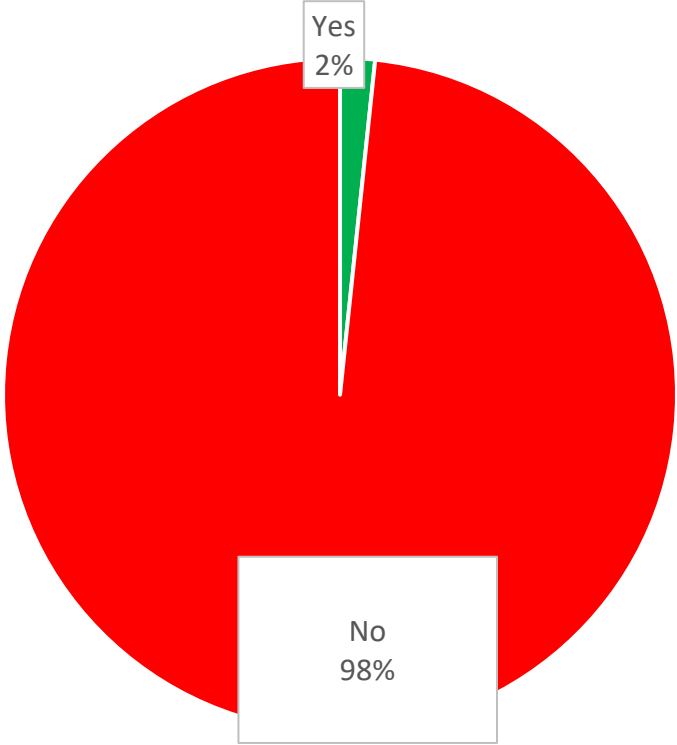
11. How have you received information about the Arkansas Council for Military Children? (113)



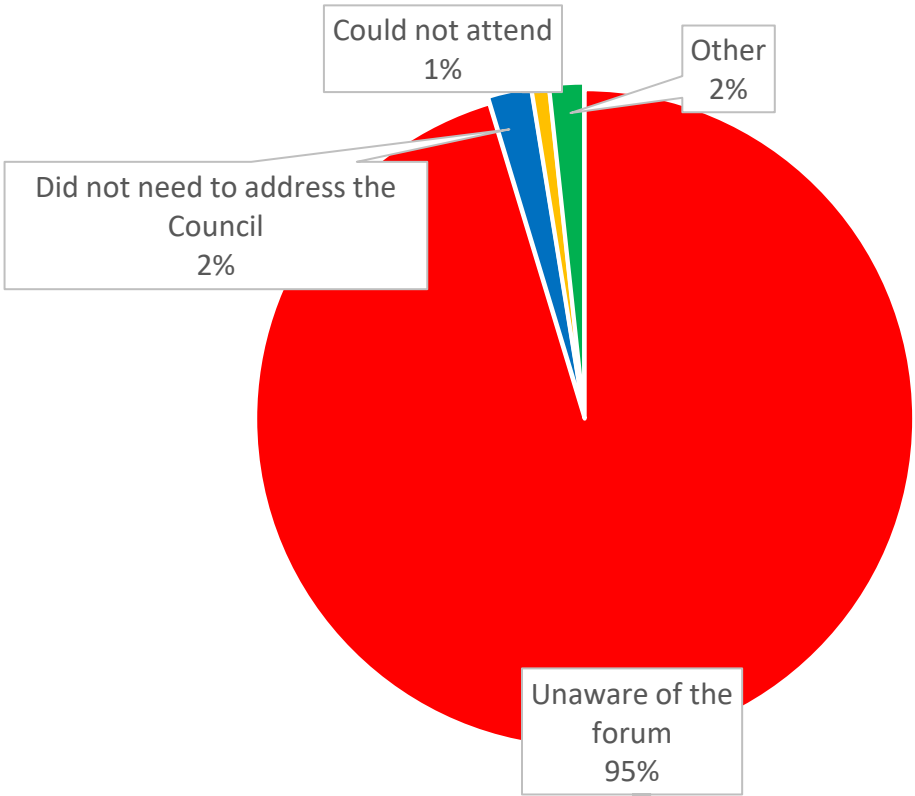
14. Have you subscribed to the Arkansas Council for Military Children's monthly e-newsletter? (239)



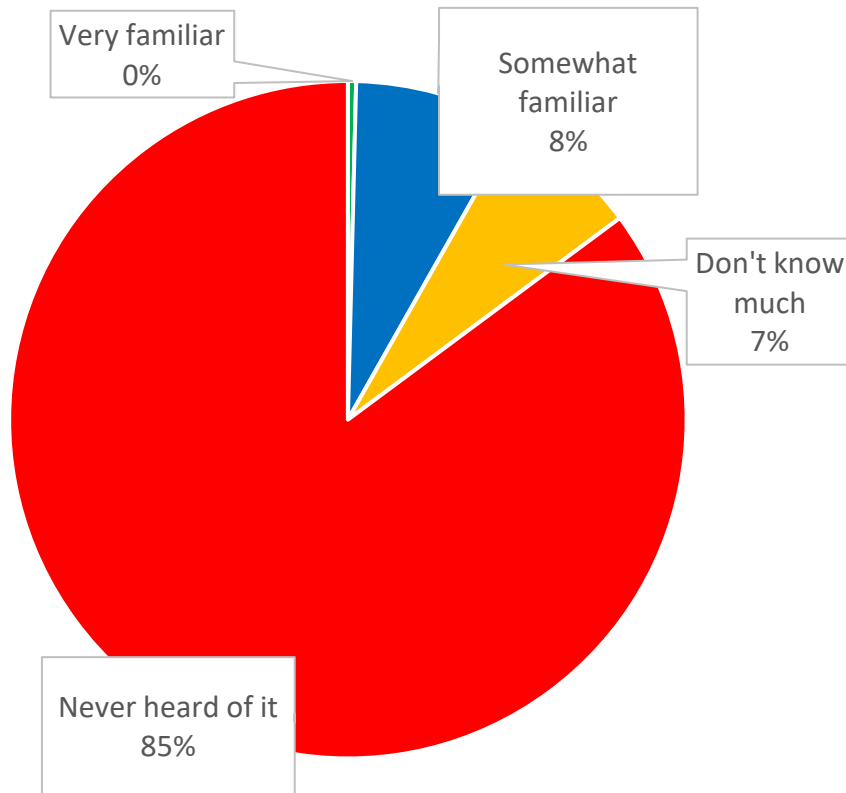
12. Have you ever attended a military family forum conducted by the Arkansas Council for Military Children? (240)



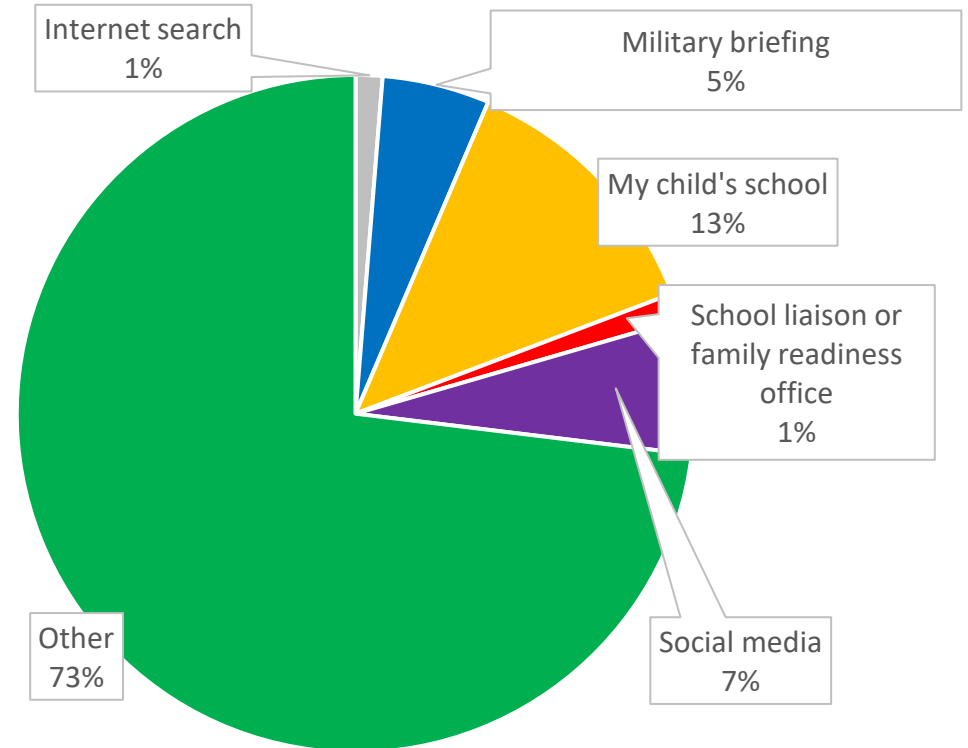
13. Why have you not attended a military family forum conducted by the Arkansas Council for Military Children? (235)



