



Ben Gibson, *Chair*  
Ryan Petty, *Vice Chair*  
*Members*  
Monesia Brown  
Esther Byrd  
Grazie Pozo Christie  
Kelly Garcia  
MaryLynn Magar

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** School District Superintendents

**FROM:** Paul O. Burns, Ed.D.

**DATE:** March 22, 2024

**SUBJECT:** April is Month of the Military Child

**Contact Information:**

Damera Hopkins  
850-245-7851  
[Damera.Hopkins@fldoe.org](mailto:Damera.Hopkins@fldoe.org)  
**DPS: 2024-30**

April is Month of the Military Child! This special recognition, established by former Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger in 1986, serves as a reminder that military children play a role in contributing to the strength of military families. The Month of the Military Child provides communities an opportunity to honor and share gratitude for the service of military children. Florida is committed to being the most military-friendly state in the nation.

This year, we invite you to “Purple Up!” on April 17, 2024, by wearing purple as a visible way to show support and thank military children. The color purple was chosen because it is the color that symbolizes all branches of the military. It is a combination of Army green, Coast Guard blue, Air Force blue, Marine Corps red and Navy blue.

We encourage everyone in each of Florida’s local school districts to participate in events and celebrations that applaud the courage of military children and honor their hard work. The Department has established a special landing page at <https://www.fldoe.org/schools/k-12-public-schools/sss/military-families/purple-up.stml> for districts to access resources to celebrate Purple Up! Day. Districts are encouraged to tag @EducationFL or email any pictures or celebrations to [StudentSupportServices1@fldoe.org](mailto:StudentSupportServices1@fldoe.org).

In 2021, the Florida legislature established the Florida Purple Star School of Distinction Designation. The purpose of the Purple Star School of Distinction Designation is to recognize schools that support the unique needs of military families, help military-connected students to develop the necessary resiliency skills and provide resources for military-connected students when transitioning to a new school environment. As of January 12, 2024, 197 Florida schools earned the Purple Star School of Distinction designation.

The Department looks forward to recognizing Purple Star Schools throughout April.

PB/dh

cc: School District Student Services Directors  
School Principals

DR. PAUL O. BURNS  
CHANCELLOR OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS