Purple Star Campus Support

Session 1: A Roadmap to Purple Star Campus Designation

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Introductions

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Collaboration and Partnership

Texas Education Agency partners with MCEC® to provide:

- 3-Part Professional Learning Community Series
- Professional Development Training
- Office Hours
- Research based tools and resources to share best practices

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Welcome to the Professional Learning Community PD Series for the 2026-27 School Year

We are back! TEA, in collaboration with MCEC, is providing professional development and office hours for campuses who are implementing or working towards the Purple Star Campus Designation.

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

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Learning Objectives

- Understand the requirements of the Purple Star Campus Designation (PSCD)
- Discuss the benefits of a Purple Star Campus Program
- Examine Purple Star Campus implementation recommendations

Overarching Goal

Participants will understand all the components needed for a Purple Star Campus Designation in support of military-connected students.

Let's Chat...

Have you had any experience working with military-connected students and families?

What have you learned about the military lifestyle?

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Supporting Military Families

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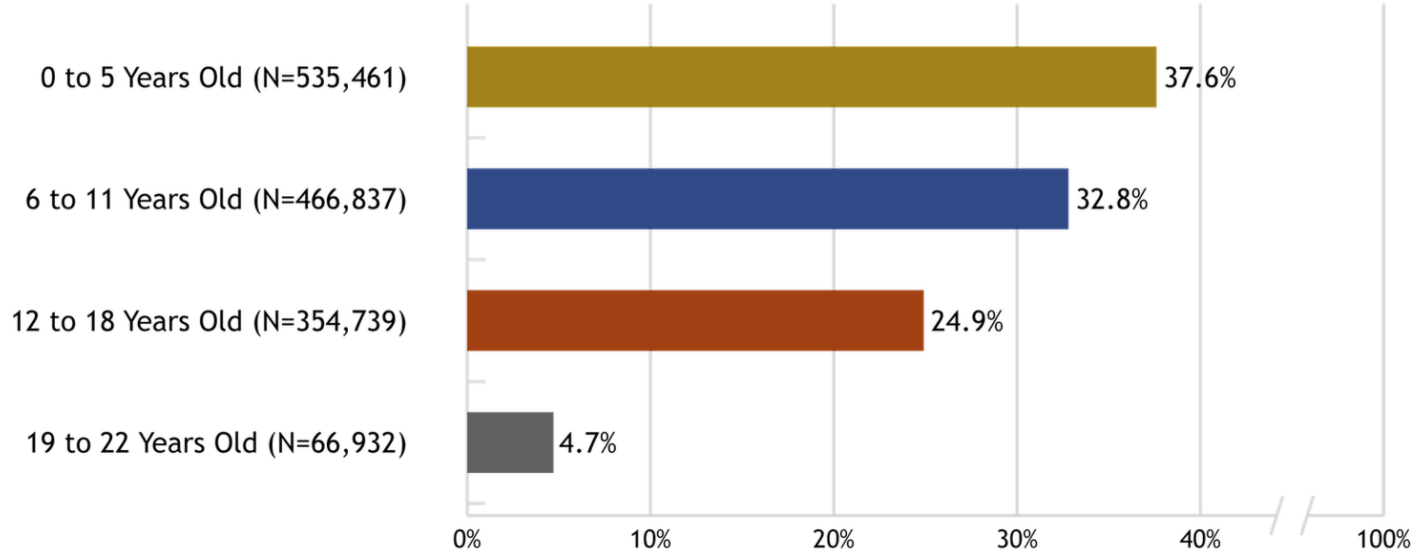
Who are Military-Connected Students? (National Data)

4.08 | Age of DOD Force Children (N=1,423,969)

Of the 1,423,969 military children, more than two-thirds (70.4%) are 11 years old 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 Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System, Point-in-Time Extract (September 2024)

