

Purple Star Campus Support

Session 2: Identifying Military-Connected Students



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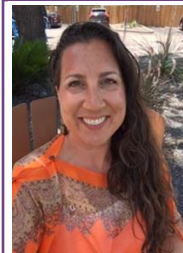


Introductions



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Collaboration and Partnership

Texas Education Agency (TEA) partners with Military Child Education Coalition (MCEC®) to provide:

- 5-Part Professional Learning Community (PLC) Series
- Professional Development (PD) Training
- Office Hours
- Research based tools and resources to share best practices



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2025-26 SY Purple Star Campus Support PLC Series

TEA, in collaboration with MCEC, is providing PD and office hours for campuses who are implementing or working towards the PSCD.

Our goal is to provide coaching, support, and strengthened guidance.

Purple Star Campus Support
Professional Learning Community & Office Hours



Save the Dates!

Wednesdays
2:00 – 3:30 p.m. CST
(Purple Star Office Hours are held in the last 30 minutes of each PLC session)

- September 17, 2025
- October 22, 2025
- November 19, 2025
- January 21, 2026
- February 18, 2026

Register Here!



To register for this series, open the camera app on your mobile phone and hover over the QR code, or click here: [REGISTER](#)

Open to all school professionals and educators at the district and campus level.

The Texas Education Agency (TEA) is pleased to announce a free, specialized professional development opportunity for school professionals and educators working towards the Purple Star Campus Designation (PSCD). TEA, in collaboration with the Military Child Education Coalition® (MCEC®), is proud to offer a 5-part Professional Learning Community series, that includes professional development and Purple Star office hours to strengthen support for campuses who are implementing or working towards PSCD. The PLC will take place throughout the 25-26 school year, September 2025 through February 2026.

Professional Learning Community (PLC) is a great way for educators to collaborate with and tap into a network of peers and partners to support military-connected students. This PLC is designed for school professionals and educators at campuses across Texas that have earned or are working towards the PSCD.

Each PLC is unique, so plan to attend all five! During each session, you will be presented with a 15- to 20-minute lesson on best practices, followed by a real case or situation for discussion. Through a structured process, you will learn from one another and subject matter experts, bringing tangible knowledge back to your campus and Purple Star Campus Program.

Purple Star Office Hours are held immediately following each PLC and serve as a dedicated time for school professionals to receive personalized support from MCEC's Military Student Consultants (MSCs). These highly specialized education professionals bring extensive experience and deep knowledge of the Purple Star process, and are available to answer questions, provide targeted feedback, and offer expert guidance on all aspects of the Purple Star Campus program. Whether you're seeking clarity on program implementation or looking for strategies to better support military-connected students and families, MSCs are here to help ensure your campus efforts are impactful and aligned with best practices.

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Learning Objectives

- Explore demographic data to better understand the unique characteristics and needs of military-connected students.
- Review current practices for identifying military-connected students and consider ways to enhance the identification process.
- Share and discuss practical strategies for identifying military-connected students and engaging families, staff, and leadership in meaningful ways.



