



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL F. RICE, Ph.D.  
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

**MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** April 11, 2024

**TO:** Local and Intermediate School District Superintendents  
Public School Academy Directors

**FROM:** Dr. Diane L. Golzynski, Deputy Superintendent  
Finance and Operations

**SUBJECT:** Month of the Military Child (MOMC), Purple Up! For Military Kids Day and  
Purple Star Designation

April has been designated as the Month of the Military Child (MOMC). Former Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger established the Month of the Military Child as a Department of Defense commemoration in 1986. The theme for 2024 is "Military Youth and Children: Brave, Fearless and Resilient." The Military Child Education Coalition (MCEC) has developed a website at [Month of the Military Child | Resource Toolkit - Military Child Education Coalition](#) that supports MOMC activities, including a toolkit, community activities, and other efforts to support our military-connected students.

April 15, 2024 is Purple Up! for Military Kids Day, an observance among military families and their support communities. The color purple, in relation to the annual Purple Up! Day, represents all branches of the military (Air Force blue, Army green, Coast Guard blue, Marine Corps red, and Navy blue) combined to create purple. Please wear purple on April 15 to support our military-connected students.

In recognition of MOMC, the Michigan Department of Education is pleased to announce that two Michigan school districts have been designated with the first Purple Star Designation in Michigan, which recognizes Michigan school districts that have demonstrated a commitment to military-connected children. Portland Public Schools and Michigan International Prep School are recognized as recipients of the Purple Star Designation for 2023-2024. Congratulations to Portland Public Schools and Michigan International Prep School for this distinguished designation and honor. More information on the Purple Star Designation can be found at [Purple Star Schools - Military Child Education Coalition® \(MCEC®\)](#).

cc: Michigan Education Alliance  
Confederation of Michigan Tribal Education Departments

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