**Based on 2024 Department of Defense Demographics Report*

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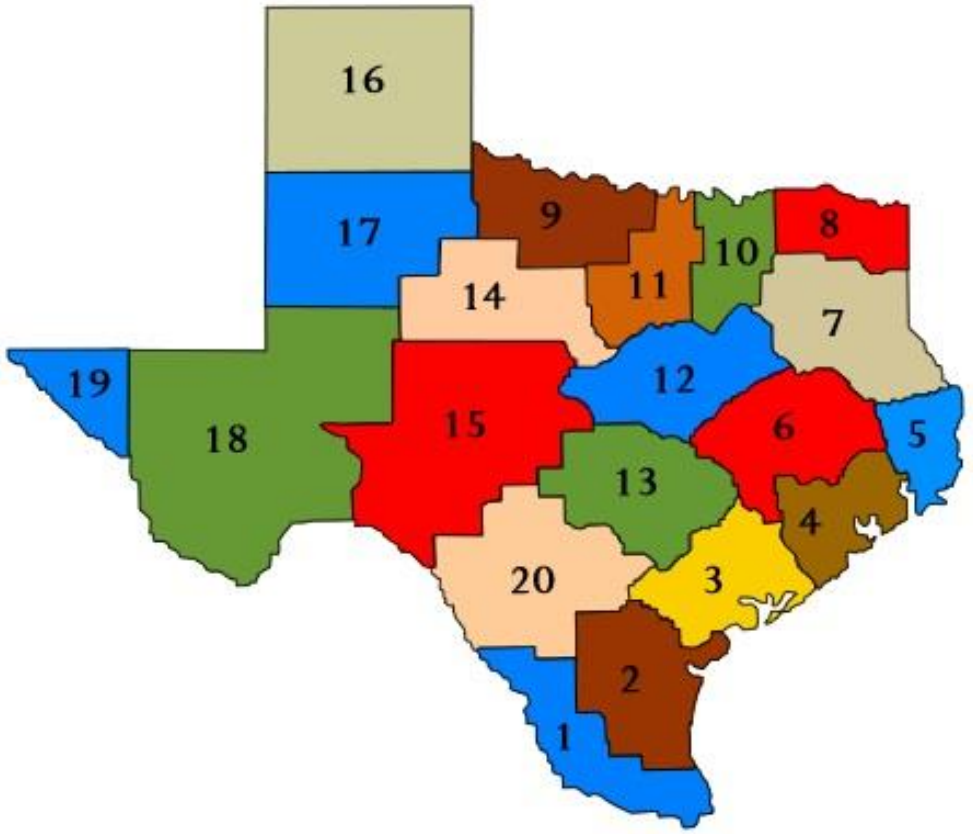
Military-Connected Students in Texas (PEIMS Data)

REGION (ESC)	AREA	TOTAL # of M-C STUDENTS
20	San Antonio	41,596
12	Waco	34,220
04	Houston	31,652
11	Fort Worth	27,822
10	Richardson	24,431
19	El Paso	19,140
13	Austin	11,124
01	Edinburg	10,653
06	Huntsville	9,554
07	Kilgore	5,260
02	Corpus Christi	4,496
14	Abilene	4,480
09	Wichita Falls	2,806
15	San Angelo	2,615
16	Amarillo	2,307
18	Midland	2,109
05	Beaumont	2,034
08	Mount Pleasant	1,658
17	Lubbock	1,454
03	Victoria	1,151



*Based on SY 2025-26 PEIMS (October Snapshot) submission data

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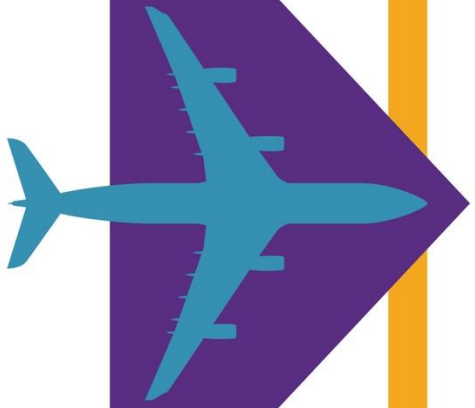
Facts About Military Children and Youth

MILITARY-CONNECTED
CHILDREN
MOVE 6-9X
DURING THEIR K-12 EDUCATION



Military-connected children move and change schools 3 TIMES more often than their civilian peers.

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Challenges of Military Families

- Transitions
  - Academic
  - Social/Emotional
- PCS/Moves
- Deployments/Separations
- Unpredictability
- Uniqueness of each family's situation

Let's Chat...

Why is a Purple Star Campus Designation important?

