

## April 2026 - Month of the Military Child Let's Celebrate!

*Celebrating the Month of the Military Child and Purple Up! Day encourages collaboration between school districts, military, community, and local officials.*

*Consider collaborating with Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) or American Legion in your community to expand awareness and increase community buy-in.*

*Don't forget to tag **#MIC3Compact** and **#purpleup4militarykids** to share your celebration and events!*

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### Classroom

**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 lived or traveled, family members' service memorabilia, parts of a uniform, patches, coins, etc.)

**Field Trip.** Take a class trip to a military installation. This could be an active-duty installation, a National Guard Armory, or an armed forces reserve center or complex. Meet with some of the service members and learn about what they do.

**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.

**Show-n-Tell.** Have students bring in something military related, such as memorabilia from an installation or service branch, favorite airplane, or a book.

**Share Stories.** Create an atmosphere in individual classrooms to bring awareness of military students' 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.

### School

**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.

**Kick-Off Breakfast.** Kick off the Month of the Military Child with a breakfast or lunch for military-connected children in school. Include their parents or other family members associated with the military.

**Special Announcements.** Have a military child do the announcements and share an interesting fact about their life as a military child.

**Daily Factoids.** Have a daily or weekly announcement with military-connected student facts. Start with the national facts and move into school facts.

**Dress Up Theme Day.** Have a dress-up theme for each week in April. Ideas include favorite service logo day, patriotic day, etc.

**Adopt a Service Member.** Adopt a deployed service member or unit. Send cards, letters, and care packages to deployed troops.

**Wall of Heroes.** Create a Hero Wall to honor members. They could be family members of students or historical figures.

**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.

**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.

**Military Family Liaison.** Designate a faculty member as the school's "go-to" person to help military families. Post the liaison's information on the school web site.

**Sports Tournament/Field Day.** Organize a field day or sports tournament. Divide the students into teams representing different branches of the military. Encourage the participants to wear the color of the military branch they represent. Invite the local media to cover the event.

**Military Ball.** Host a school dance with a military theme. Decorate the venue in patriotic colors (or purple!) Invite a military parent as the guest of honor.

**Salute.** Invite neighboring JROTC to your campus for a demonstration or schedule a flag presentation or ceremony during assembly.

**Ribbons.** Tie 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.

**Military Parade.** Ask students to 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.

**Teachers Salute Military Children.** Ask teachers at your school to make a special project with their classes such as a picture frame, bookmark, journal, etc., that ties into the Month of the Military Child.

## District

**Purple Up Day.** Observe Purple Up Day. Challenge students, faculty, and staff to wear purple. Class with the most purple wins a prize. Share photos on social media! While MIC3 has selected Wednesday, April 22, 2026 as Purple Up! Day, each state and/or school district can select any day during the month of April.

**Art & Essay Contest** Allow students to express what being a military child means through

creative writing, posters, or digital art. Recognize the best entries in a districtwide event.

**District School Board Meeting.** Invite military families to attend the April district school board meeting. Read a brief biography of each family and present the families to the board. Have the board chairperson formally thank the military families for their service and sacrifice.

**Highlight April as Month of the Military Child.** Highlight on the district and/or school marquee, and feature in staff and parent newsletters.

### Community + State

**Purple in Power.** Encourage your local policy making body (city council, district school board, county quorum court), elected officials, or your Governor's office to wear purple at their April meeting. Take pictures and post on Facebook, Instagram, or feature in the local newspaper.

**State Proclamation.** Request a proclamation through the governor's office or legislative body to recognize April as the Month of the Military Child.

**Leader Statement or Endorsement.** Ask your state education or district superintendent to endorse a media release, public statement, sign a letter to encourage districts and schools to celebrate military children. Templates: <https://mic3.net/motmc/>

**Paint the Town Purple.** Ask local businesses and government agencies (city hall, county courthouse, etc.) to hang purple wreaths, ribbons, bows, etc. on their buildings during Purple Up week.

**Social Media.** Utilize: **#MIC3Compact** and **#purpleup4militarykids** when posting on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc.

**Light it Up!** Get a local landmark or street (e.g., State Capitol, Governor's Mansion, bridge, or building), district office or school building lit up with purple lights.

**Chalk Art.** Ask families and students to decorate the sidewalk at school, at home, or at a park and share through social media.

**Salute to Military Children at Sporting Events.** The announcer could make a special announcement before, during or after sporting events recognizing all military children – could raise the flag, sing the National Anthem or recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Engagement.** Encourage leadership by military-connected students in the planning and implementation of the activities.

Please remember to send your event information and pictures to the National Office and utilize include **#MIC3Compact** and **#purpleup4militarykids** on social media.

For more information, contact the National Office at [mic3info@csg.org](mailto:mic3info@csg.org) or 859.244.8000