Overarching Goal

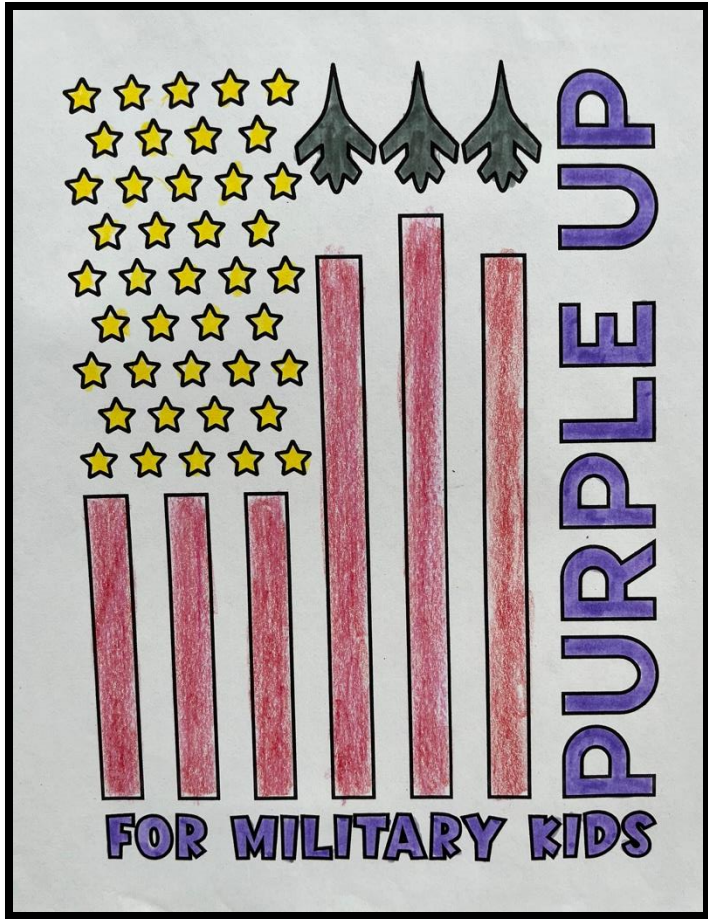


Photo Credit: Waller ISD Purple Up Celebration 2025

Participants will be able to utilize the Military Student Identifier (MSI) data to support military-connected students.



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Let's Chat...



Do you know which students at your campus are military-connected (MCS)?

How does your campus identify MCS?



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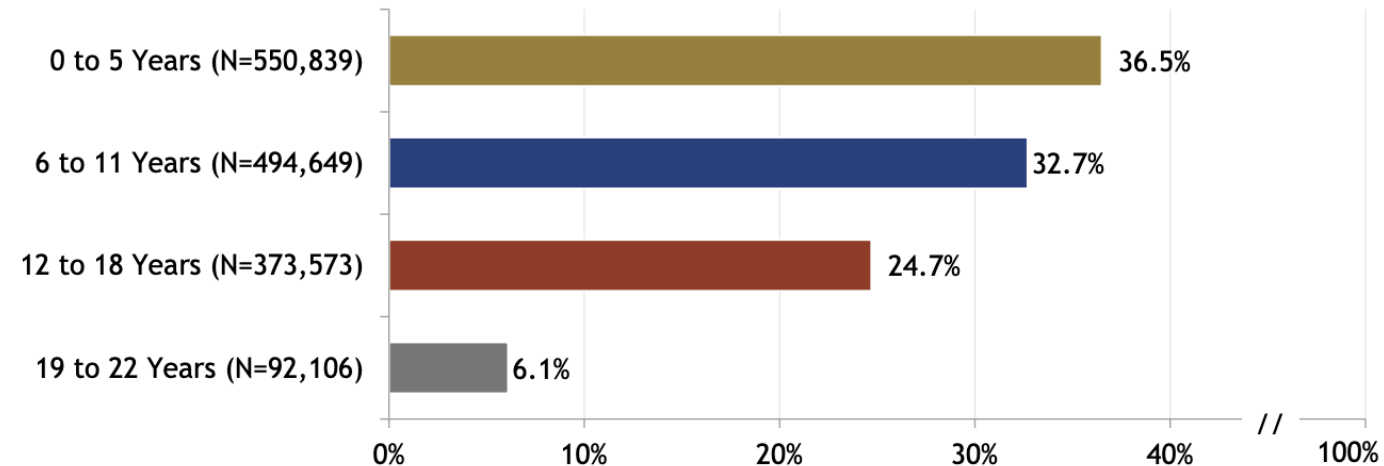




Who are Military-Connected Students? (National Data)

4.08 | Age of DOD Force Children (N=1,511,167)

Of the 1,511,167 children, more than two-thirds (69.2%) are 11 years of age or younger.



Note: Children ages 21 to 22 must be enrolled as full-time students in order to qualify as dependents.

Note: Displayed percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

Source: DMDC Active-Duty Military Family File (September 2023); DMDC Reserve Components Family File (September 2023)