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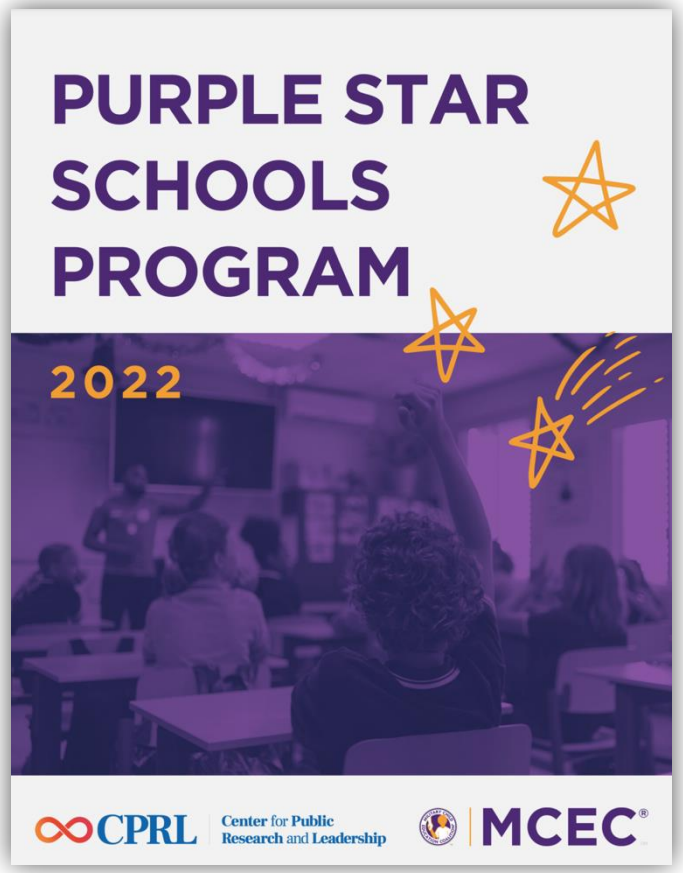
Purple Star Campus Overview

Purple Star Campus Designation:

- School Districts & Open-enrollment Charter Schools
- Size of military-connected student population
- Application process and criteria requirement

Purple Star Campus Designation

- Campus-based Military Liaison
- Campus Webpage for Military Families
- Campus Transition Program
- Military Initiatives



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Benefits of a Purple Star Campus

The Purple Star Campus program's true value derives from its potential to:

- Centralize and make knowledge accessible;
- Develop stakeholder networks; and
- Support schools in cultivating and communicating cultural competency in supporting military-connected families.

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Problem of Practice

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TEXAS PURPLE STAR CAMPUS
SUPPORTING MILITARY CONNECTED STUDENTS

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Case Study

States Elementary School recently earned its Purple Star Campus Designation. Approximately 20% of the school's students are military-connected, making this support an important part of the school community.

School leadership wants to build on this recognition by increasing opportunities to recognize, engage, and support military families and students throughout the school year. To strengthen these efforts, the leadership team is exploring the creation of a Military Family Support Committee.

Case Study Goals

The goals of the committee would be:

- To plan and oversee events or recognitions that honor military-connected students and families.
- To create opportunities for military parents and guardians to participate in the school community.
- To ensure continuity of effort so that the Purple Star work is shared, visible, and sustainable.

Case Study Challenges

Challenges:

1. Sustaining Engagement: It may be difficult to recruit and retain busy military parents.

2. Avoiding Overload on Staff: Staff members may already feel stretched thin with their existing responsibilities, making it hard to commit time to committee work.

3. Ensuring Meaningful Recognition: There's a risk that recognitions could become routine "check-the-box" events rather than authentic and impactful experiences for military-connected students and families.

Questions to Ask

- What are effective ways at your campus to recruit military-connected parents or guardians to participate on the committee?
- How can the committee create opportunities for students at your campus to take part in recognition or leadership roles?
- What types of recognitions or activities could the committee organize at your campus beyond traditional events?
    - *Any local military or community organizations to partner with?*
- What challenges might arise in maintaining an active and engaged committee, and how can they be addressed?

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Purple Star Campus Program Recommendations

- Use the application process to drive continuous program improvement.
- Collaborate and connect with other schools and districts to facilitate idea sharing and program improvement.
- Support the development of a repository of schools' and districts' training materials.
- Provide quarterly guidance for the dedicated **campus** military family webpage.

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

Purple Star Campus Program Recommendations

- Review and analyze academic and social-emotional data regarding military-connected students.
- Engage families in Purple Star Campus Program planning and requirements.
- Review the available tools, such as the annual timeline and calendar to plan out activities for the school year.
- Review the new Purple Star Rise TEALearn course.