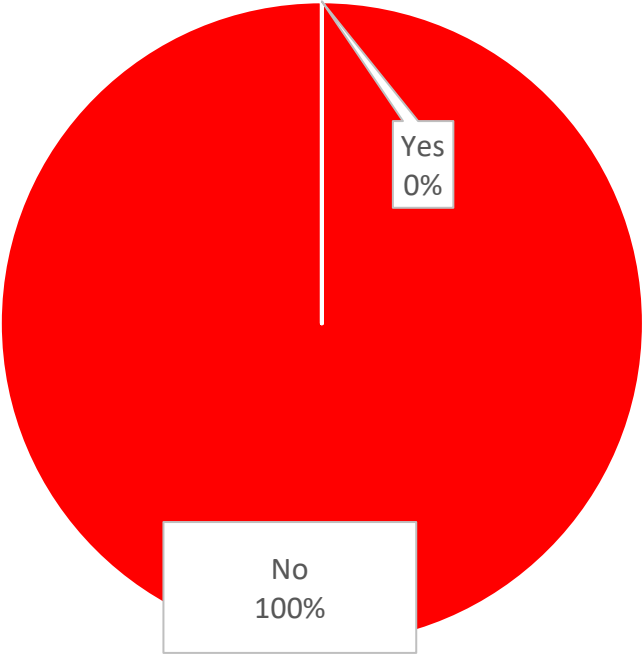
15. How familiar are you with the Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission (MIC3)? (240)



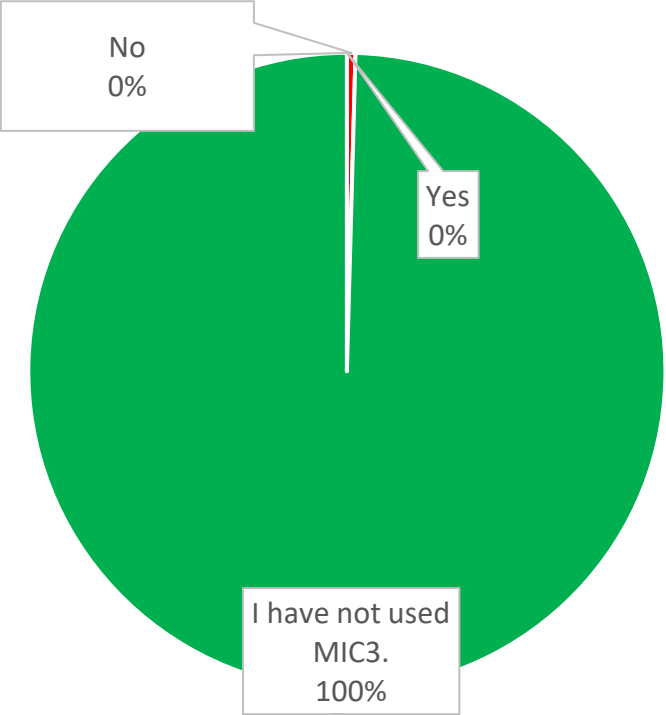
16. How have you received information about MIC3? (78)



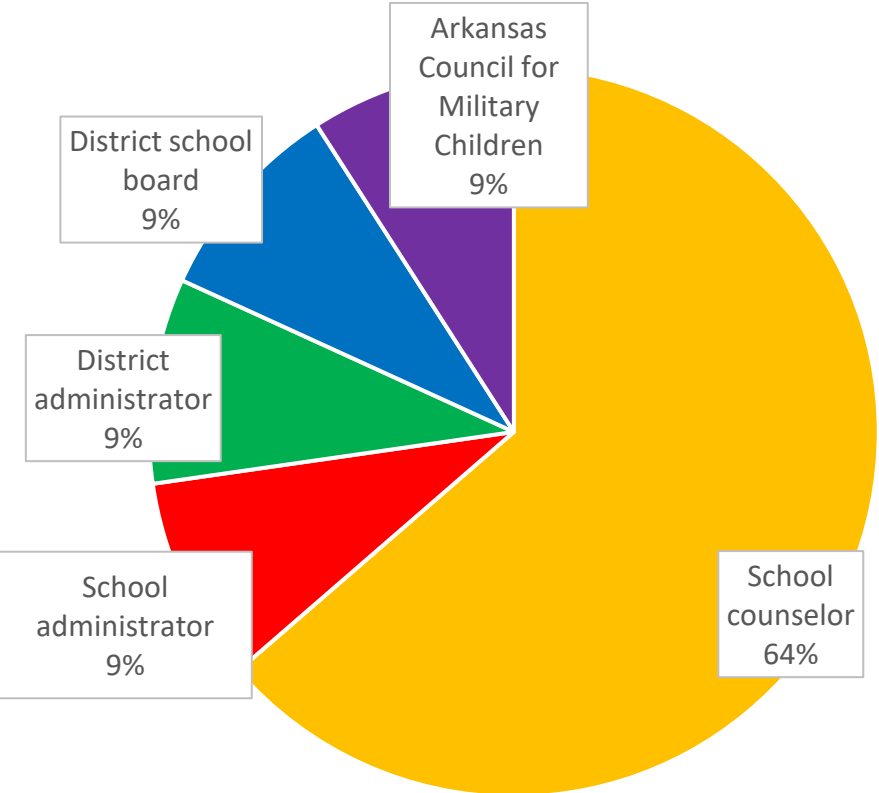
17. In the past twelve months have you used the Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission to address an education-related issue for your child? (239)



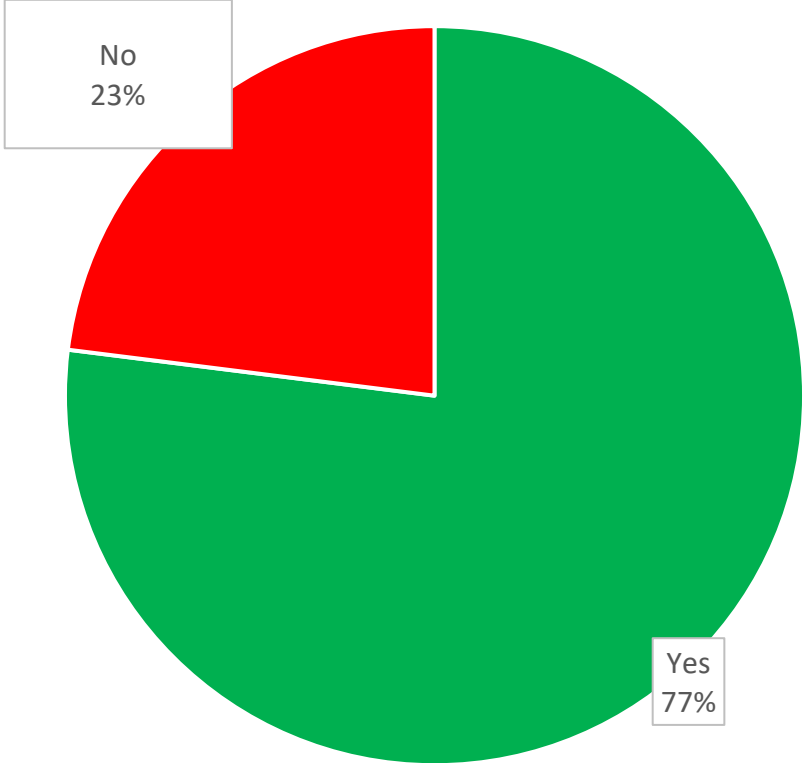
18. If you have used the Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission to address an education-related issue for your child in the past twelve months, was the issue resolved to your satisfaction? (231)