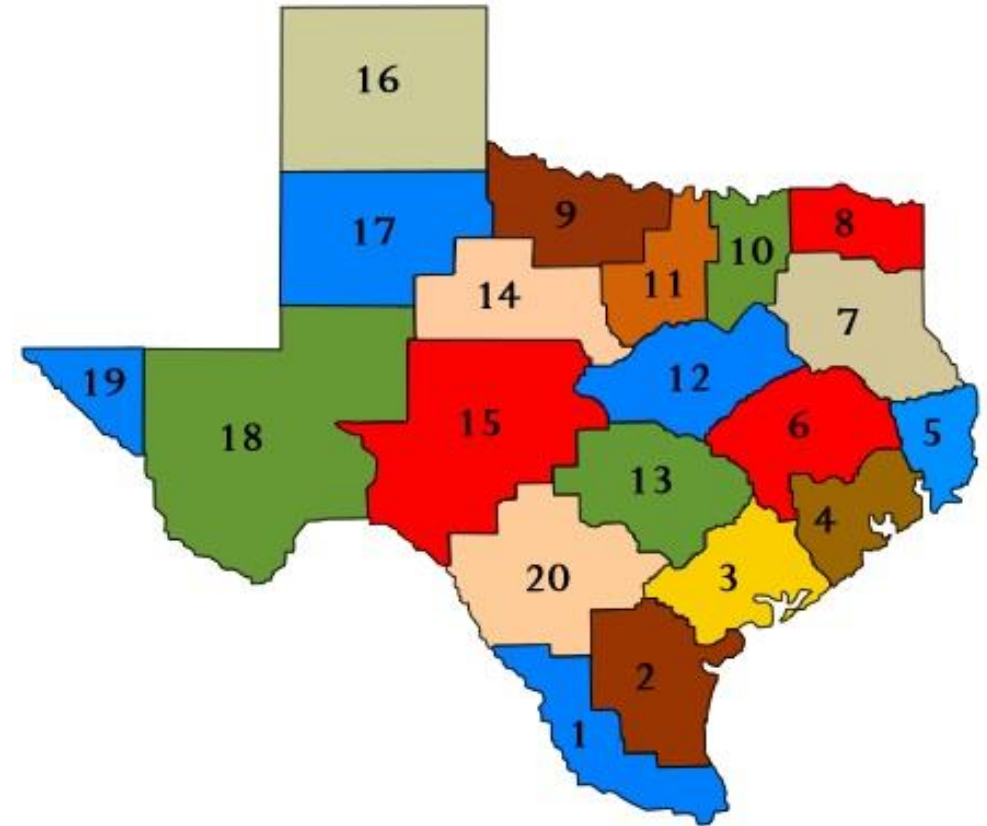


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Military-Connected Students in Texas (PEIMS Data)

REGION (ESC)	AREA	TOTAL # of M-C STUDENTS
20	San Antonio	40,518
12	Waco	35,304
04	Houston	27,640
11	Fort Worth	25,891
10	Richardson	18,730
19	El Paso	15,932
13	Austin	10,219
06	Huntsville	5,757
01	Edinburg	5,232
02	Corpus Christi	4,970
07	Kilgore	4,802
14	Abilene	3,890
15	San Angelo	2,628
09	Wichita Falls	2,580
16	Amarillo	2,157
05	Beaumont	1,820
18	Midland	1,487
08	Mount Pleasant	1,396
17	Lubbock	1,193
03	Victoria	892



**Based on SY 2023-24 Fall PEIMS (October Snapshot) submission data*



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Let's Chat...

Does your campus or district use an online registration form that includes a way to identify military-connected students?

If so, when and how is the first meaningful contact made with those students and their families—and what does that interaction look like?



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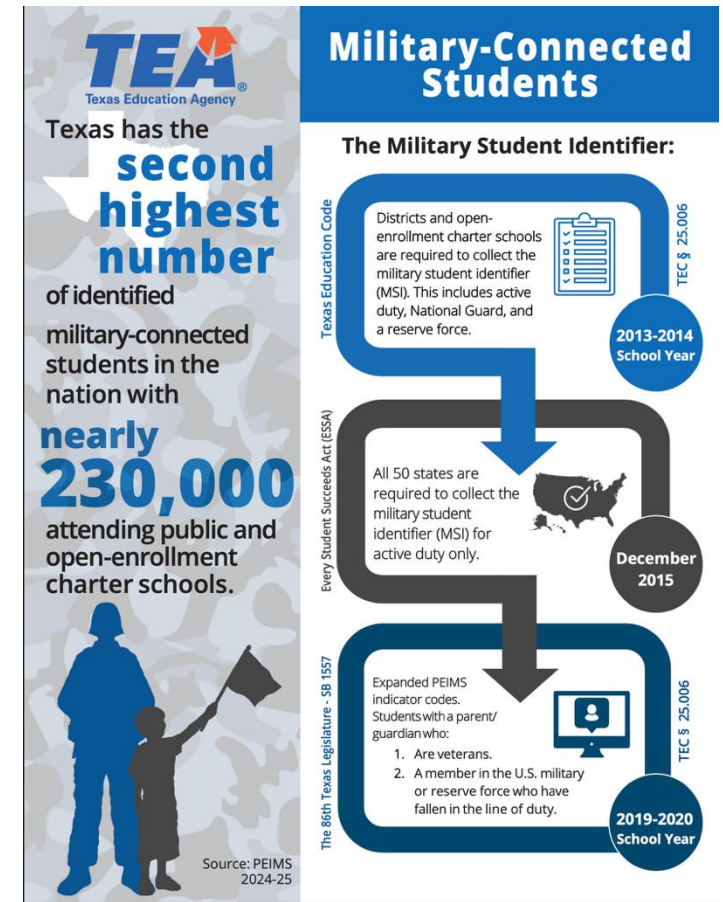
Background of Military Student Identifier (MSI)