Reference: Center for Public Research and Leadership (2022) Purple Star School Program

Resources and Tools

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Texas Purple Star Campus

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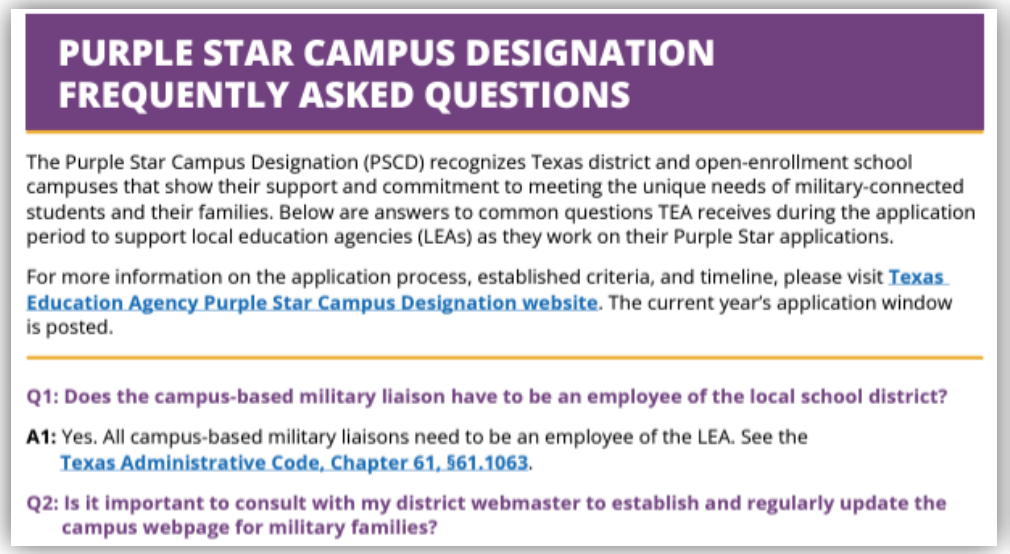
Helpful Resources - FAQs and Annual Timelines



PURPLE STAR CAMPUS DESIGNATION FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

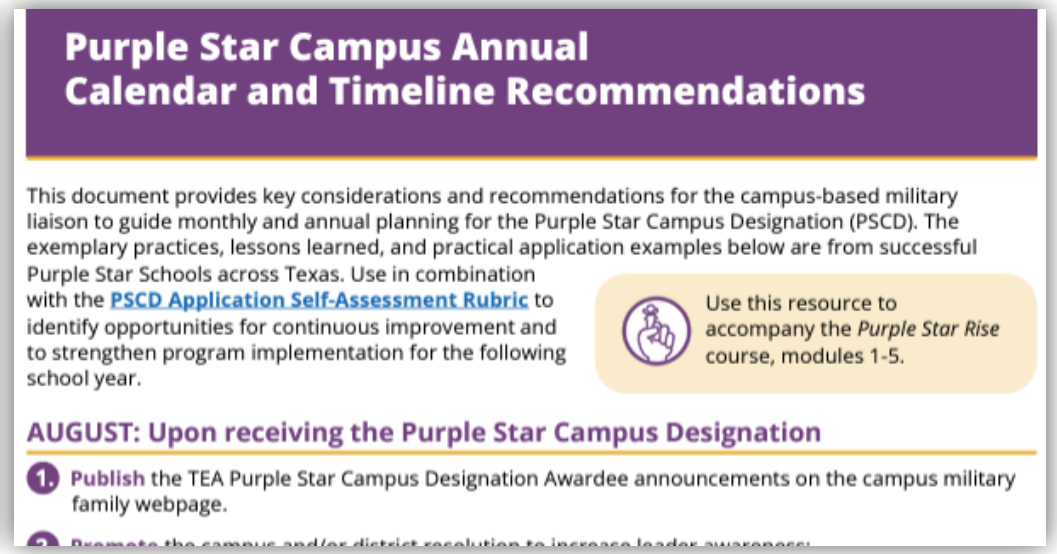
The Purple Star Campus Designation (PSCD) recognizes Texas district and open-enrollment school campuses that show their support and commitment to meeting the unique needs of military-connected students and their families. Below are answers to common questions TEA receives during the application period to support local education agencies (LEAs) as they work on their Purple Star applications.

For more information on the application process, established criteria, and timeline, please visit Texas Education Agency Purple Star Campus Designation website. The current year's application window is posted.

Q1: Does the campus-based military liaison have to be an employee of the local school district?

A1: Yes. All campus-based military liaisons need to be an employee of the LEA. See the Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 61, §61.1063.