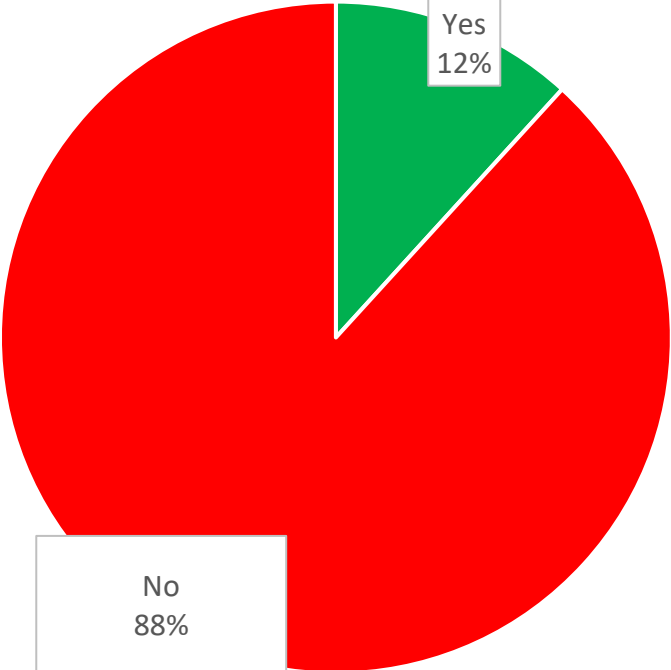
19. If you have used the Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission to address an education-related issue for your child since June 30, 2020, whom did you contact for help with the issue? (7)



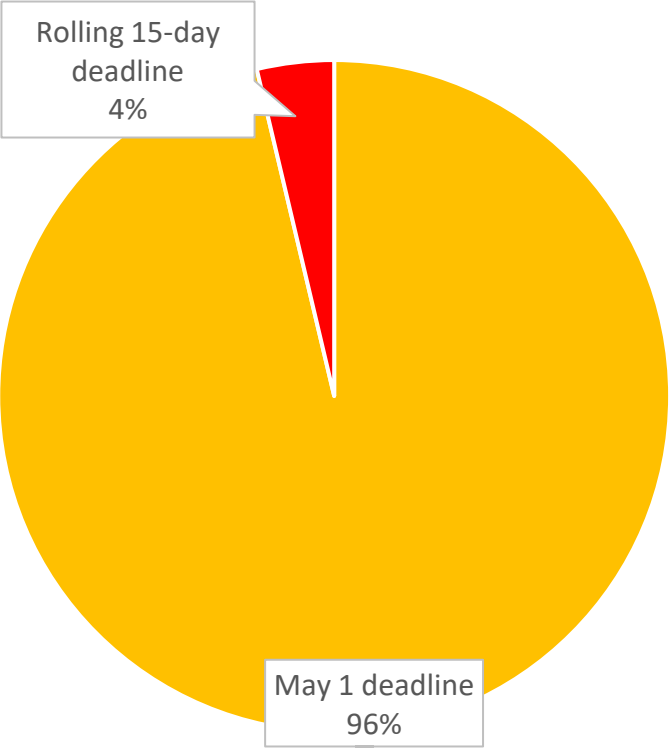
20. Before now, were you aware that Arkansas has a public school choice option? (239)



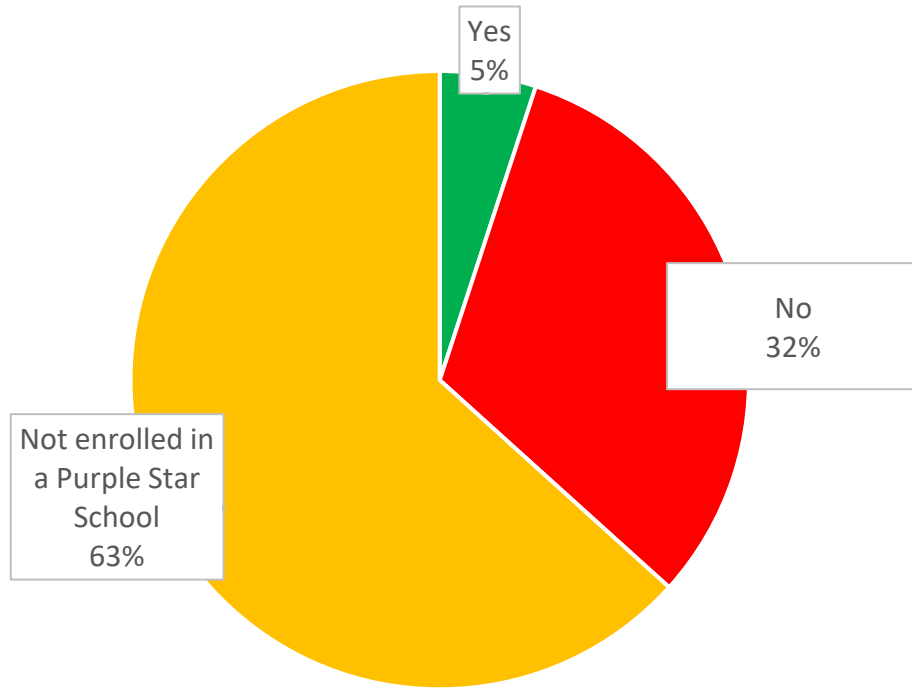
21. In the past twelve months have you exercised your school choice option at any time? (238)



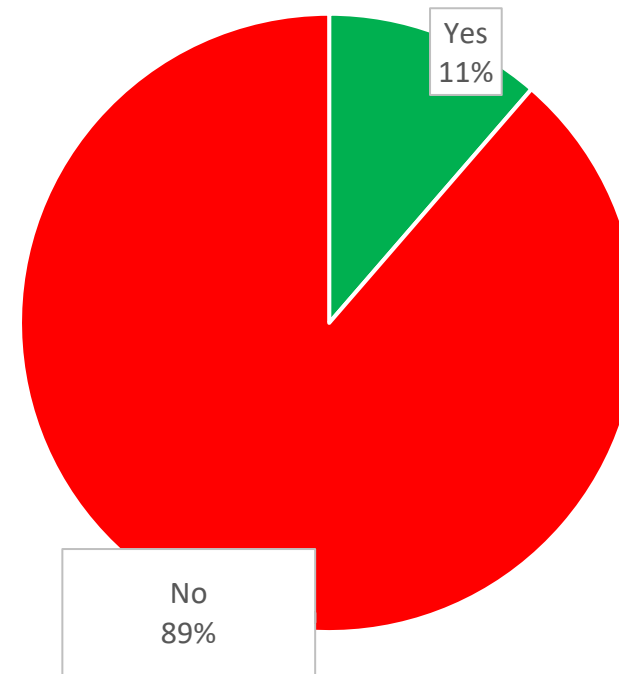
22. If you have used your school choice option, did you submit your application by the statutory deadline of May 1, or did you submit your application by the rolling 15-day deadline available for military families? (27)



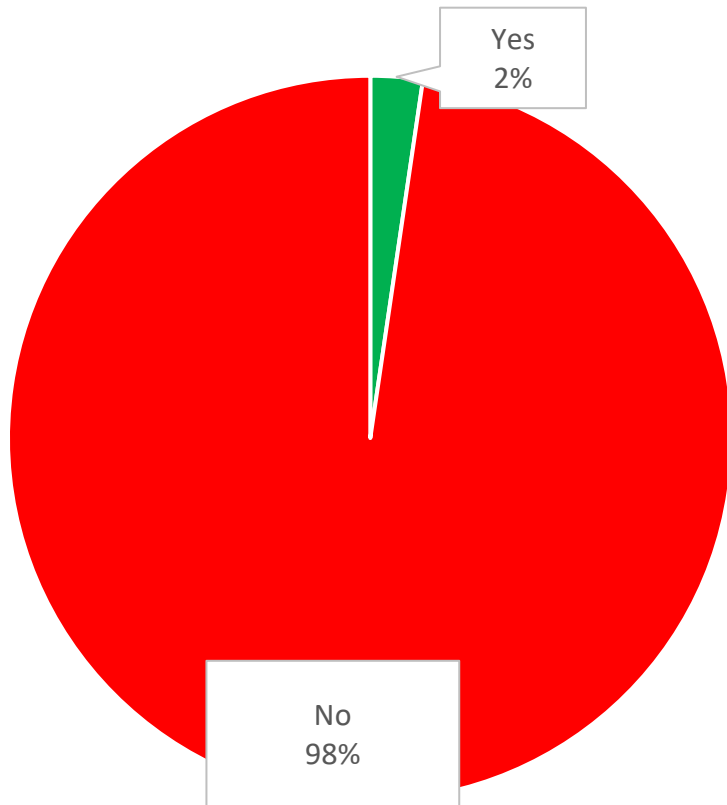
23. If you used your school choice option, was the Purple Star School status a factor? (140)



