Purple Star Campus Designation Application Guide

The purpose of this guide is to provide a high-level overview of the Purple Star Campus Designation (PSCD) application and key tips, resources, and reminders for successfully submitting your campus's application and supporting military-connected students within your school systems (e.g., districts, charter schools). The guide also provides key action steps and important reminders for schools once they receive the Purple Star Campus Designation.

Criteria at a Glance

TEA Purple Star Campus Designation

This special honor was created by the 86th Texas Legislature, TEC §33.909 and further described in agency rule, 19 TAC §61.1063, effective April 9, 2020.

1. Designate an assigned **campus** staff member as a **military liaison** and offer p**rofessional development** opportunities for staff members on issues related to military-connected student.
2. Create and maintain an **easily accessible campus** military webpage that includes the **required** information for military-connected students and their families.
3. Have an active **campus transition program** and **student-led program**.
4. Offer at least **one of the following military** initiatives:
   a. A campus or district **resolution** showing support for military-connected students and families.
   b. Participation in Month of the Military Child (April) and/or National Veteran and Military Family Month (November).
   c. Partnership with an (installation) school liaison officer* to encourage and provide opportunities for active duty military members to volunteer in the local schools, speak at a school assembly, or host a field trip.

**Includes school liaisons from all military branches.*

Key Considerations and Recommendations for a Successful Application

Listed below are key tips and reminders to assist campuses with successfully submitting their PSCD application.

- Use the application PDF to view the application in advance and draft your responses in a Word document before starting the application.
- Ensure the correct Education Service Center (ESC) and/or LEA contact information is provided on the application submission.
- Ensure the district, school name, and campus-based military liaison contact information are correct on the application submission.
- Ensure the inclusion of any additional campus information that may be needed in the space provided (e.g., if the CDN houses multiple buildings, specify which building is applying for the PSCD).
- Ensure that the campus-based military liaison selected is a campus employee.
- Ensure the email address of the campus-based military liaison is correct on the PSCD application.
- Verify the files included as part of the PSCD application have uploaded and in the correct format (PDF).
- Remember that the URL for the campus-based webpage for military families must be provided for review on the PSCD application submission.
- Successful application includes a narrative describing the evidence of activities, military initiatives, special recognition events, social media posts, and/or local publication of evidence provided.
- Adherence to **all** required components outlined in the PSCD criteria is fundamental to the application process and successful review.
- Be sure to **select the 'submit' button** to complete the application process.

Once you begin the application, plan to submit all your responses in one sitting by copying and pasting the pre-written responses into the Qualtrics application.

To avoid navigation difficulties, use the same computer and web browser while completing the Qualtrics application.

All evidence of documents, presentations, videos, pictures, and/or other social media posts are to be attached as a single PDF file in the application.

For questions or concerns, contact: **MilitaryConnectedStudents@tea.texas.gov**

How to Apply

Visit TEA's website for specific dates for the Purple Star Campus Designation Application and updated application resources. The application window is generally open in late spring to early summer. Applications are reviewed over the summer and announced by early September for the upcoming school year.

1. Visit the **Texas Education Agency Purple Star Campus Designation** website for the latest details and information regarding PSCD.
2. Use the latest **Campus Self-Assessment Application Rubric** to ensure all requirements are fulfilled and use annually to assist with PSCD planning and program-improvement.
3. Collect evidence of your **campus transition program,** including peer-led student transition team; **military initiatives**; and **special recognition events,** annually that can be submitted with your application.
4. Review the **Purple Star Application resources**.
5. Review the latest Purple Star Campus Designation Application Training **Webinar** resources (e.g., recording and PDF of deck) available.
6. Access the Purple Star Campus Application, complete, and **submit by deadline**.

May - June	June - July	August-September
Application ▶	Decision Process/Review ▶	Award Announcement

Best Practices for Program Artifacts for PSCD Application

Make sure the campus-based webpage for military families serves as a **central repository** for artifacts and evidence related to the PSCD.

Artifacts and evidence from the campus transition program and peer-led student transition program demonstrate **transparency** and contribute to the overall evaluation and recognition of the PSCD.

Be sure to use your **district-approved** dedicated web-based **platform** to meet all requirements for the campus-based webpage for military families.

Recommended program artifacts and evidence include:

- Social media posts
- Program video links (e.g., news media, YouTube, or Vimeo)
- Newsletters
- Announcements to staff, parents, or community stakeholders
- Campus or district proclamations or resolutions
- Professional development presentations
- Event flyers, marketing materials, printed signage

Once PSCD is Awarded — Immediate Action Steps for Designated Campus-Based Military Liaison

Upon successfully earning the Purple Star Campus Designation award, the campus will receive a letter from the commissioner of the Texas Education Agency recognizing their achievement. The campus will also receive a high-resolution virtual logo that can be displayed on the campus website and used for printing materials. Additionally, the campus will be acknowledged as a Purple Star campus in the searchable TXSchools.gov campus profile, further highlighting their commitment to supporting military-connected students and families.

