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Purple Star Award Designation: Application

Class of 2027

Agenda

1. Who can Apply?
2. Timeline
3. Criteria for Award
4. Tips
5. Let's take a look at the Application
6. Award Notification
7. Application Link, and Notification of Live Link
8. Contact information

Who Can Apply?

- All **public** schools, including
  - charter
  - vocational technical
  - elementary
  - middle, and
  - high schools.

Application and Award Timeline

- Webinar Sessions: October 26 and October 29, 2026.
- Application Link available on webpage around **November 6, 2026**.
- Applications must be submitted no later than **5:00 p.m. January 29, 2027**.
- Award notifications go out approximately in **April/May 2027**.

General Information

- Is this a New application or Renewal application?
  - New Awardee Designations are good for a three-year cycle. Upon completion of the third year, schools can apply for a renewal of the award.
- Who is completing the application?
- Provide School and District Information.

Criteria for Application

1. Military Liaison Contact Information
2. Military-Connected Students Data
3. Processes and Implementation by Military Liaison
4. Provide a Webpage Address specific in supporting military-connected students and their families
5. A Student Led Activity (age appropriate) that supports military-connected students transitioning into the school

Criteria Continued

6. Professional Development attended by the Military Liaison and additional staff
7. Implementation of Professional Development
8. Plans and Strategies over the next three years
9. One Additional Qualifying Activity (resolution; event; and/or partnership)
10. Optional submission of supporting documentation

Military Liaison

- Provide the name, email address and phone number for the staff member identified as the military liaison for your school.
- Some schools may have more than one military liaison, if so, provide the name , email address and phone number for the second staff member identified.
- The military liaison is the point person for the military-connected students.

Data: New Applicants

- Provide data for military-connected students for previous and current school years.
    - How many are…
        - Enrolled*
        - Low Income
        - Disability
        - SPED
        - English Learners
        - Advanced Coursework
        - Extra Curricular Activity
        - Race/Ethnicity*

* required

Data: Renewal Applicants

- Provide data for military-connected students for designated award year (SY1), previous(SY2) and current school years(SY3).
    - How many are…
        - Enrolled*
        - Low Income
        - Disability
        - SPED
        - English Learners
        - Advanced Coursework
        - Extra Curricular Activity
        - Race/Ethnicity*

* required

Processes and Implementation at the School

- Describe how military-connected students are identified.
- Describe how the military liaison…
  - serves as a point of contact for the school, military-connected students, and their families.
  - determines the appropriate school services available to military-connected students.
  - assists in the coordination of relevant school programs for military-connected students.
  - Collaborates with any community entities and/or district partners to support military-connected students and their families.

Processes and Implementation at the School: Continued

- **Renewal** Applicants:
  - Describe any successes and/or challenges your school has encountered in supporting military-connected students and families.
  - Describe how your school culture has changed during the timeframe from the designation to the renewal regarding military-connected students and families. Describe any supports to bridge gaps in the school culture.

Webpage

- Provide a direct link to the military resources' webpage located on the school's or district's website which includes…
  - Ease of accessibility for military-connected students and their families.
  - Information about school relocation, enrollment and registration, including the transfer of records
  - Information about academic planning, course sequences and advanced classes available at the school.
  - Information about support services, including available counseling at the school.

Student Led Activity

- Describe the student led activity that supports military-connected students transitioning in the school.
  - The activity should be age appropriate for the school.

Professional Development

- Provide the names of the providers, titles of pd and dates that military liaison attended pd to support their work with military-connected students and families.
- Describe how the pd provided has contributed to supporting your work with the school community.
- Describe two ideas from pd that were implemented in your school.

Professional Development Continued

- Have other school staff participated in pd related to military-connected students and their families.
- Describe the school climate:
  - Connections between military-connected students and staff
  - Connections between military-connected students and other students
  - Connections among staff in regards to military-connected students
  - How has the pd influenced these connections?

PD: Plans and Strategies

- Describe the plans and strategies to be implemented to support military-connected students and families for the next three years.
- Describe how you assess for quality pd and the impact of the implemented strategies from the pd.

Additional Qualifying Activity

- At least one of the following initiatives offered at your school:
  - Support a military-connected student and/or family resolution.
  - Host an event in recognition of the Month of the Military Child or Military Family.
  - Partner with a local military installation to provide active-duty military members to volunteer at the school, speak at an assembly, or host a field trip.
- Describe the initiative(s) from the above choices.

Optional

- Upload as a single file any documents, photos, videos you wish to share.
- The file may need to be zipped/compressed if large before uploading.
- This is not a requirement.