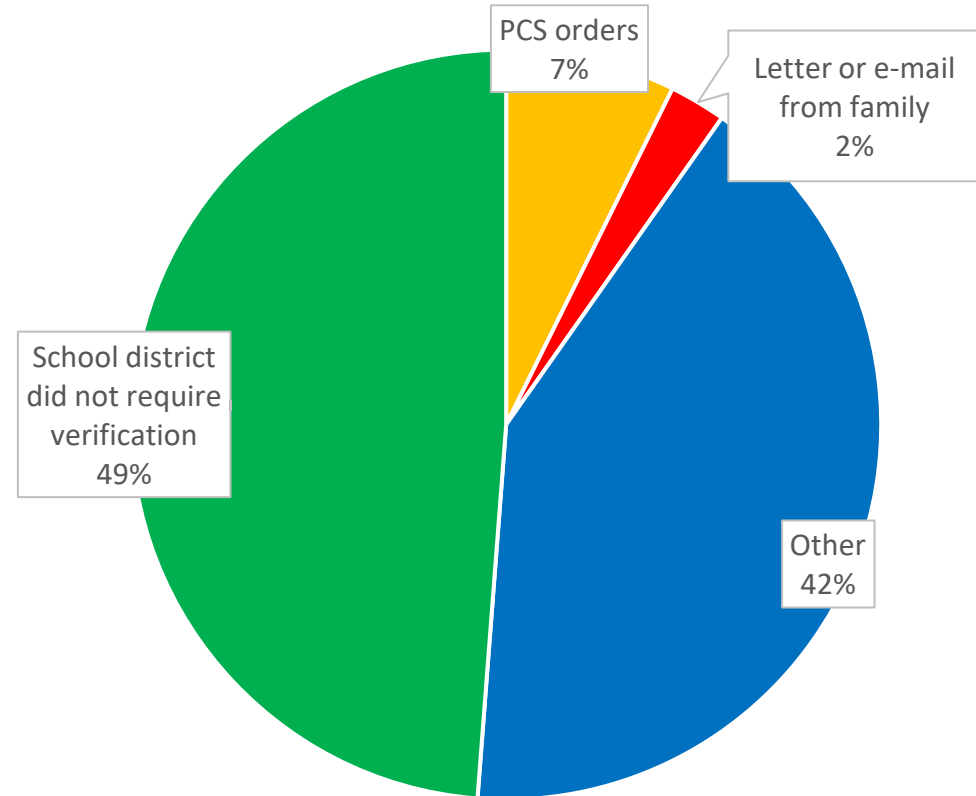
24. Before now, were you aware that Arkansas allows children of military families transferring into Arkansas for military service to enroll in school prior to the family's actual arrival in Arkansas? (237)



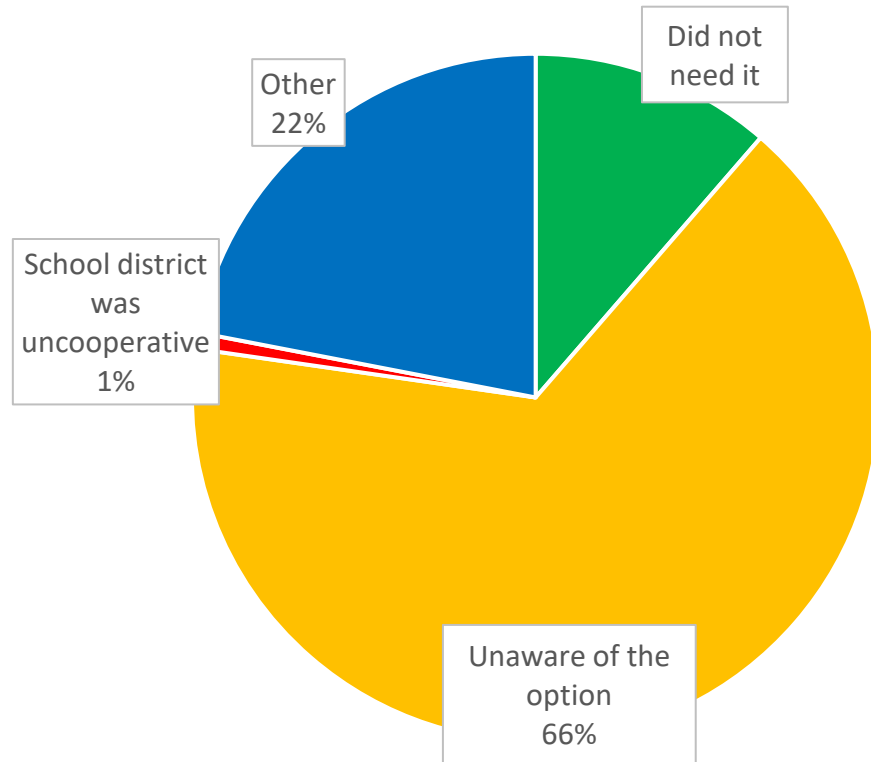
25. Have you used the advance enrollment opportunity for children of in-bound military families? (238)



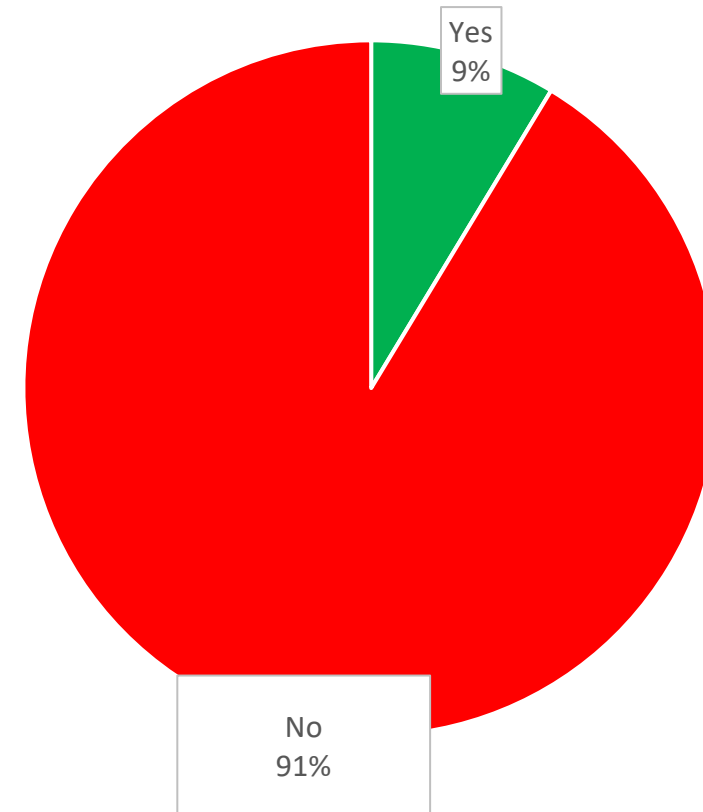
26. If you have used the advance enrollment opportunity for children of military families, what verification of your move did you provide your new school district? (41)



