City\_\_\_\_\_ State\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Month\_\_\_\_\_\_ Year\_\_\_\_\_\_

**XXX School to Receive Prestigious Kentucky Purple Star Award for Supporting Military Families**

XXXX School has earned Purple Star Award Designation from the Kentucky Department of Behavioral Health, Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities, making it one out of a growing number of Schools to receive the award in the Commonwealth. The Purple Star Program is part of the Department of Behavioral Health, Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities’ Strategies to strengthen the resiliency of Kentucky’s military-connected youth and ensure that their social, emotional, and academic needs are met. According to the 2018 Kentucky Incentives for Prevention Survey approximately 50,000 youth in Kentucky reported having a military connection, either through active service in the armed forces, National Guard or Reserves or as veterans. ). Military-connected youth, can be affected by their family member’s deployment and military service and report higher rates of serious psychological distress, and substance use, compared to non-military connected youth.

Insert quote from LT Governor Example:

“A supportive school environment can have a significant impact on our military-connected students, and promote resiliency. I am happy to see such a great interest in this designation by Kentucky schools,” “These Purple Star Award schools provide our children and families with the resources they need to be successful. We’re thankful for their service and honored to continue the important work of improving services for Kentucky’s military families.”

The Purple Star designation recognizes schools that show a major commitment to serving students and families connected to our nation’s armed forces. To earn the Purple Star Award a school has to commit to designating at least one school staff as a military youth liaison. The liaison receives training in military culture and the particular risk factors and stressors associated with being a member of a military family. The school must also host at least one military recognition event per school year and post military resources on its webpage.

Insert quote from Principal/Superintendent Example: “This award goes directly to all the amazing teachers and staff at XXX School who go out of their way to serve our military families,” said XXX . “We all do our best to give everything we can to those who give so much, and we are honored to receive this significant award.”

Kentucky’s Purple Star Program is overseen by an Advisory Board composed of representatives of eighteen agencies serving service members and veterans. The program originated in Ohio and is now being implemented in twenty three states. An evaluation report authored by the Center for Public Research and Leadership and the Military Child Education Coalition found that military-connected youth who attended Purple Star Schools had a better academic experience and a better social-emotional experience than military-connected youth who attended non-Purple Star schools.

For more information about the Kentucky Purple Star Award please visit:

<http://www.kypurplestar.org/>