Q2: Is it important to consult with my district webmaster to establish and regularly update the campus webpage for military families?



Purple Star Campus Annual Calendar and Timeline Recommendations

This document provides key considerations and recommendations for the campus-based military liaison to guide monthly and annual planning for the Purple Star Campus Designation (PSCD). The exemplary practices, lessons learned, and practical application examples below are from successful Purple Star Schools across Texas. Use in combination with the PSCD Application Self-Assessment Rubric to identify opportunities for continuous improvement and to strengthen program implementation for the following school year.

Use this resource to accompany the *Purple Star Rise* course, modules 1-5.

AUGUST: Upon receiving the Purple Star Campus Designation

1. **Publish** the TEA Purple Star Campus Designation Awardee announcements on the campus military family webpage.

- PSCD Frequently Asked Questions (PDF)
- PSCD Annual Calendar and Timeline Recommendations (PDF)

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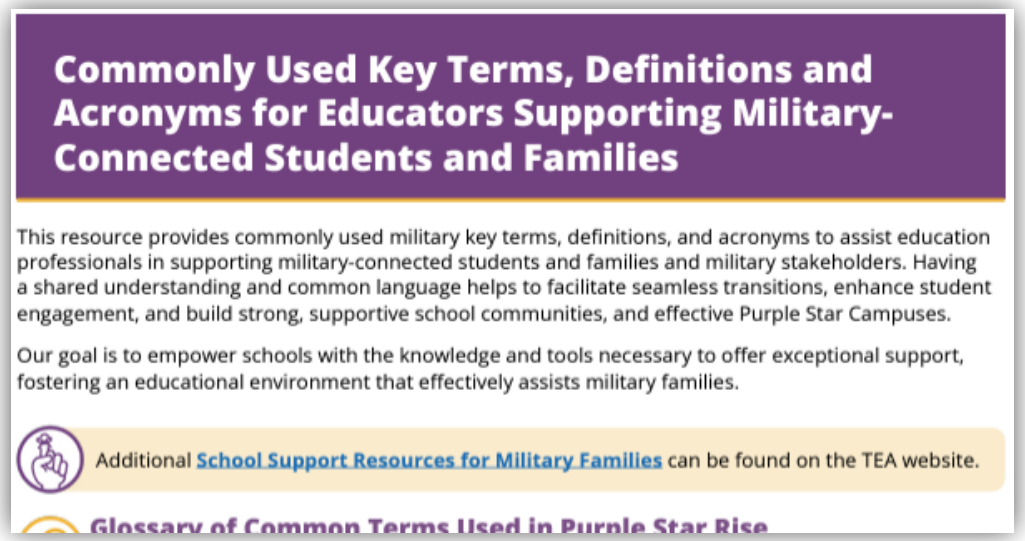
Helpful Resources – Key Terms and Policy



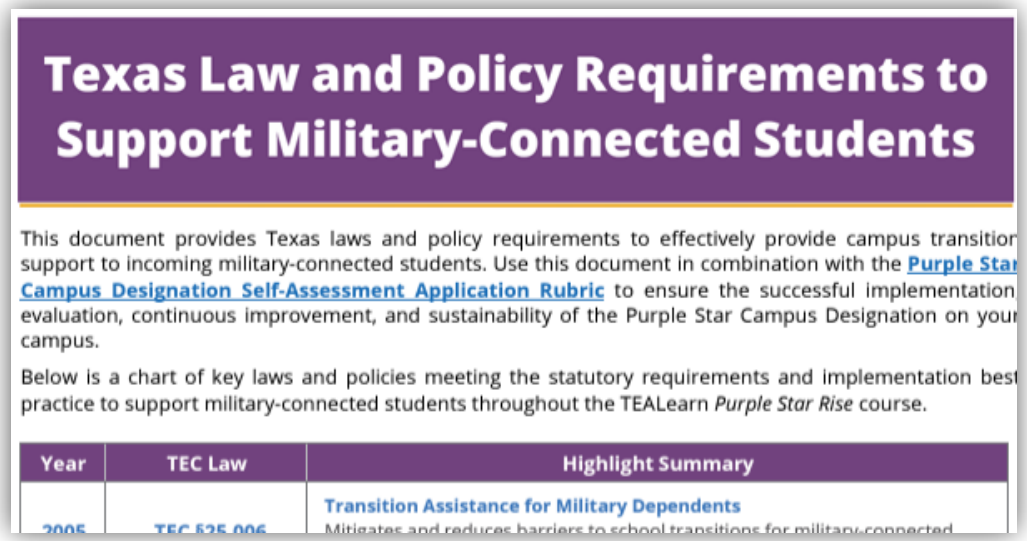
Commonly Used Key Terms, Definitions and Acronyms for Educators Supporting Military-Connected Students and Families

This resource provides commonly used military key terms, definitions, and acronyms to assist education professionals in supporting military-connected students and families and military stakeholders. Having a shared understanding and common language helps to facilitate seamless transitions, enhance student engagement, and build strong, supportive school communities, and effective Purple Star Campuses.