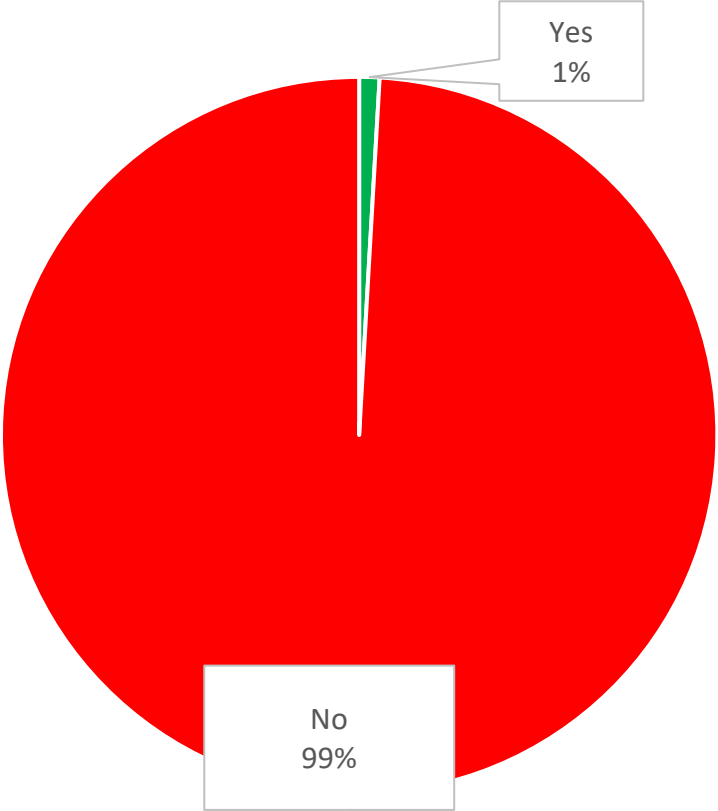
27. Why have you not used the opportunity to enroll your child prior to your family's actual arrival in Arkansas? (133)



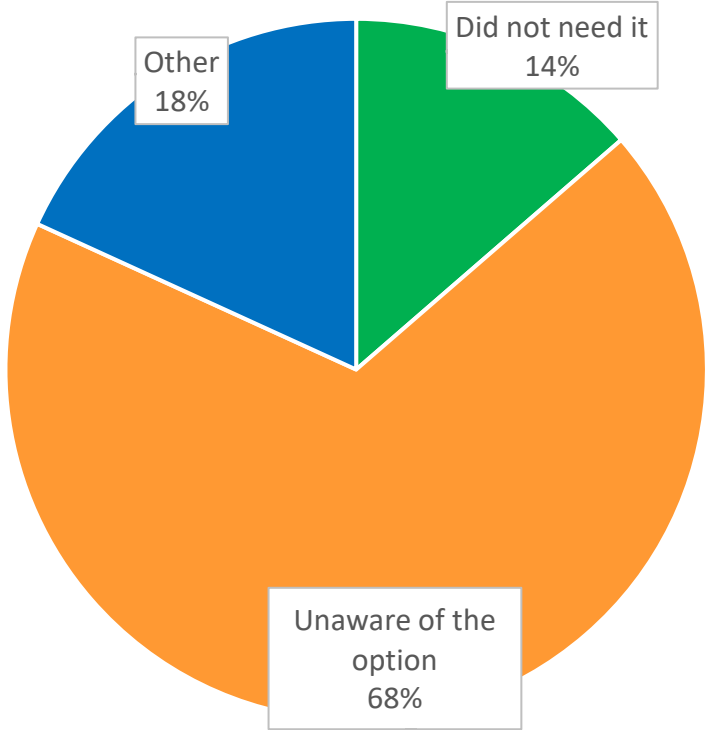
28. Before now, were you aware that Arkansas allows children of military families transferring to Arkansas for military service to enroll in virtual distance-learning or digital coursework prior to the family's actual arrival in Arkansas? (231)



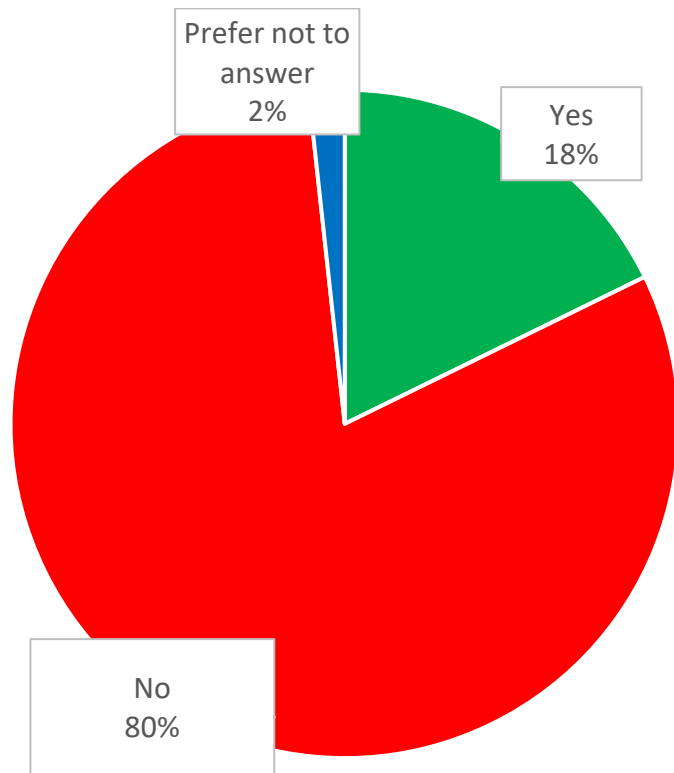
29. Have you used your child's opportunity to enroll in virtual distance-learning or digital coursework prior to your family's actual arrival in Arkansas? (219)



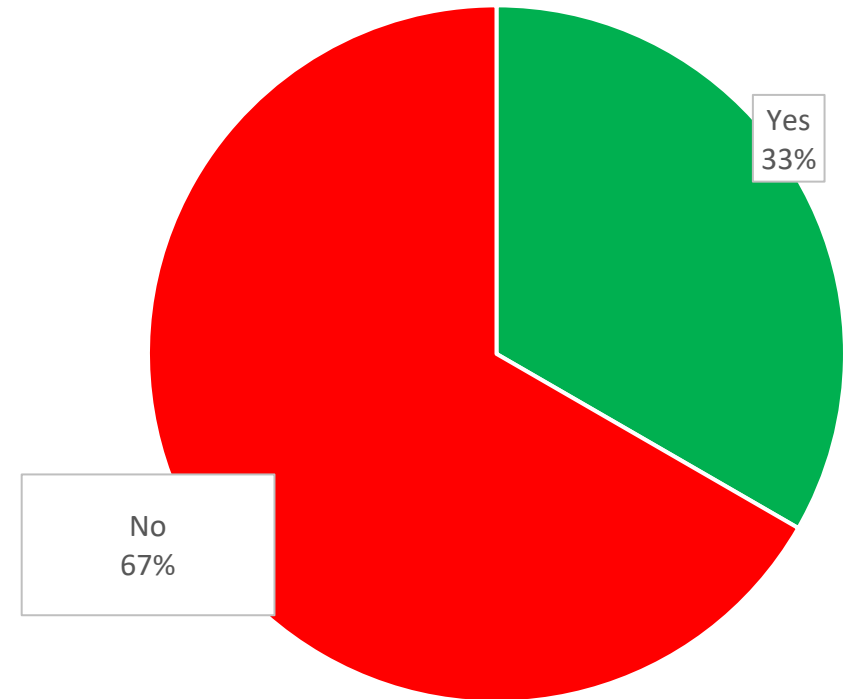
30. Why have you not used your child's opportunity to enroll in virtual distance learning or digital coursework prior to your family's actual arrival in Arkansas? (154)



31. Is your child enrolled in the Exceptional Family Members Program (EFMP) or eligible for an Individualized Education Plan (IEP)? (231)

