



# NEWS RELEASE

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**Cumberland County Schools Receives Recognition for  
Extraordinary Support of Military Students and Families**  
*For the second year in a row, all schools in the district receive the  
Purple Star Award designation*

**Fayetteville, N.C.** – Since all schools in the district have qualified for the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction's (NCDPI) 2021-2022 Purple Star Award Designation, Cumberland County Schools (CCS) is once again being honored with the State Superintendent's Purple Star District Award. This is the second year in a row that CCS has been awarded the district recognition.

NCDPI announced that 299 schools from 15 school districts across North Carolina are receiving the designation for the 2021-2022 school year. Of these 15 districts, 10 will receive the district-wide recognition. The schools and districts that have earned this recognition will be honored at a ceremony in the spring.

CCS and the military community of Cumberland County maintain a close relationship. Military-connected students, who make up over 25% of CCS' 50,000 students, face a different set of challenges from their peers who are not from military families. From relocation to parent deployments, these students frequently experience major changes in their lives and often benefit from specialized support.

“Our CCS military-connected families bring so much strength and resilience to our district,” said CCS Superintendent Dr. Marvin Connelly, Jr. “We are honored to serve the families and children of military service members who sacrifice so much for our country. From our school-level support to the new Military Family Advisory Council, we are committed to ensuring every military-connected student has the support they need to reach their maximum potential.”

Each of CCS' 89 schools has a Military Family Life Counselor as a designated point of contact for military students and families, and these counselors have a designated Central Services staff member to support them. Additionally, the district provides a dedicated military family resource page on its website, a

transition program for inbound and outbound families, and annual professional development that addresses special considerations for military students and families.

To learn more about CCS' military-related support, visit the district's [Military Connected Student Support](#) and [Military Connection](#) websites.

The North Carolina Department of Public Instruction launched the Purple Star Award Designation initiative in 2019 to recognize the state's large military population and its support for military families. The Purple Star designation is awarded to schools that "demonstrate military-friendly practices and a commitment to military students and families."

To learn more about the Purple Star Award designation and the winning schools and districts, visit the [NCDPI Purple Star Award website](#).

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