- The MSI facilitates the identification of active-duty military-connected students in public schools. (ESSA 2015)
- TEC 25.006 was amended in 2019 to include dependents of National Guard, reserve forces, and those killed in the line of duty.
- Best practices include extending support to veteran and retiree students and families

Military Student Identifier (MSI)

The MSI enables the school system to:

- Identify military-connected students and their families upon enrollment
- Inform best practices for campus transition programs
- Evaluate records and transcripts
- Academic and mental health screening



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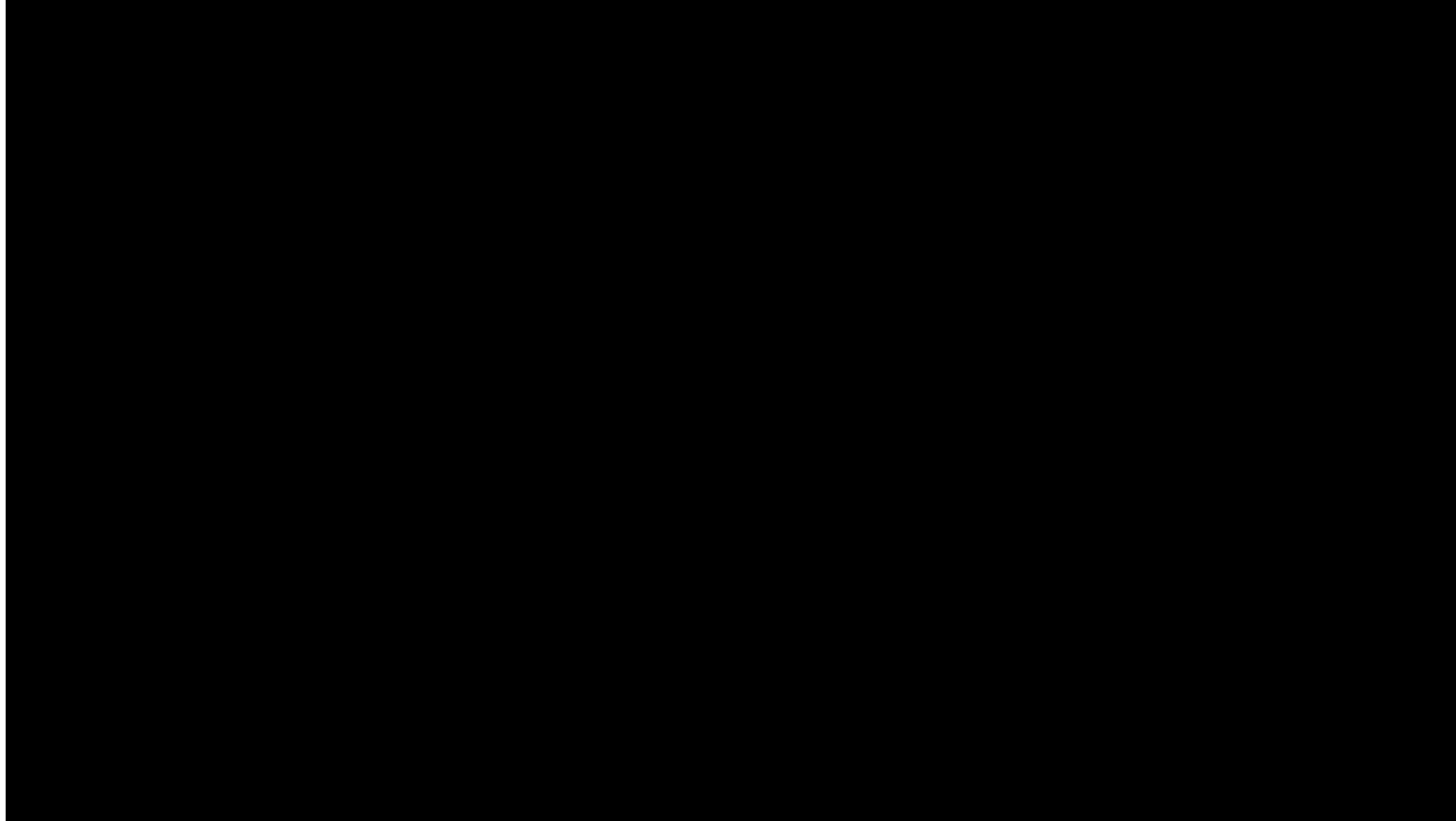


