



THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT / THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

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March 22, 2021

To: District Superintendents
Superintendents of Schools
Principals of Public, Religious, and Independent Schools
Leaders of Charter Schools

From: Betty A. Rosa, Commissioner

Subject: *Month of the Military Child or Purple Up! For Military Kids*

Military members and military-connected families make many sacrifices for the security and safety of our nation, specifically military-connected children during their K-12 careers. April is designated as the *Month of the Military Child* or “Purple Up! For Military Kids”. Across the nation, states and school districts will celebrate the important role military children play while their service member parents serve our country through special events and wearing the color purple.

New York State is a member of the Military Interstate Children’s Compact Commission (MIC3) – that includes the 50 states, District of Columbia and the Department of Defense Education Activity schools – which addresses the key educational transition issues encountered by military-connected students.

As educators, we are committed to children and providing a high-quality education for all students. I ask for your support in April for “Purple Up! For Military Kids” by:

1. Coordinating a district-wide month or day and promotion through your communication channels (website, newsletters, media), stakeholders, and partners, by tagging #MIC3Compact and #purpleup4militarykids
2. Drafting a letter or memorandum to your schools encouraging them to consider sponsoring an activity
3. Attending a district or school event celebrating “Purple Up! For Military Kids”

With the ongoing impact of COVID-19, many schools may be in non-traditional or remote learning, and we encourage you to be creative on virtual events and celebrations. Additional information and resources can be found on the Department’s [Month of the Military Child webpage](#). Additional information on the compact, can be found on the Department’s [Interstate Compact webpage](#).

Please join me in thanking our military children for their strength and sacrifice by supporting “Purple Up! For Military Kids” next month – they deserve our support!