



STATE OF NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: July 15, 2026

To: Local Educational Agency Leads, Administrators of Approved Private Schools for Students with Disabilities, Administrators of Nonpublic Schools

Route To: Principals, Military Family Contacts, School Counselors

From: Ambrose F. Duckett, III
Division of Field Support and Services

Deadline: October 2, 2026

Purple Star School Designation: 2026 Application Open

New Jersey's Purple Stars Program was established by [PL 2022, Chapter 108](#) in the fall of 2022. Under the program, the Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) shall annually recognize schools that go above and beyond to support military-connected students and their families.

New Jersey's "first class" of Purple Star Schools was designated in June 2024. Data from the fall of 2025 shows there are 10,039 military-connected students attending public schools in New Jersey. For schools dedicated to creating a welcoming and supportive environment for military-connected students, please consider applying for this esteemed designation in the 2026 application cycle.

[The New Jersey Purple Star School Class of 2026 Application](#) is open from July 7 through October 2, 2026. The NJDOE will announce and recognize the New Jersey Purple Stars Schools Class of 2026 the week of November 9 in honor of Veterans Day.

Please visit the NJDOE [Purple Star Schools Program website](#) for more information.