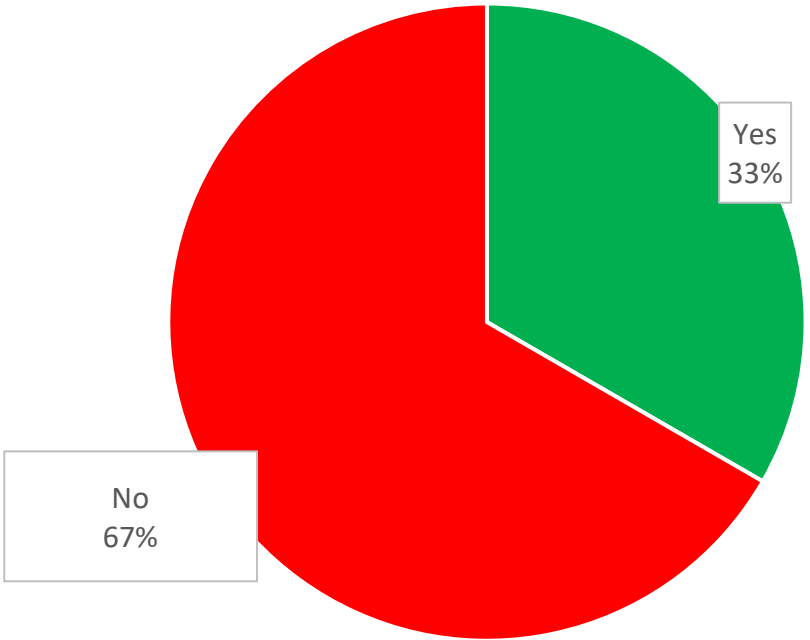


32. If your child is enrolled in the Exceptional Family Members Program or eligible for an Individualized Education Plan, were you able to access special education services upon enrollment in school in Arkansas? (99)

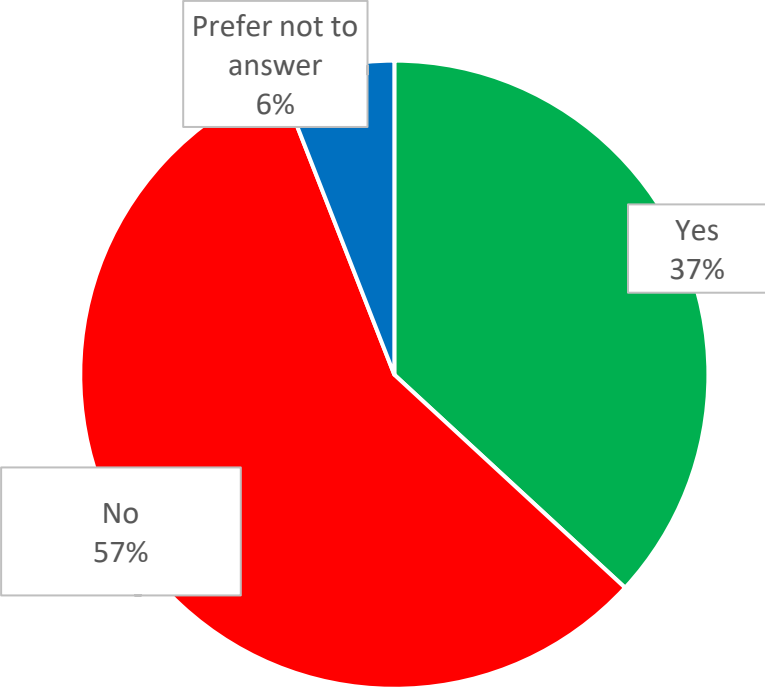


32. If your child is enrolled in the Exceptional Family Members Program or eligible for an Individualized Education Plan, were you able to access special education services upon enrollment in school in Arkansas? (99)

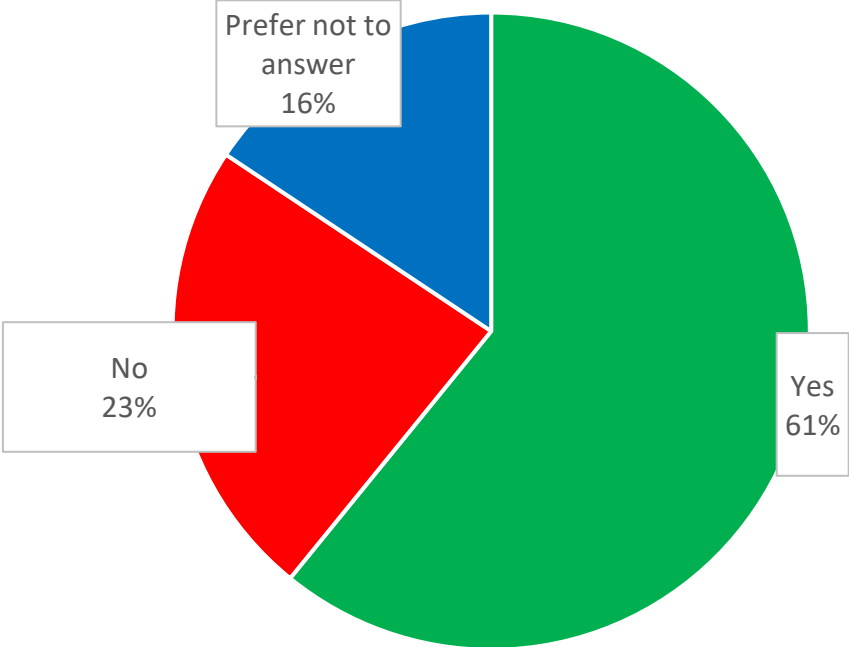
District	# unable to access special education services
Bryant School District	6
Bauxite School District	4
Greenwood School District	3
Prairie Grove School District	3
Searcy School District	3
Cabot School District	2
Conway School District	2
Van Buren School District	2
Alma School District	1
Bentonville School District	1
Clarksville School District	1
Fort Smith School District	1
Harmony Grove School District (Saline County)	1
Jessieville School District	1
Sheridan School District	1
Southside School District (Independence County)	1



33. During the past twelve months, has any member of your family experienced a need for mental or behavioral healthcare services? (237)