Our goal is to empower schools with the knowledge and tools necessary to offer exceptional support, fostering an educational environment that effectively assists military families.

Additional School Support Resources for Military Families can be found on the TEA website.

Glossary of Common Terms Used in Purple Star Rise



Texas Law and Policy Requirements to Support Military-Connected Students

This document provides Texas laws and policy requirements to effectively provide campus transition support to incoming military-connected students. Use this document in combination with the Purple Star Campus Designation Self-Assessment Application Rubric to ensure the successful implementation, evaluation, continuous improvement, and sustainability of the Purple Star Campus Designation on your campus.

Below is a chart of key laws and policies meeting the statutory requirements and implementation best practice to support military-connected students throughout the TEALearn *Purple Star Rise* course.

Year	TEC Law	Highlight Summary
2005	TEC §25.006	Transition Assistance for Military Dependents Mitigates and reduces barriers to school transitions for military-connected

- Commonly used key terms, definitions, and acronyms for educators supporting military-connect students and families (PDF)
- Texas Law & Policy Requirements to Support Military-Connected Students (PDF)

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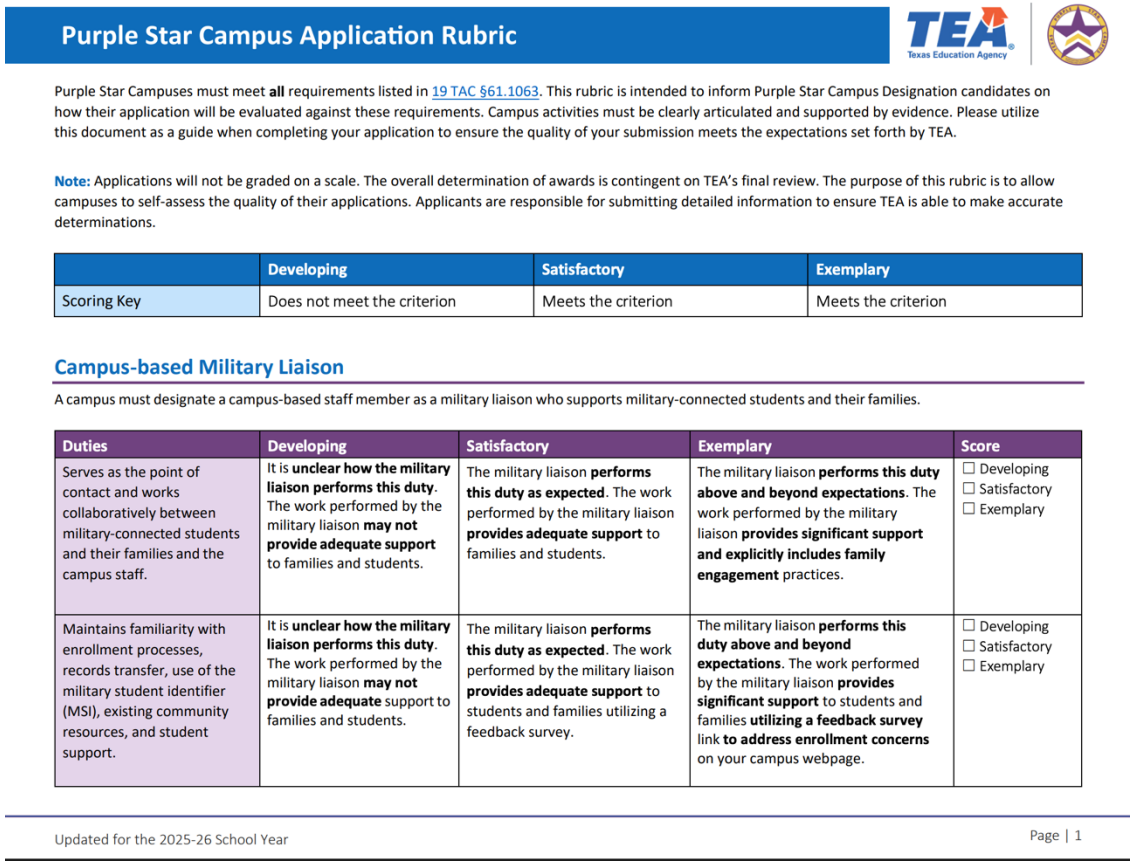
Purple Star Campus Application Rubric



