



Purple Star Schools

Academic Matters - April 2025



Military-Connected Students

- Military-connected youth move 6-9 times during K-12
- Military-connected children move and change schools 3x more often than their civilian peers
- 80% of America's military-connected children attend public schools



Challenges

- Curriculum Differences
- Learning Gaps/Overlaps
- Continuation of Services
- Sense of Belonging
- Managing Stress
- Parent Deployment

Strengths

- Resilience
- Service-minded
- Empathetic
- Accepting of others
- Great sense of adventure and imagination



GOALS

- 1 Strong Start: Pre-K-12**
- 2 Safe, Supported, Included, and Empowered**
- 3 Academic Growth and Excellence**
- 4 Equitable Access and Opportunity**
- 5 Leading for Tomorrow's Innovation**

The Four Pillars identify what FCPS must do well to be able to reach our goals for all students.

A

Differentiated &
Culturally Responsive
Learning Environments

B

Vibrant Home, School,
& Community
Partnerships

C

Diverse, Adaptive, &
Supported Workforce

D

Culture of Equity,
Excellence, &
Accountability

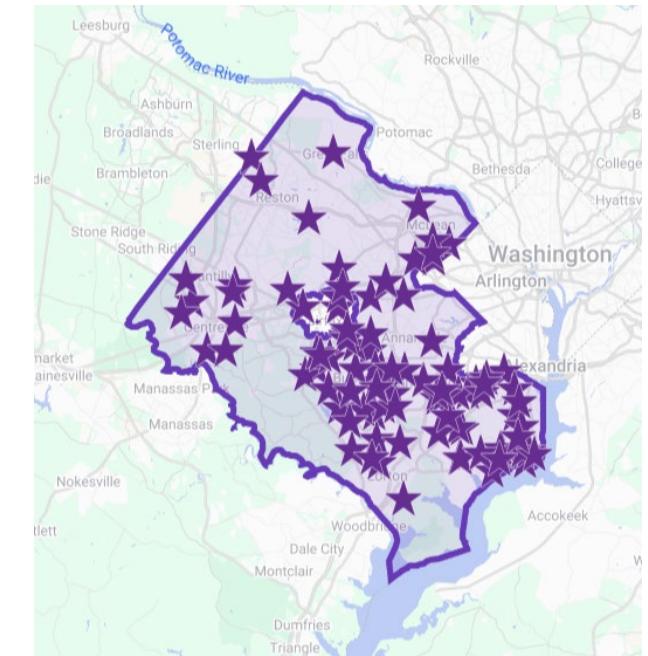
Purple Star Criteria



- Central Office Staff Support Member
- School Point of Contact
- Peer-Led Transition Team
- Military Family Webpage
- Specialized Support for Students with Special Needs
- District-Wide Efforts
- Staff Professional Development
- Special Military Holidays & Observances

