



**#065-22**

**Commonwealth of Virginia**  
**Virginia Department of Education**  
Superintendent's Memo #065-22

DATE: March 25, 2022  
TO: Division Superintendents  
FROM: Jillian Balow, Superintendent of Public Instruction  
SUBJECT: **Celebrating Military-Connected Students**

Virginia is a member of the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children and is committed to the care and education of the children of the men and women of the armed forces. By partnering with school liaison officers, military leaders, educators, and community organizations, the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) provides resources about the unique support needed for military service members and their families during all stages of transition and deployment. Information is provided below to assist school divisions in serving military children and families.

**April is Month of the Military Child**

Governor Glenn Youngkin has designated April 2022 as Month of the Military Child.

Frequent moves, family separations through deployments, and reintegration following deployments can make school, home, and community life challenging for military children. Yet, even in such circumstances, these students continually demonstrate resilience and perseverance. Their contributions to schools and communities also include unique and valuable perspectives on learning, friendships, and growing up.

To assist schools in planning for Month of the Military Child celebrations, the VDOE developed resources that are available on VDOE's [Military Families webpage](#). The VDOE encourages

schools to use these materials and ideas while planning Month of the Military Child activities throughout April.

The VDOE also encourage schools to share their “Purple Up!” and “Month of the Military Child” photos by using the hashtag #PurpleUpVirginia and tag @VDOE\_SESS. Photos and/or descriptions of the activities can also be sent to Dan Dunham, VDOE Military Student and Family Specialist, for sharing with the Virginia Council on the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children.

While April has been designated as the Month of the Military Child, schools and school divisions are encouraged to take time throughout the year to recognize the nation’s military service men and women, their families, and their children.

## Purple Star Designation

In 2018, VDOE launched the Purple Star School Designation for military-friendly schools that have demonstrated a major commitment to students and families connected to our nation’s military. Schools that earn the award will receive a special Purple Star recognition to display on-site. The application window for school year 2022-2023 will begin April 1, 2022, and close September 21, 2022. Schools should visit the [Purple Star Designation](#) webpage for more information on or after April 1, 2022.

## Remote Registration for Military Students

Recent reviews of school division webpages indicate some lack specific information regarding remote registration for military-connected students. The [Code of Virginia § 22.1-3](#), *Persons to whom public schools shall be free*, Section B 1-3, outlines enrollment flexibilities for military families.

Regarding remote registration, the *Code of Virginia* stipulates that military-connected students “*may register, remotely or in-person, for courses and other academic programs and participate in the lottery process for charter schools and college partnership laboratory schools in the school division in which such student will reside at the same time and in the same manner as students who reside in the local school division.*”

Schools are encouraged to provide clear and concise information on their division's remote registration process for military families moving into their school division.

## **Military Recruiter Access**

The *Code of Virginia § 22.1-130.1*, [§ 22.1-130.1. Access to high schools and high school students for military recruiters](#)” *Access to high schools and high school students for military recruiters*, reinforces that schools are to permit military recruiters to participate in career and technical education programs promoting knowledge of careers and various employment opportunities. This access is to be provided at the same time and manner as other persons or groups promoting professional, occupational, or educational pursuits.

Additionally, [The Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015 \(ESSA\)](#) and [Section 521](#) of Title V of United States Code in the *National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (NDAA)* requires each school division to provide military recruiters with student directory information, upon request, specifically student names, addresses, student email addresses, telephone listings, school site, and grade level, unless the parent has opted out from the release of such information.

The VDOE encourages divisions to take time during the month of April, and throughout the year, to celebrate the many contributions of military-connected students and to honor their service to the nation.

## **For more information**

For more information on the content of this memo or any issues related to military students or training for your school or division, please contact Dan Dunham, VDOE Military Student and Family Specialist, by email at [Dan.Dunham@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:Dan.Dunham@doe.virginia.gov), or by telephone at (804) 225-2157.

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