Purple Star Campus Application Rubric

Purple Star Campuses must meet **all** requirements listed in 19 TAC §61.1063. This rubric is intended to inform Purple Star Campus Designation candidates on how their application will be evaluated against these requirements. Campus activities must be clearly articulated and supported by evidence. Please utilize this document as a guide when completing your application to ensure the quality of your submission meets the expectations set forth by TEA.

Note: Applications will not be graded on a scale. The overall determination of awards is contingent on TEA's final review. The purpose of this rubric is to allow campuses to self-assess the quality of their applications. Applicants are responsible for submitting detailed information to ensure TEA is able to make accurate determinations.

	Developing	Satisfactory	Exemplary
Scoring Key	Does not meet the criterion	Meets the criterion	Meets the criterion

Campus-based Military Liaison

A campus must designate a campus-based staff member as a military liaison who supports military-connected students and their families.

Duties	Developing	Satisfactory	Exemplary	Score
Serves as the point of contact and works collaboratively between military-connected students and their families and the campus staff.	It is **unclear how the military liaison performs this duty**. The work performed by the military liaison **may not provide adequate support** to families and students.	The military liaison **performs this duty as expected**. The work performed by the military liaison **provides adequate support** to families and students.	The military liaison **performs this duty above and beyond expectations**. The work performed by the military liaison **provides significant support and explicitly includes family engagement** practices.	☐ Developing ☐ Satisfactory ☐ Exemplary
Maintains familiarity with enrollment processes, records transfer, use of the military student identifier (MSI), existing community resources, and student support.	It is **unclear how the military liaison performs this duty**. The work performed by the military liaison **may not provide adequate** support to families and students.	The military liaison **performs this duty as expected**. The work performed by the military liaison **provides adequate support** to students and families utilizing a feedback survey.	The military liaison **performs this duty above and beyond expectations**. The work performed by the military liaison **provides significant support** to students and families **utilizing a feedback survey** link **to address enrollment concerns** on your campus webpage.	☐ Developing ☐ Satisfactory ☐ Exemplary

Updated for the 2025-26 School Year

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Use this document to:

- Review the criteria for each designation category to ensure all requirements are met.
- Evaluate your campus activities and support for military-connected students.
- Understand documentation clarity needed for each criterion.
- Guide you as you complete your application.

https://tea.texas.gov/special-populations-and-support/pscd-application-rubric.pdf

Purple Star Campus Designation Webpage

Applying for the Purple Star Campus Designation

If your campus is interested in earning the Purple Star Campus Designation (PSCD), this section provides everything you need to get started. Here, you'll find application details, essential resources to help you understand the designation criteria, and tools to support a successful submission.

Whether you're new to PSCD or looking to strengthen your application, these materials are designed to guide you through the process and highlight what it means to be recognized as a Purple Star Campus. Additionally, previous communications and updates related to PSCD are available below for your reference.

Expand All

Upcoming 2027-28 SY PSCD Application Window

The 2027-28 SY PSCD application window will open in late spring 2027.

PSCD Resource Center: Apply, Learn, and Lead

PSCD Awardees & Communications

PSCD Resource Center: Apply, Learn, and Lead

To support campuses in their journey toward earning the Purple Star Campus Designation (PSCD), we've compiled a comprehensive set of tools and resources. Whether you're just beginning the application process or looking to deepen your understanding of the designation criteria, these materials are designed to guide and empower your efforts. Below, you'll find general PSCD information, application support documents, and targeted resources to help meet the needs of military-connected students.

GENERAL PSCD RESOURCES

1. TEA Learn Course: Purple Star Rise *(Released January 2025)* | A self-paced course designed to introduce educators to the PSCD framework and best practices.
2. PSCD Annual Calendar and Timeline Recommendations (PDF) | Suggested planning milestones to help campuses stay on track throughout the year.
3. Commonly used key terms, definitions, and acronyms for educators (PDF) | A helpful glossary to support a clear understanding of PSCD-related language.
4. Texas Law and Policy Requirements to Support Military-Connected Students (PDF) | A summary of relevant legislation and policy expectations.