Support for Purple Star Designation in SY 2024-25

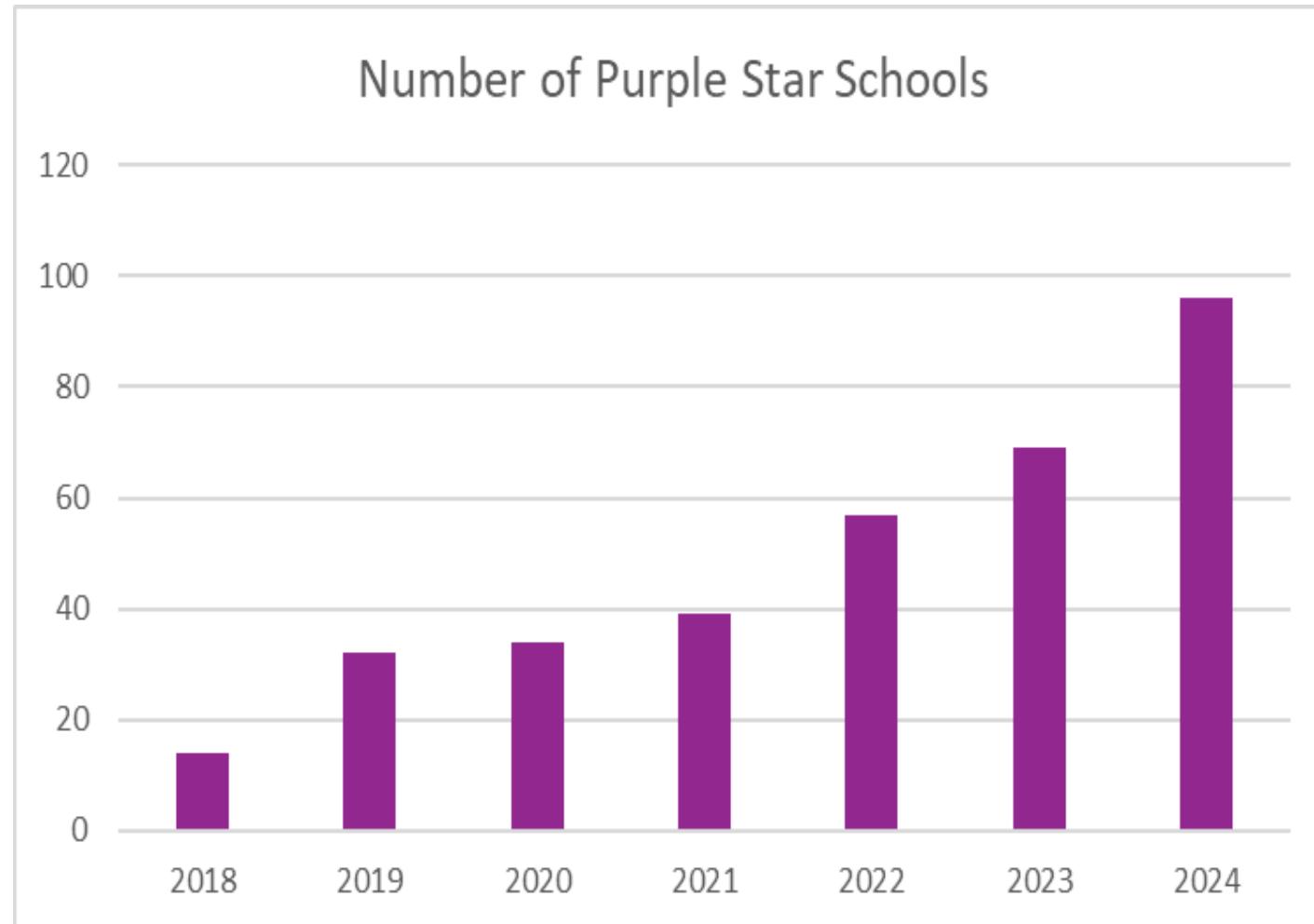
- Schoolwide Professional Development available through MyPDE and 21 in-person trainings
- 29 Purple Star Application Workshops
- 11 Student Ambassador Trainings for students and sponsors
- Toolkits provided for Month of the Military Child and Blue Star Welcome Week to plan meaningful engagement opportunities with military-connected students and families
- Purple Star Recognition Reception for schools earning the designation



Purple Star Statistics for FCPS

- 96 Purple Star Schools
- 40 schools renewing Purple Star Designation in September 2025
- Over 50 schools expected to apply for their first Purple Star Designation in September 2025

**All FCPS schools must earn their Purple Star Designation by September 2026



Impact of Purple Star Schools



- Creates welcoming culture
- Fosters connections among peers
- Develops leadership skills for Student Ambassadors
- Connects families to resources

The screenshot shows a webpage titled "Military Families" with a sub-section "Fairfax County Public Schools welcomes responsive and collaborative communication and partnerships with the families of our students." Below this, there is a video player showing a family in a military setting. The main content area is divided into several sections with images and titles:

- Military Families: Planning your Arrival to Fairfax County Schools** (Thumbnail: A military family in a hallway)
- Military Families: Preparing Your Move from Fairfax County Schools** (Thumbnail: A military family holding an American flag)
- Academic Planning for Military Families** (Thumbnail: A military family at a desk)
- Navigating Special Education Needs and Parental Rights for Military Families** (Thumbnail: A military family in a hallway)
- Education Policies and Programs Supporting Military Families** (Thumbnail: A military family in a hallway)
- Military Family Resources** (Thumbnail: A military family in a hallway)
- Student Ambassadors** (Thumbnail: A group of students in purple shirts)
- Distinguished Purple Star Schools** (Thumbnail: A purple star icon)
- Current Job Openings** (Thumbnail: A classroom scene)

Impact of Purple Star Schools

- Builds trust between schools and families
- Signals military-friendliness
- Connects military-connected families with civilian peers
- Fosters sense of belonging



Questions?