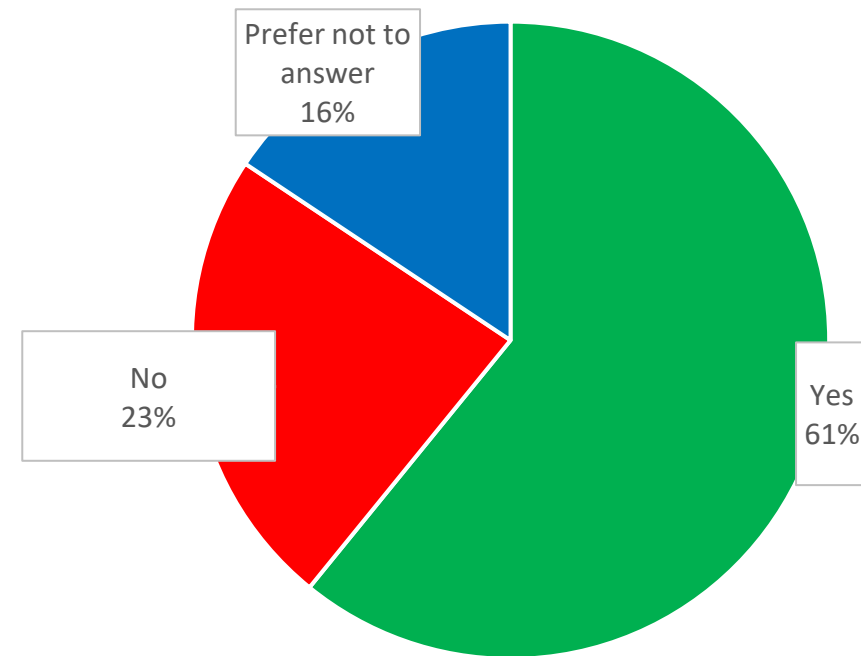


34. If you answered YES to the previous questions, was your family able to access mental/behavioral healthcare? (116)



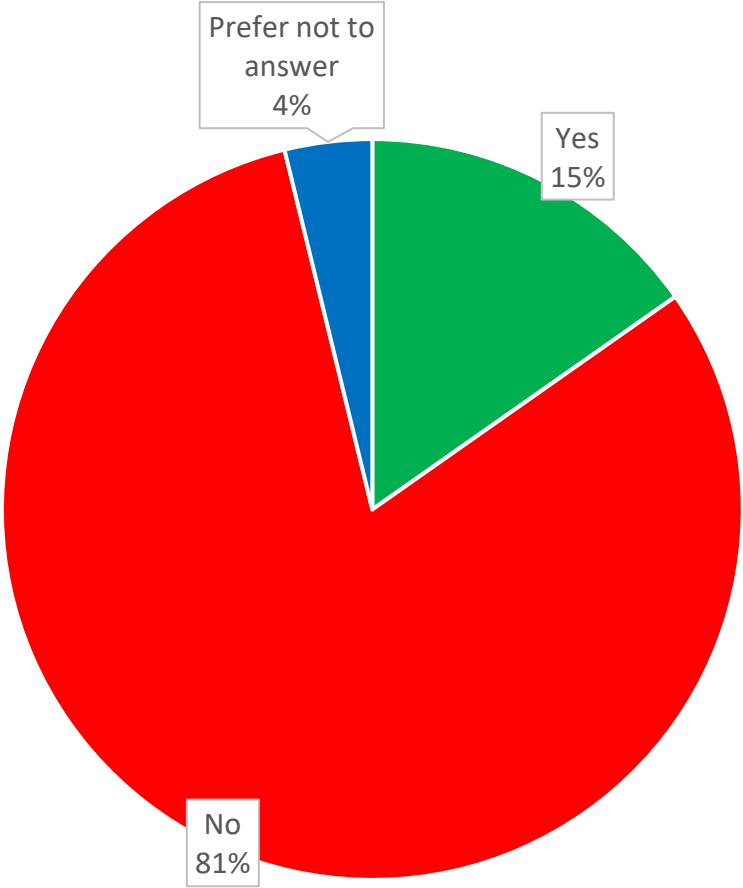
34. If you answered YES to the previous questions, was your family able to access mental/behavioral healthcare? (116)

District	# unable to access mental healthcare
Prairie Grove School District	4
Alma School District	3
Greenwood School District	3
Bauxite School District	2
Bryant School District	2
Conway School District	2
Searcy School District	2
Sheridan School District	2
Bentonville School District	1
Cabot School District	1
Greenbrier School District	1
Jessieville School District	1
Lavaca School District	1
Lincoln School District	1
Southside School District (Independence County)	1
Van Buren School District	1
Wynne School District	1



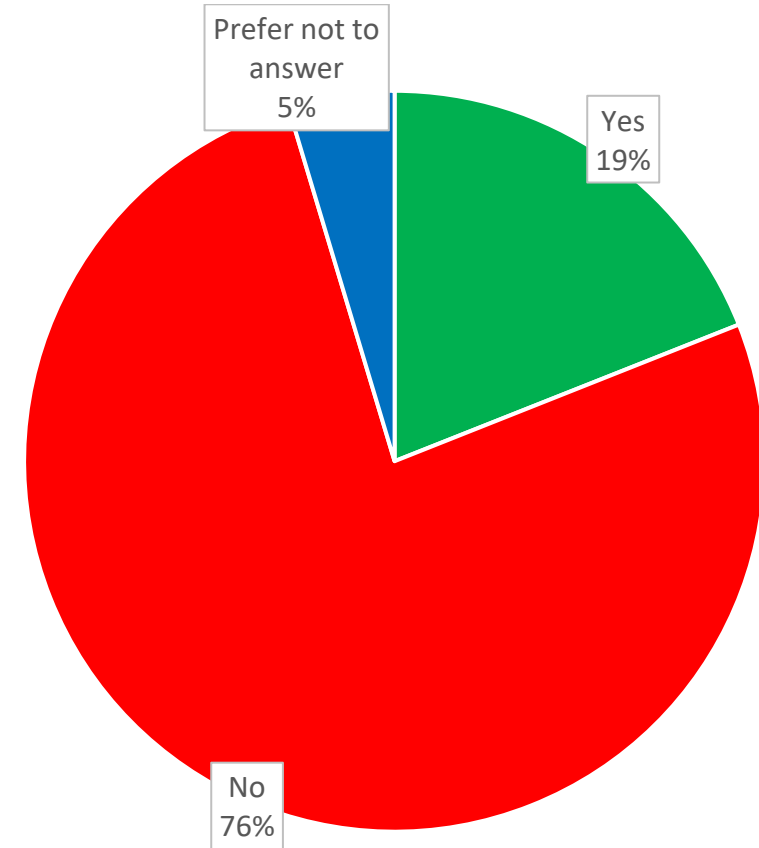
35. At any time during the past twelve months, has any member of your family been unable to access medical care when it was needed? (236)

District	# unable to access medical care
Prairie Grove School District	9
Bryant School District	6
Alma School District	3
Bentonville School District	2
Greenwood School District	2
Bauxite School District	1
Cedarville School District	1
Conway School District	1
Hackett School District	1
Jessieville School District	1
Mena School District	1
Searcy School District	1
Sheridan School District	1
Sloan-Hendrix School District	1
Southside School District (Independence County)	1
Wynne School District	1



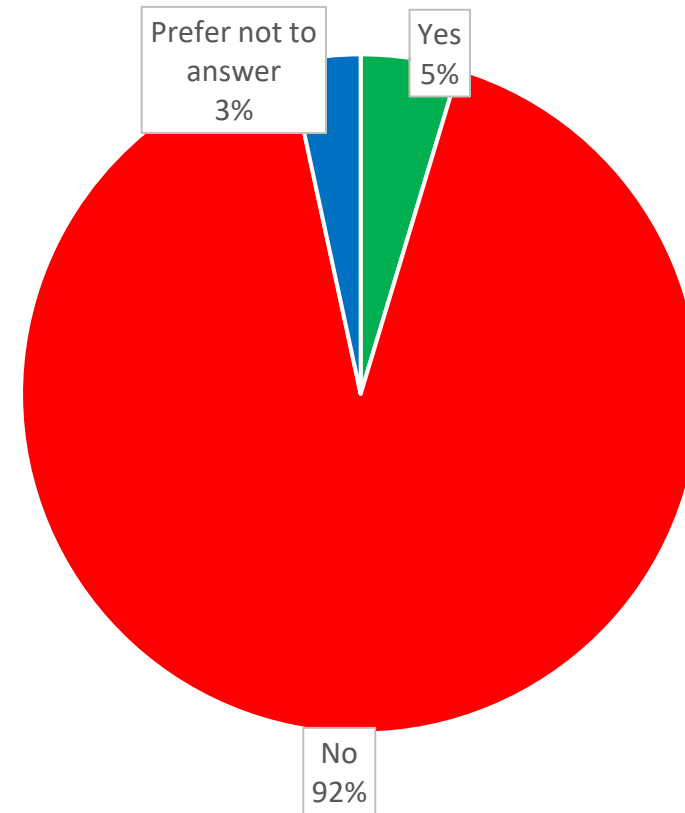
36. At any time during the past twelve months, has your family been unable to afford adequate groceries to feed your family? (237)

District	# unable to afford adequate groceries
Bryant School District	8
Prairie Grove School District	8
Searcy School District	5
Alma School District	3
Cabot School District	3
Greenwood School District	3
Bauxite School District	2
Cedarville School District	2
Sheridan School District	2
Bentonville School District	1
Greenbrier School District	1
Hackett School District	1
Jessieville School District	1
Lavaca School District	1
Mena School District	1
Southside School District (Independence County)	1
Wynne School District	1



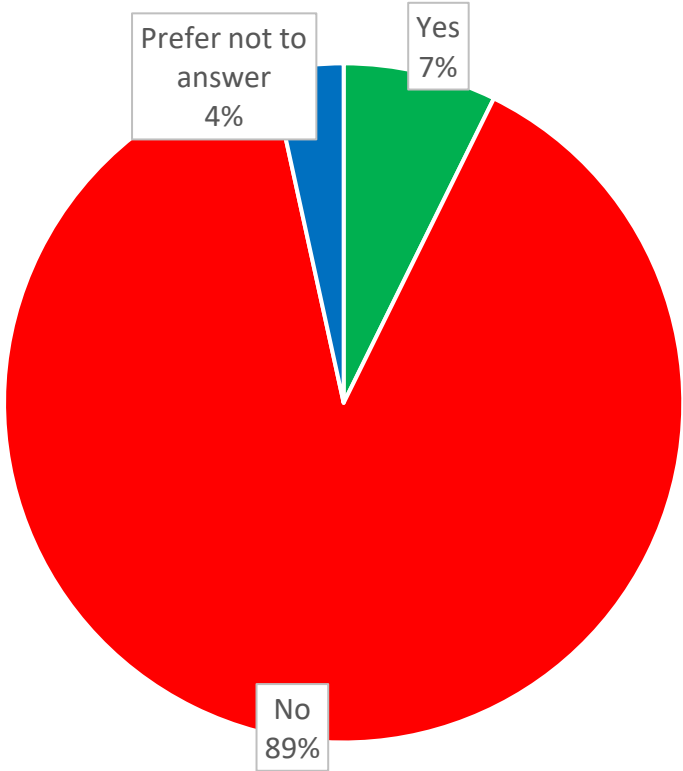
37. At any time during the past twelve months, has your family been unable to afford adequate housing? (236)