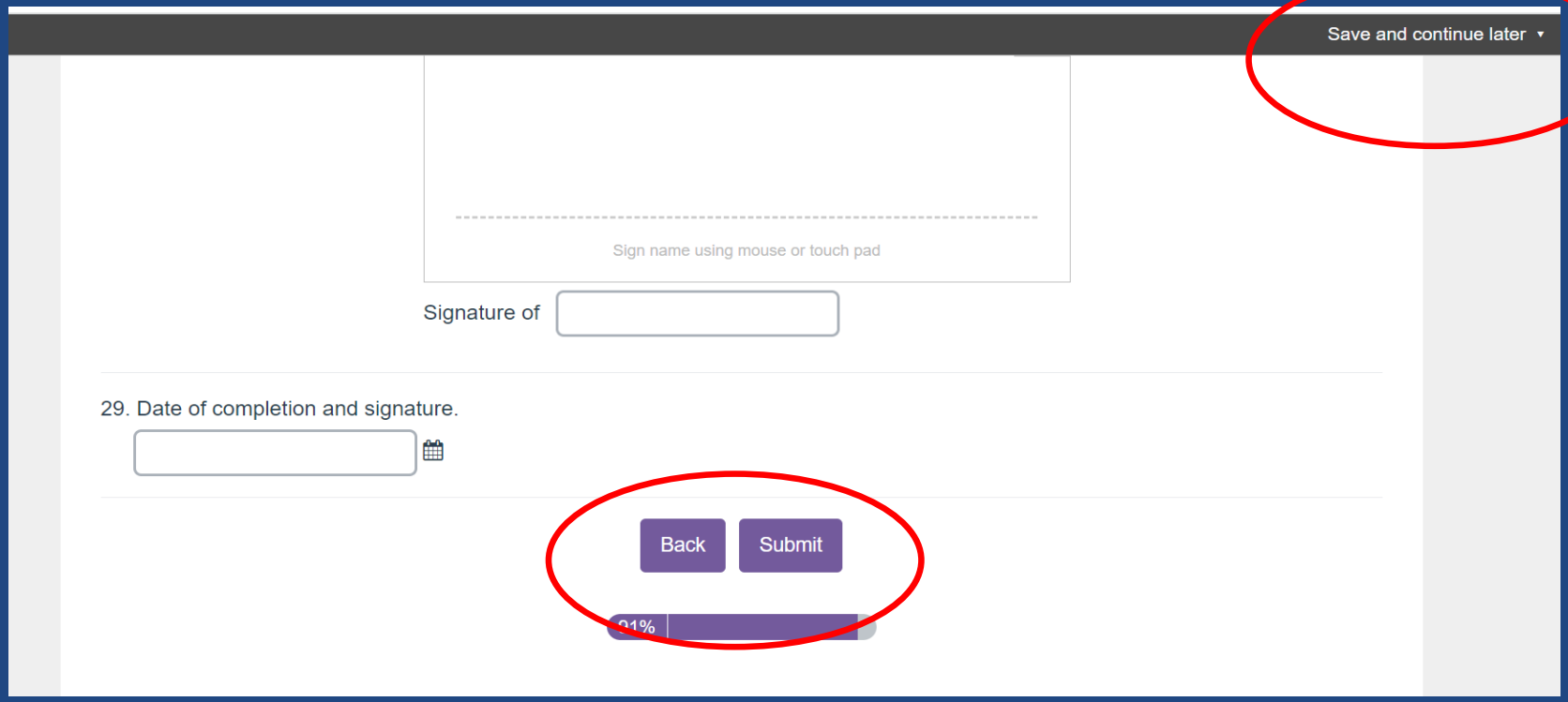
Certification

- Sign and date submission using your mouse or touch pad.

Tips

- Do not answer questions by listing assurances!
- Open response answers are mostly limited to 250 words.
- Some drop down menus.
- Fill in the blank.
- Yes or No.
- Prepare responses ahead of time to cut and paste into application.
- Place responses and one document for upload (if you want to submit and preferably as pdf) on your desktop for ease of access to cut and paste.
- **Once submitted, email Christine.H.Cowen@mass.gov to notify that an application was completed for review.**

Save and Submit Buttons



Let’s take a look at the Application

Class of 2027 Purple Award Application

General Information and Instructions

The Purple Star Award designation is awarded for three* years to schools that show a commitment to supporting the educational success of military connected students, as well as supporting their families.

This application is due by **January 29, 2027 by 5:00 pm**.

Notification of Award Designation will occur in **April/May 2027.**

Complete the following application by providing complete information for each item. Be sure that if you are completing your application in increments, to save your work. Once all items have been completed, only then press submit.

**Please be advised that this designation is in the first year of implementation but the application is being designed for future use thus you will see renewal references in the application that are not applicable this year. When a school is completing the form as a renewal application, the school will provide responses to all sections to show maintenance of effort and/or updates unless otherwise noted.*

Award Notification for Display.

- DESE Signed Letter with Purple Star Award Logo for display.



- Official acknowledgement will take place in April – the month of the military child.

Application Link and Notification of Live Link

Applications will go live on or around November 6, 2026.

DESE Military-Connected Student Webpage