



Key Message

Military children experience many challenges as they relocate to new schools due to a parent's change in duty station. By establishing statewide Purple Star Schools programs, states can encourage local education agencies to implement practices that assist military children with transitions/deployments and also recognize military service and civic responsibility.

Discussion Points

1. Military children face issues such as gaps and overlaps in curriculum, different graduation requirements, and course-placement disruption, as well as difficulties related to socially and emotionally connecting with new schools and communities.
2. State-sponsored Purple Star Schools programs primarily designate schools as military friendly once they demonstrate a major commitment to students and families connected to our nation's military. States such as Ohio, Texas and Virginia have recognized schools meeting criteria that:
 - Designate school staff as a point of contact for military students and families
 - Require professional development for staff assigned as a point of contact for the military
 - Designate a page on their website featuring resources and information for military families
 - Add at least one supplemental activity, such as additional professional development, or the school board passes a resolution publicizing the school's support for military children and families
3. Through the Purple Star program, states have also recognized schools with few military families that have used the criteria to emphasize military service and recognize veterans and active members of the National Guard and reserves in their community. Schools have established programs that:
 - Recognize the accomplishments of veterans and active members
 - Sponsor special events recognizing military service
 - Celebrate class members who commit to serving in the military



The average military-connected child will attend six to nine schools during their K-12 education experience. With more than 1.1 million such students attending schools, issues surrounding school transition have become a top priority for families and some schools.