<https://tea.texas.gov/about-tea/other-services/military-student-identifier-msi-infographics.pdf>





Using the Military Student Identifier (MSI)



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Example of Military Student Identifier (MSI) Form



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Frequently Asked Questions

Suggested Use for Military Student Identifier Code

Sample: Military Student Identifier Classification Codes Form

Military Student Identifier Code Classification:

Please complete this form, sign, and return with the enrollment packet.

Check box for military affiliation:			__Army	__Navy	__Air Force
			__Marine Corps	__Space Force	__Coast Guard
Yes	No	Decline to Answer	Check box that applies best to your student:		
			Dependent of an active-duty member of the US Armed Forces		
			Dependent of a full-time or part-time member of the National Guard or Reserve force of the United States military		
			Dependent of a veteran or retiree of the US Armed Forces (including National Guard or Reserve forces)		
			None of the above		
			Gold Star Family Member		
			Caregiver of service member wounded in action		

For students in grades Kindergarten through 12:

1. Is the student a dependent of an active-duty member of the United States military?
☐ Yes ☐ No
2. Is the student a dependent of a current member of the Texas National Guard (Army, Air Guard, or State Guard)?
☐ Yes ☐ No
3. Is the student a dependent of a current member of a reserve force in the United States military?
☐ Yes ☐ No

For pre-kindergarten students only:

4. Is the student a dependent of an active-duty member of the armed forces of the United States, including the state military forces or a reserve component of the armed forces, who is ordered to active duty by proper authority or who was injured or killed while serving on active duty?
☐ Yes ☐ No

For students in grades Kindergarten through 12:

5. Is the student a dependent of a former member of the following: the United States military, the Texas National guard (Army, Air Guard, or State Guard), or a reserve force in the United States military?
☐ Yes ☐ No
6. Is the student a dependent of a member of a military or reserve force in the United States military who was killed in the line of duty?
☐ Yes ☐ No



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Military Student Identifier SY 2023- 2025



Military Status (PEIMS Code)	2023	2024	2025
Active Duty in US Military (1)	68,103	62,436	60,531
TX National Guard (2)	6,665	6,415	6,848
Reserve Force (3)	11,440	11,248	11,288
Pre-K (4)	8,878	9,102	9,279
Veteran (5)	102,483	121,629	139,479
Fallen in the Line of Duty (6)	1,757	2,208	1,967
Total MCS	199,326	213,038	229,392



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Military-Connected Students Coding

Table ID		Name	Date Issued	Date Updated
C197		MilitaryConnectedStudent	08/01/2013	09/01/2023
Descriptor	Short Description	Long Description		
1	KG-12 Dependent Active-Duty US Military	Student in grade KG – 12 is a dependent of an active-duty member of the United States military		
2	KG-12 Dependent Current Member of TX National Guard	Student in grade KG – 12 is a dependent of a current member of the Texas National Guard (Army, Air Guard, or State Guard)		
3	KG-12 Dependent Current Member Reserve Force US Military	Student in grade KG – 12 is a dependent of a current member of a reserve force in the United States military		
4	PK Dependent Active-Duty US Military Or Reserve, Killed On Active Duty	Prekindergarten student is: 1) a dependent of an active-duty member of the armed forces of the United States, including the state military forces or a reserve component of the armed forces, who is ordered to active duty by proper authority, or 2) is the child of a member of the armed forces of the United States, including the state military forces or a reserve component of the armed forces, who was injured or killed while serving on active duty. Note: A student remains eligible for enrollment if the child's parent leaves the armed forces or is no longer on active duty after the child begins a prekindergarten class.		
5	KG-12 Dependent Former US Military, TX National Guard, Reserve US Military	Student in grade KG – 12 is a dependent of a former member of one of the following: - the United States military - the Texas National Guard (Army, Air Guard, or State Guard) - a reserve force in the United States military		
6	KG-12 Dependent Military Or Reserve US Military Killed In Line Of Duty	Student in grade KG – 12 was a dependent of a member of a military or reserve force in the United States military who was killed in the line of duty		