District	# unable to afford housing
Prairie Grove School District	4
Alma School District	2
Greenwood School District	2
Jessieville School District	1
Searcy School District	1
Sheridan School District	1



38. At any time during the past twelve months, has your family been unable to afford adequate childcare? (234)

District	# unable to afford childcare
Searcy School District	3
Alma School District	2
Greenwood School District	2
Prairie Grove School District	2
Bryant School District	1
Conway School District	1
Fort Smith School District	1
Genoa Central School District	1
Jacksonville North Pulaski School District	1
Jessieville School District	1
Sheridan School District	1
Wynne School District	1



Arkansas Council for Military Children Student Advisory Committee

The Arkansas Council for Military Children Student Advisory Committee (SAC) provides a means for children of military families to have direct, regular input to and interaction with the Arkansas Council for Military Children (the Council). The SAC consists of up to ~~five-four~~ students, one from each of Arkansas' four congressional districts ~~and an at large member from the Arkansas Military and First Responders Academy.~~

How are members of the SAC chosen?

Students interested in serving on the SAC apply during the spring of their sophomore year in high school. An ad hoc committee consisting of the Council chair, vice chair, and the chair of each of the Council's standing committees will review the applications and vote on whom to accept. Grades, discipline, attendance

How long do student advisors serve?

Student advisors chosen as rising juniors are expected to serve for two years. During the first year of the program, the Council will choose two rising seniors for a one-year term of service and three rising juniors for a two-year term of service. In each subsequent year the Council will accept applications for the vacancies occurring as its senior student advisors graduate.

Who is eligible?

Any rising junior enrolled in an Arkansas public, charter, or private school whose parent, stepparent, or legal guardian is currently serving in the military is eligible to apply. ~~The at large student advisor from the Arkansas Military and First responders Academy must be a student in good standing currently enrolled in JROTC at the Academy is eligible.~~

How does a student apply to become an advisor to the Council?

Students may apply online during March of their sophomore year. The Application consists of three parts:

- Online application form submitted by the student.
- Online endorsement submitted by the student's principal.
- Parental consent form hand-signed by the student's custodial parent or legal guardian, submitted as an attachment to the student's application.

How does the SAC function?

The SAC will be chaired a member of the Council (appointed by the Council chair) and will meet either in person or via web-based conferencing two to four times during the academic year. Student advisors may participate fully in all discussions during Council meetings, but may not vote.

What are the student advisors expected to do?

Each student advisor individually is expected to do the following:

- Attend at least four Council meetings during the academic year, either in person or via web-based conferencing.
- Host one Council meeting during the student advisor's two year term of service. The meeting may be held at the student advisor's school or at another public venue approved by the Council.
- Serve as an advisor to one of the Council's standing committees.
- Promote activities for Month of the Military Child in his/her school.

Collectively, the SAC is expected to do the following:

- Present a written and verbal report to the Council at its November and May meetings.
- Provide a written addendum to the Council's annual report to the Governor, House and Senate Education Committees, and State Board of Education.

What does the student advisor receive?

Each student advisor will receive credit for a minimum of six community service learning hours and a maximum of twelve community service learning hours per academic year with credit to be awarded (see schedule for awarding credit) as follows:

- One hour for each Council meeting the student advisor attends virtually
- Two hours for each Council meeting the student advisor hosts
- One half hour for each Committee meeting the student advisor attend, including meetings of the SAC
- One half hour for each semi-annual report the student advisor prepares and presents
- One hour for participation in developing the addendum to the Council's annual report

The Council chair will report each student advisor's community service learning hours annually to the student advisor's school district. Upon conclusion of the student advisor's term of service, the student advisor will receive a certificate of service from the Council and the opportunity to use Council members as references.

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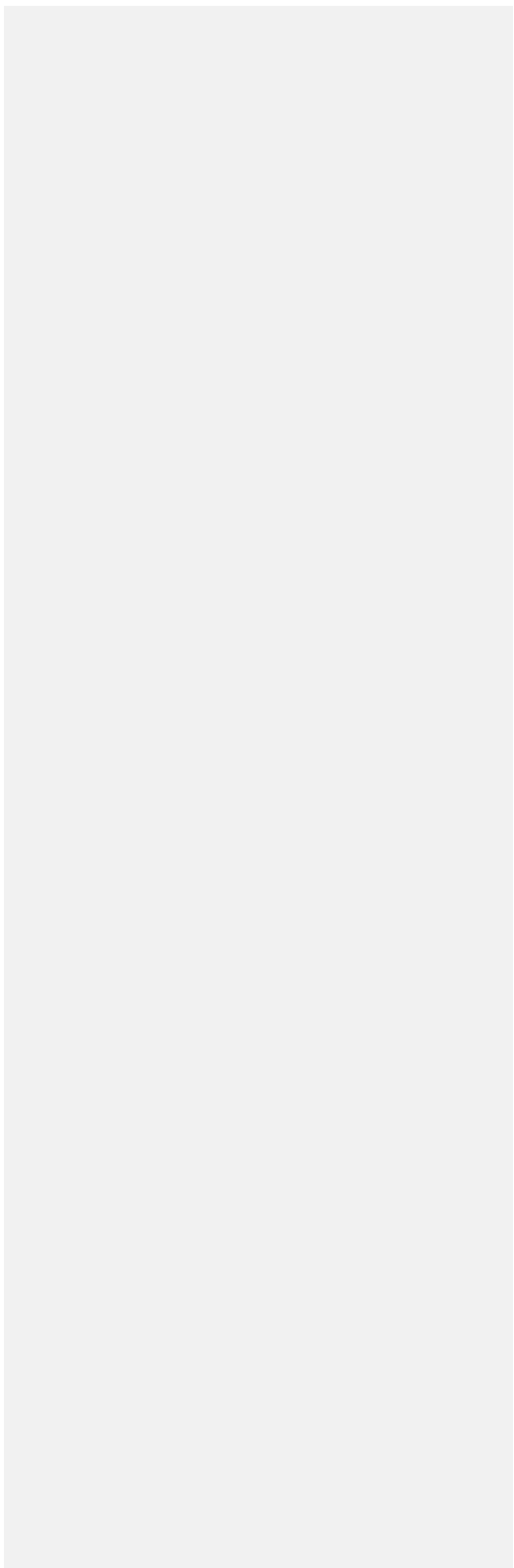
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What is the student advisor's school expected to do?

By submitting the endorsement form online, the student advisor's principal agrees to do the following:

- Excuse the student advisor's absence from school to attend Council or committee meetings
- Award credit for community service learning as reported by the Council
- Host one Council meeting on site during the student advisor's two-year term of service

DRAFT





ACMC

ARKANSAS COUNCIL FOR MILITARY CHILDREN

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, more than 14,000 Arkansans exhibit profound courage and selflessness by serving in the armed forces; and

WHEREAS, more than 6,400 military children attend public school in the State of Arkansas; and

WHEREAS, military families live and work in every county in the State of Arkansas; and

WHEREAS, military children face unique challenges related to military transitions and parental deployment; and

WHEREAS, military children and their families serve as an essential source of support and encouragement for armed service members; and

WHEREAS, military children should be acknowledged for the sacrifices they make and celebrated for the courage they display as the children of our nation's armed service members; and

WHEREAS, the Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission, of which Arkansas is a proud member, the Department of Defense, and various other organizations nationwide recognize April as the Month of the Military Child;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Arkansas Council for Military Children recognizes and salutes military children by recognizing the month of April 2024, as the Month of the Military Child and April 19, 2024 as Purple Up! Day.

Chair

Date

Secretary

Date