

# THE PURPLE STAR AWARD

## [Education.ohio.gov](https://education.ohio.gov) (Search: Purple Star Award)

The Purple Star Award for military-friendly schools recognizes schools that show a major commitment to serving students and families connected to our nation's armed forces. Schools that earn the award receive a special Purple Star recognition to display in their buildings. The Purple Star Advisory Board, formed by the Ohio departments of Education, Higher Education, Veterans Services, and Adjutant General, helps decide a school's eligibility for the award.

### How to Qualify

Schools must fulfill all the required activities, plus one optional activity, listed below. The school must upload evidence of completion into the Military Children in Ohio's Schools course in the Learning Management System for Ohio Education (accessed through the point of contact's SAFE account):



### Required school activities

- The school must have a staff point of contact for military students and families. The point of contact serves as the primary liaison between them and the school. This contact could be a counselor, administrator, teacher, or another staff member;
- The liaison completes professional development on special considerations for military students and families under federal law. Each school district may choose its own professional development resource from a menu of options listed on the Ohio Department of Education's website;
- The liaison finds and informs teachers of the military-connected students in their classrooms and the special considerations military families and students should receive;
- The school keeps a dedicated page on its website featuring resources for military families.

### Optional school activities

- The school provides professional development on federally identified special considerations for military students and families during a staff meeting or another event;
- The local school board passes a resolution publicizing the school's support for military children and families;
- The school hosts a military recognition event designed to demonstrate a military-friendly culture at the school.

### How to Apply

Go to your school point of contact's SAFE account and click on the Learning Management System (LMS) link. Once in the LMS, click on the Course Catalogue link near the top right side of the screen. The course titles and descriptions will appear in tiles. Click on the course titled Military Children in Ohio's Schools. This will enroll you in the course.

Once you are in the course, look for Content Browser on the right side of the screen. Under that tab, you will find six modules. Click on fifth module down, for schools applying for the Purple Star Award. You will see there are quizzes and drop-boxes that allow you to upload evidence of completed and optional requirements.