



# Schools Toolkit

**Each year, 600,000 military families move to new communities and for many of these families, schools are a primary way they get integrated to their new location. Blue Star Welcome Week is a national week of activation to ensure military families feel welcome and community members are inspired to do their part in supporting them. We'd love to have your school join us in these efforts!**

## Do Your Part

As part of Blue Star Welcome Week, Blue Star Families and Military Child Education Coalition (MCEC) have teamed up to ensure schools get involved and have the resources and support to welcome military families. Following are some actionable ideas for your school to connect with military families during Blue Star Welcome Week — and beyond.

## Examples of Blue Star Welcome Week Activities

- Post about Blue Star Welcome Week through your school's social media accounts, highlighting your warm welcome to military families who may have recently joined your community (see [toolkit resources](#)).
- Host a welcome breakfast for military kids and families to get connected with each other and school staff.
- Issue a proclamation declaring your district's observation of September 26th–October 4th as Blue Star Welcome Week. (We can provide draft language for you to use!)
- Acknowledge and honor military kids during daily school announcements or in weekly newsletters.
- Ask for an [MCEC Student 2 Student<sup>®</sup> \(S2S<sup>™</sup>\)](#) program at your school — a student program that brings military and civilian students together to welcome new students and ease transitions.
- Get your school on the path to [Purple Star School designation](#). Purple Star Schools support military children as they relocate to new schools.
- Educators, take advantage of MCEC's [professional development offerings](#) so you can best serve military students.
- Provide books in classrooms and libraries that give insight into the lives of military families and moving to new places.
- Create information packets for military families which include important school resources, community events, school programs, points of contact, and other information pertinent to families new to the community.

## Event Registration Form

Tell us what you have planned for Blue Star Welcome Week 2026 on our [partner event registration page](#)! We'd love to include your activities in our collective impact.

## Online Blue Star Welcome Week Toolkit

Find sample social media posts, graphics, and more [here](#).

## Blue Star Welcome Week FAQs

### What is Blue Star Welcome Week?

Each year 600,000 military families move to new communities. Blue Star Welcome Week is a national week of activation to ensure military families feel welcome and community members are inspired to do their part in supporting them.

### When is Blue Star Welcome Week 2026?

It takes place from September 26th—October 4th, 2026.

### Why is this week so important?

According to the 2024 Military Family Lifestyle Survey, **only 39% of active-duty respondents feel a sense of belonging to their local civilian community.**

The average military family moves three times as often as their civilian peers. And while more than two-thirds of families live off of the military installation in their local civilian communities, they do not feel a strong sense of belonging to those communities.

### Why are Blue Star Welcome Week partners needed?

Blue Star Welcome Week is how we get upstream of the lack-of-belonging problem and help military families thrive. If you can create a moment of welcome when people move, everything else improves — financial challenges, mental and physical health, and so much more. Together, we can turn this moment into a movement and empower military families to feel a greater sense of belonging.

### Where can I find more information?

Visit [bluestarwelcomeweek.org](https://bluestarwelcomeweek.org).