



1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East, Building 6 • Charleston, WV 25305
wvde.us

April 1, 2024

Dear Superintendents, County Board Members, Administrators, Educators, and Staff:

Members of the United States military and their families make many sacrifices for the security and safety of our nation. April is designated as the *Month of the Military Child*, a time for us to celebrate the strength and resiliency of military-connected children as we, "Purple Up! For Military Kids". Across the nation, states and school districts will recognize the important role military children embody within their families while their parent(s) serves our country, by participating in special activities and wearing the color purple (a combination of military branch colors). West Virginia schools are encouraged to celebrate Spirit Week on April 15-19, 2024, with April 19th being "PurpleUp!" day.

In April of 2022, the West Virginia Board of Education approved a resolution in support of *Purple Up Month* and *Military Signing Week*. In recent years West Virginia Common Ground Partners have been actively building strong relationships with schools to support the success of all students, including military-connected children, via the following activities:

- Online Educator Request System for the Speaker Series
- Purple Star Awards recognizing military-friendly schools and counties
- Military Signing Week
- Military-based STEM programs for educators

We would like to express our continued commitment to supporting military members and their families during April. You may visit the [Purple Up Month Toolkit](https://wvde.us/commonground) at <https://wvde.us/commonground> for complete details on the Month of the Military Child. Please join us in thanking military children for their strength and sacrifice by participating in Spirit Week and "Purple Up" activities this month. They deserve our support!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michele L. Blatt".

Michele L. Blatt
Superintendent
West Virginia Department of Education