



Arkansas Department of Education

Johnny Key, Commissioner

Transforming Arkansas to lead the nation in student-focused education

August 2, 2018

CONTACT: Kimberly Friedman

PHONE: (501) 683-4788

kimberly.friedman@arkansas.gov

Seven Cabot Schools Receive Purple Star School Award

LITTLE ROCK — The Arkansas Department of Education is pleased to announce that seven schools in the Cabot School District have been awarded the Arkansas Purple Star School Award for their commitment to serving military students and their families.

The seven schools are Southside Elementary School, Eastside Elementary School, Stagecoach Elementary School, Mountain Springs Elementary School, Cabot Middle School North, Cabot Junior High School North and Cabot Freshman Academy.

“This significant program affirms to our military families that we value their contribution to our community, and it teaches our students at a young age the importance of the military to our nation,” Gov. Asa Hutchinson said. “I congratulate and commend the educators and students at these seven Purple Star schools for making life in Arkansas more pleasant for the military families who live in the Cabot School District.”

“Arkansas has a strong tradition of supporting our military,” said John Kaminar, the Arkansas commissioner for the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children. “We’re thrilled to be able to recognize schools that are going the extra mile to support the children of military families, especially as those families transfer into and out of Arkansas for the parents’ military service.”

“The Cabot School District is proud to have seven schools recognized as Arkansas’ first Purple Star Schools,” said Dr. Tony Thurman, superintendent at the Cabot School District. “Our district is dedicated to supporting our military students and families. Cabot is home to a large number of military families due to its close proximity to Little Rock Air Force Base. With more than 1,000 military children enrolled in Cabot Schools, we are committed to supporting our families emotionally, academically and providing the resources they need to be successful. We appreciate the sacrifices our families make each and every day and are honored to receive the Purple Star School Award.”

Each school will receive a certificate from ADE Commissioner Johnny Key, the commissioner of the Arkansas State Council for the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children, and the executive director of the Arkansas Activities Association. The Arkansas Activities Association also will provide a sign for display at the school.

To be named a Purple Star School, schools had to meet the following criteria:

- designate a point of contact and liaison for military students and families;
- complete professional development regarding federal considerations for military students and families;
- identify military students and inform teachers about the services military students should receive;
- pass a school board resolution showing support for military students and families; and
- feature resources for military families on its website.

In addition to completing these required criteria, schools had to complete one of the following optional criteria: coordinate professional development for military students and families regarding school records, enrollment, school placement, attendance, eligibility and graduation; coordinate awareness training for military students and families; or host a military recognition event to demonstrate a military-friendly culture at the school.

Applications for the award were reviewed by representatives from the Arkansas State Council for the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children, the Little Rock Air Force Base Airman and Family Readiness Center, and the Arkansas National Guard Child and Youth Programs Office.

The Purple Star School designation is for two years. The Arkansas State Council for the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children will check for compliance at the end of the first year. At the end of the second year, the school may reapply by submitting a statement of continued compliance.

To learn more about the award, please visit <http://www.arkansased.gov/divisions/legal/military-families>.

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