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Let's Chat...



How does your campus or district currently communicate with school leaders and staff when a new military-connected student enrolls—and how effective is that process?



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Problem of Practice



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Case Study



A campus is located near a military installation. They serve a diverse student population and have a high percentage of military-connected students.

However, the campus has struggled to accurately identify and support these students due to a lack of clear identification methods, often resulting in lack of comprehensive support for these students.



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Case Study



Challenges:

1. Accurate Identification: Students not being identified due to an unclear process.
2. Reporting and Notification Methods: Staff on campus don't know their military-connected students, because information is not being shared.
3. Support Implementation: A lack of academic, social, and emotional support programs due to no data being gathered on these students.



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Questions to Ask



How can a campus develop a clear, standardized process to identify military-connected students?

Is PEIMS coding crucial in this process? Training of staff?

What system can be used to notify campus staff of military-connected students on campus?

Why is this important?

What are some ways that a campus can gather data from military-connected students and their families to develop targeted support programs ?



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Military Student Identifier Recommendations (a)



Disaggregate assessment results within each School System (e.g., school district and open-enrollment charter schools)



School systems include this information in their school report cards.



Demographic and performance data to determine program effectiveness.



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Reference: [*Center for Public Research and Leadership
\(2022\) Purple Star School Program*](#)





Military Student Identifier Recommendations (b)

To improve and personalize academic and social/emotional responses for the unique military-connected students.

Consider military-connected students as a unique subgroup in their curriculum design and planning.

Provide local education agencies with quality, actionable data concerning their military-connected students.



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Reference: [*Center for Public Research and Leadership
\(2022\) Purple Star School Program*](#)





Recommended Strategies

- Ensure use of the Military Student Identifier (PEIMS) codes in questionnaire upon enrollment.
- Provide MSI bi-annual training for school registrars and data processors.
- Utilize the school/district webpage to educate parents and advocate for the use of the MSI.
- Establish standard operating procedures for the use of annual MSI data collection upon enrollment.
- Publish MSI annual data with school and community stakeholders.

Resources and Tools



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Helpful Resources - PD Resources and Tools

Supporting Military-Connected Students Professional Development Resources and Tools

This document provides free, national comprehensive professional development resources for Purple Star Campus Designees across Texas. Tailored to meet the needs of K-12 education and other youth-serving professionals, this repository is categorized by topic and role specificity. The *Purple Star Rise* module resource, developed in collaboration with the Texas Education Agency and the Military Child Education Coalition®, is designed to support campus-based military liaisons, educators, counselors, campus administrators, and other youth-serving professionals as they serve military-connected students and families.



The Military Child Education Coalition (MCEC®) serves as a subject matter expert in supporting military-connected students in K-12 settings. Through training, events, programs, initiatives, and support resources, MCEC equips professional educators, administrators, and other youth serving professionals with the necessary tools and insight to effectively support military-connected students and families.



Other youth serving professionals are school counselors, school psychologists, school social workers, Military Family Life Counselors (MFLCs), behavioral and education specialists, transition specialists, paraprofessionals, custodial and cafeteria staff, and service resource officers (SROs) working with military-connected students in K-12 settings.

- PSCD [Professional Development Resources and Tools](#) (PDF)



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Upcoming Session

PLC Session 3 and Office Hours

- Topic: Developing a Purple Star Advisory Committee
- Date: November 19, 2025
- Time: 2:00 - 3:30 PM (CST)
Last 30 minutes reserved for Office Hours



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Upcoming Sessions



Date	Session	Title
November 19, 2025	Session 3	Developing a Purple Star Advisory Committee
January 21, 2026	Session 4	Activities and Event Planning
February 18, 2026	Session 5	Preparing for Redesignation



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Reflection on Learning

Three insights you have gained from today's session.