PSCD APPLICATION SUPPORT

1. PSCD Application Guide (PDF) | A step-by-step guide to completing the application process.
2. PSCD Application Overview and Checklist (PDF) | A quick-reference tool to ensure all components are addressed.
3. PSCD Campus Self-Assessment: Application Rubric (PDF) | A rubric to help campuses evaluate their readiness and alignment with PSCD criteria.
4. PSCD Frequently Asked Questions (PDF) | Answers to common questions about the application and designation process.
5. PSCD Application Exemplar PDF | Crucial resource that walks applicants through each application question and sample responses from previously awarded campuses.

PSCD CRITERIA SUPPORT

1. Supporting Military-Connected Students: Professional Development Resources and Tools (Component of Criteria 1) | Training and tools to help educators better serve military-connected students.
2. PSCD Webpage Requirements for Military Families (Criteria 2) | Guidance on creating a campus webpage that meets PSCD standards.
3. PSCD Campus Transition Program Best Practices (Criteria 3) | Examples and strategies for supporting student transitions effectively.
4. PSCD Military Initiatives (Criteria 4) | Highlighted programs and partnerships that align with PSCD goals.

Upcoming Session

PLC Session 2

- Topic: Creating a Successful Purple Star Webpage for Military Families
- Date: November 18, 2026
- Time: 1:00 - 2:30 PM (CST)

Reflection on Learning

Three insights you have gained from today's session.

Two actions you will take to assist your district and campus with your Purple Star Campus Designation.

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

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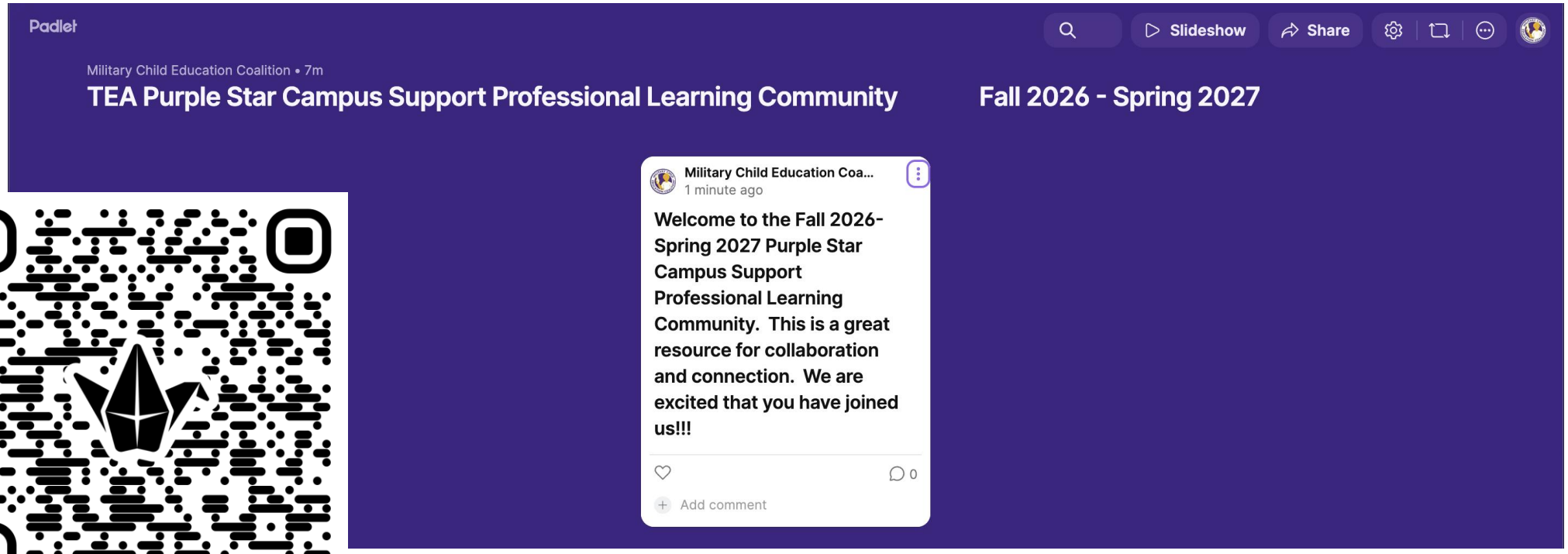
TEA Purple Star Campus Support Padlet



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Share Your Feedback

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