Complete Purple Star Rise (PSR) professional development and training module in TEA Learn.

The PSR course provides guidance and support for schools and districts regarding the Purple Star Campus Designation. Whether your campus is a brand-new PSCD designee or previous recipient of PSCD and looking to enhance your program or district implementation, this course is for you. The course provides an overview of each component of the PSCD, as well as important training and implementation guidance to assist schools with strengthening support for military-connected students.

The course emphasizes the importance of district-level oversight and support in achieving the designation, and provides guidance on how to plan and implement consistent military initiatives across campuses. The course will take about three hours to complete and should be completed within the first 90 days of earning the designation.

Upon receiving the PSCD, the campus-based military liaison is responsible for coordinating the following:

AUGUST

1. **Publish** the TEA Purple Star Campus Designation Awardee announcements on the campus military family webpage. *See Module 3 of Purple Star Rise for more information.*
2. **Promote** the campus and/or district resolution to increase leader awareness. *See Module 2 and 5 of Purple Star Rise for more information.*
   - » **Attend** Principal and school counseling district meetings
   - » **Attend** Back-to-school teacher and staff professional development meetings
3. **Utilize** the campus transition program and the peer-led student transition team to provide new student welcome tours and support on the first day of school. *See Module 4 of Purple Star Rise for more information.*
4. **Publish** a monthly and/or annual calendar for the campus transition program and campus professional development training on the webpage for military families. *See Module 4 of Purple Star Rise for more information*.
5. **Initiate** PSCD social media campaign to increase parental and community stakeholder awareness. *See Module 3 of Purple Star Rise for more information*.
6. **Establish** a school advisory committee of students, parents, school staff, district, community, and installation leaders who meet regularly to discuss the Purple Star Campus initiative.

SEPTEMBER

1. **Coordinate** Fall staff professional development regarding support for military-connected students. *See Module 2 of Purple Star Rise for more information.*
2. **Develop** a process for webpage maintenance with appropriate campus and district level staff to ensure Fall (October) and Spring (February-April) updates are made to the campus webpage for military families. *See Module 3 of Purple Star Rise for more information.*
3. **Establish** an advisory committee representative of all stakeholders, including staff, students, parents, installation, and community leaders. *See Module 4 and 5 of Purple Star Rise for more information*.
4. **Establish** and **publish** annual calendar of events for campus military initiative events on the webpage for military families. *See Module 5 of Purple Star Rise for more information*.
5. **Continue** August steps in 3-6 above.

October and Beyond:

For a comprehensive and detailed timeline of key activities for month-to-month planning and annual calendar recommendations, please see Module 2: Annual Calendar and Timeline Recommendations of the TEA Learn Purple Star Rise.

Texas Education Code Requirements to Support Military-Connected Students

Below is a chart of key policy state law requirements that support military-connected students. To learn more about TEC requirements that support military-connected students, review *Texas Law and Policy Requirements, located in Module 1 Resources of the TEA Learn Purple Star Rise course.*

Year	Texas Law and Rules	Highlight Summary
2005	TEC §25.006	**Transition Assistance for Military Dependents**
2007	TEC §29.153	**Eligibility Requirements for Free Public-School Prekindergarten**
2009	TEC §162.001	**Texas adoption of Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission (MIC3)**
2013	TEC §25.006 (c)(d)	**Military Student Identifier PEIMS Coding Identification** Amended in 2019 to include public and/or open-enrollment charters, add 'current and former' service members, reserve component, and the Texas National Guard expanding the definition of 'military-connected student'
2019	TEC §33.909	**Texas Education Agency Commissioner's Rule for Purple Star Campus Designation (TAC §61.1063)**

Year	Texas Law and Rules	Highlight Summary
2023	TEC §25.001(c-1)	Proof of Residence for Military Dependents
2023	TEC §25.001(c-2)	Residency for Military Dependents
2023	TEC §25.0344	Transfer of Students Who Are Children of Service Members

Recent Legislation Impacting Military-Connected Students

TEC §25.001(c-1): Proof of Residence for Military Dependents

A person whose parent or guardian is 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, may establish residency for purposes of Subsection (b) by providing to the school district a copy of military orders requiring the parent's or guardian's transfer to a military installation in or adjacent to the district's attendance zone.

TEC §25.001(c-2): Residency for Military Dependents

A person who establishes residency under subsection 25.001(c-1), must provide to the school district proof of residence within **90 days** after the arrival date specified in military orders described by that subsection. For this subsection's purpose, "residence" includes residence in a military temporary lodging facility.

TEC §25.0344: Transfer of Students Who Are Children of Service Members

The Texas Education Agency extends the privilege of requesting a transfer to any school or district to any service member, including active-duty service members of the Reserve and/or the Texas National Guard, to another campus within their district or to a different school district:

- This request for transfer must be approved according to the guidelines in TEC Section §25.0344.
- Parents or guardians are responsible for transportation if their child attends a school under this section of the Education Code.