Two actions you will take to assist your district and campus with identifying military-connected students.

One topic you would like to learn more about at our next session.

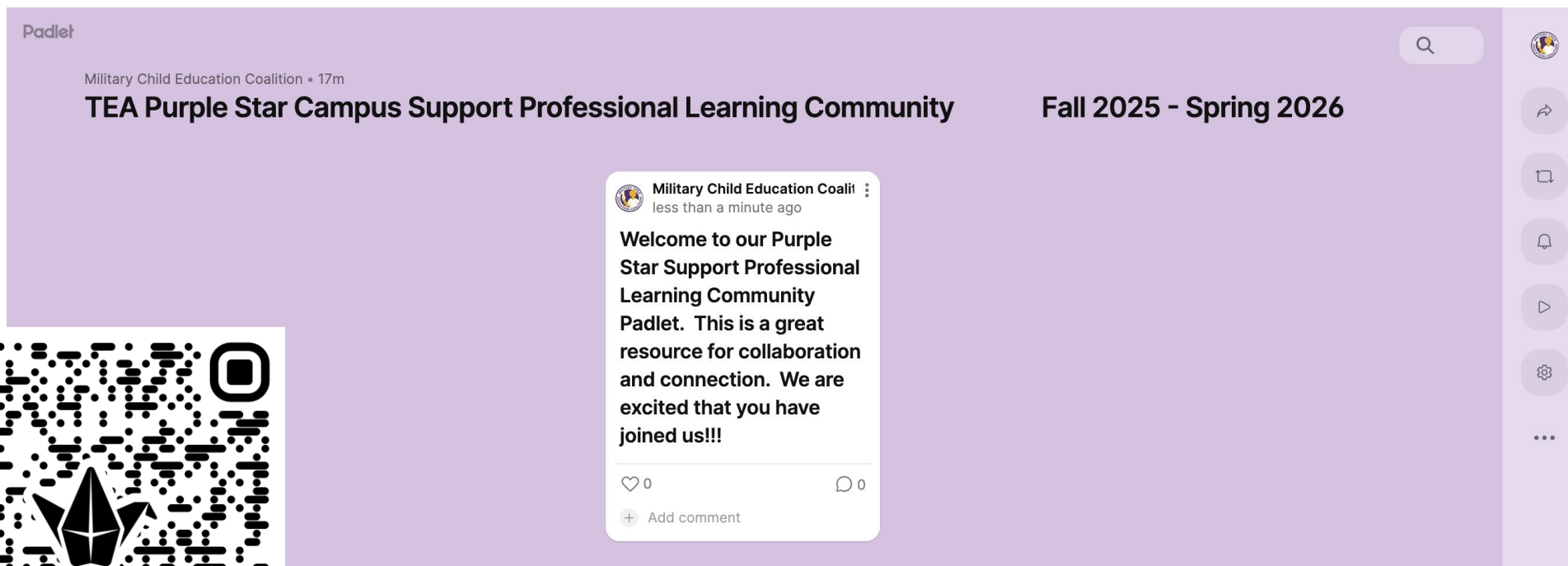
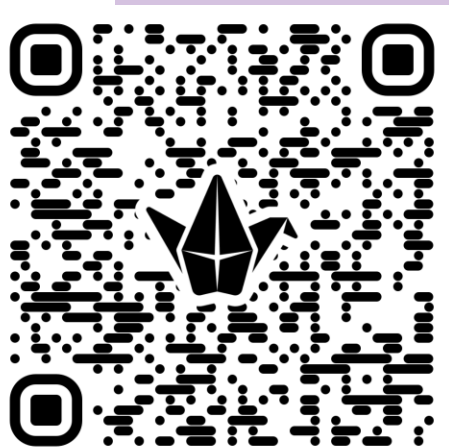


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TEA Purple Star Campus Support Padlet



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National Veterans & Military Families Appreciation Month Toolkit

Each November, we recognize the service, sacrifice, and strength of our nation's Veterans and the families who support them. The Texas Education Agency is proud to provide this toolkit to help schools, educators, and communities across our state join in honoring military-connected students and families.



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Share Your Feedback

**Please use this QR Code or
Chat box link to let us know about
your experience in today's session.**



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