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Superintendents Webcast

July 9, 2024



Kentucky Department of
EDUCATION

Agenda

Welcome and Updates

Robbie Fletcher, Commissioner of Education

Kentucky Department of Education Updates

Jennifer Ginn, KDE Director of Communications

School Resource Officer Funding Opportunities

Associate Commissioner Matt Ross, KDE Office of Finance and Operations

Reimagining Assessment and Accountability: Moving Toward the KUWL Moonshot

Jennifer Stafford, Director, KDE Division of Assessment and Accountability Support

2023-2024 Accountability Tentative Reporting Timeline

Jennifer Stafford, Director, KDE Division of Assessment and Accountability Support

Purple Star Schools

Brigadier General (Ret.) Steven P. Bullard, Executive Director, Kentucky Commission on Military Affairs

Questions and Answers

KDE Leadership

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Welcome and Updates

Robbie Fletcher

Commissioner of Education



Kentucky Department of

E D U C A T I O N

Kentucky Student Competes in 2024 Braille Challenge Finals

- Krishna Malhotra, a 13-year-old going into 7th grade at the Kentucky School for the Blind was among the top 50 students selected to participate in the 2024 Braille Challenge Finals.
- The event hosted by the Braille Institute in Los Angeles on June 21-23, included competitors from across the United States, Canada and the United Kingdom.
- Students were graded on charts and graphs, proofreading, reading comprehension, speed and accuracy, and spelling.
- [Read more about Malhotra's experience at the competition on *Kentucky Teacher*.](#)



Nearly 1,500 Educators Attend Kentucky Reads to Succeed Summer Conference

- Hosted by KDE's Office of Teaching and Learning on June 20, the conference was designed for educators to learn more about evidence-based literacy practices for meeting the diverse needs of student readers.
- Sessions were designed for elementary and secondary educators and administrators and focused on evidence-based instructional shifts for literacy, the benefits of structured literacy, the importance of high-quality instructional resources and available resources for implementing the Read to Succeed Act.
- KDE's goal is to make this event an annual conference.



Statewide Chronic Absenteeism Campaign

- Beginning in August, KDE will be kicking off a campaign to raise awareness about chronic absenteeism.
- In August and again in January, KDE will be running billboards and ads on radio, streaming and TV to highlight what our students miss when they are not in school.
- [KDE's Chronic Absenteeism webpage](#) also is being updated to provide you with more tools and ideas on how to combat chronic absenteeism.
- Stay tuned for more resources!
- For more information or to share what is working in your district, please email [Florence Chang](#) in KDE's Division of Student Success.



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KDE Updates

Jennifer Ginn

KDE Director of Communications



Applications Sought for Commissioner's Teachers Advisory Council

- KDE's [Commissioner's Teachers Advisory Council](#) (TAC) is comprised of teacher leaders from across the Commonwealth who contribute crucial, diverse perspectives about important issues in schools to the commissioner of education.
- TAC members serve three-year terms. Meetings occur during the school day, so it is important for applicants to confirm with their supervisor that they will be allowed to attend the meetings before applying.
- Educators who are interested in serving must submit a [TAC membership application](#) by Aug. 30.
- For more information, email [Stacy Noah](#).

APPLICATIONS OPEN FOR

**KENTUCKY'S TEACHERS
ADVISORY COUNCIL**



APPLICATION DEADLINE
AUGUST 30, 2024



Eleven New Members Selected for 2024-2025 Commissioner's Student Advisory Council

- Established to allow student feedback on critical issues impacting students and schools, the council connects students with KDE staff to develop ideas to strengthen student voice and transform education.
- The group meets regularly with the commissioner to discuss how decisions made at the state level are affecting students throughout Kentucky.
- The new members include:
 - **Lisa Abrampah**, 11th grade, Craft Academy/Frederick Douglass High School (Fayette County)
 - **Mary Beth Bolen**, 11th grade, Paul G. Blazer High School (Ashland Independent)
 - **Graham Borden**, 10th grade, Highlands High School (Fort Thomas Independent)
 - **Ani Dundee Taliah Cockerham-O'Donnell**, 9th grade, Kentucky School for the Deaf
 - **Isabella Edghill**, 11th grade, duPont Manual High School (Jefferson County)
 - **Aniji N. Fox**, 11th grade, Mayfield High School (Mayfield Independent)
 - **Samarah Higgins**, 11th grade, John Hardin High School (Hardin County)
 - **Allan M. Kalambayi**, 11th grade, Owensboro High School (Owensboro Independent)
 - **Luisa Sanchez-Almenarez**, 10th grade, Boyle County High School
 - **Abigail Sears**, 11th grade, Danville High School (Danville Independent)
 - **Khoa Anh Ta**, 10th grade, Owensboro High School (Owensboro Independent)

Educators Rising Kentucky Names Six Students as State Officers for 2024-2025 school year

Educators Rising Kentucky named six students to its team of state officers for the 2024-2025 academic year.

The student state officers include:

- **President:** Ashlynn Johnson, Marion C. Moore School (Jefferson County)
- **President-Elect:** Hunter Carr, Graves County High School
- **Co-Director of Membership:** Aubree Stamper, Graves County High School
- **Co-Director of Membership:** Philena Ash, Bullitt Central High School (Bullitt County)
- **Director of Communications:** Lily Russell, Ignite Institute
- **Director of Outreach and Service:** Mckinley Heard, South Warren High School/WKU Young Male Leadership Academy

Educators Rising Kentucky is the career and technical student organization for middle and high school students interested in education-related careers.



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School Resource Officer Funding Opportunities

Associate Commissioner Matt Ross
KDE Office of Finance and Operations

School Resource Officers (SROs)

School Resource Officer Funding Available to Districts

- Included in the budget state lawmakers passed in April is \$16.5 million in fiscal year 2024-2025 and \$18 million in fiscal year 2025-2026 for KDE to assist local districts in funding salaries for SROs, as defined in [KRS 158.441](#), on a reimbursement basis.
- KDE shall reimburse local school districts up to \$20,000 for each campus employing at least one on-site, full-time certified school resource officer. Any portion of the money not expended for this purpose shall lapse to the state's budget reserve trust fund account.
- In order to meet the reporting requirement outlined in the budget, KDE is requesting districts that will seek reimbursement to complete the [School Resource Officer \(SRO\) Funding Intent to Participate form](#) by July 31.
- Information provided in the survey will determine funding amounts available to districts for each school campus employing at least one on-site full-time certified SROs.



Reimagining Assessment and Accountability: Moving Toward the KUWL Moonshot

Director Jennifer Stafford,
KDE Division of Assessment and Accountability Support

Vision and Moonshot

The [Kentucky United We Learn Council](#) envisions new systems of assessment and accountability, first articulated in the [United We Learn report](#).

Vision

- Vibrant learning experiences for every student
- Encouraging innovation, especially around assessment
- Creating a bold new future for Kentucky's schools through collaboration with our communities

Moonshot

"To build a prosperous Kentucky, we will launch an accountability system that is meaningful and useful to all our learners."

Kentucky United We Learn Council - Year 2

Composition

- ~55 members
- Leadership
 - Penny Christian, chair
 - Jim Flynn, vice chair
 - Karen Dodd, KDE lead

Structure

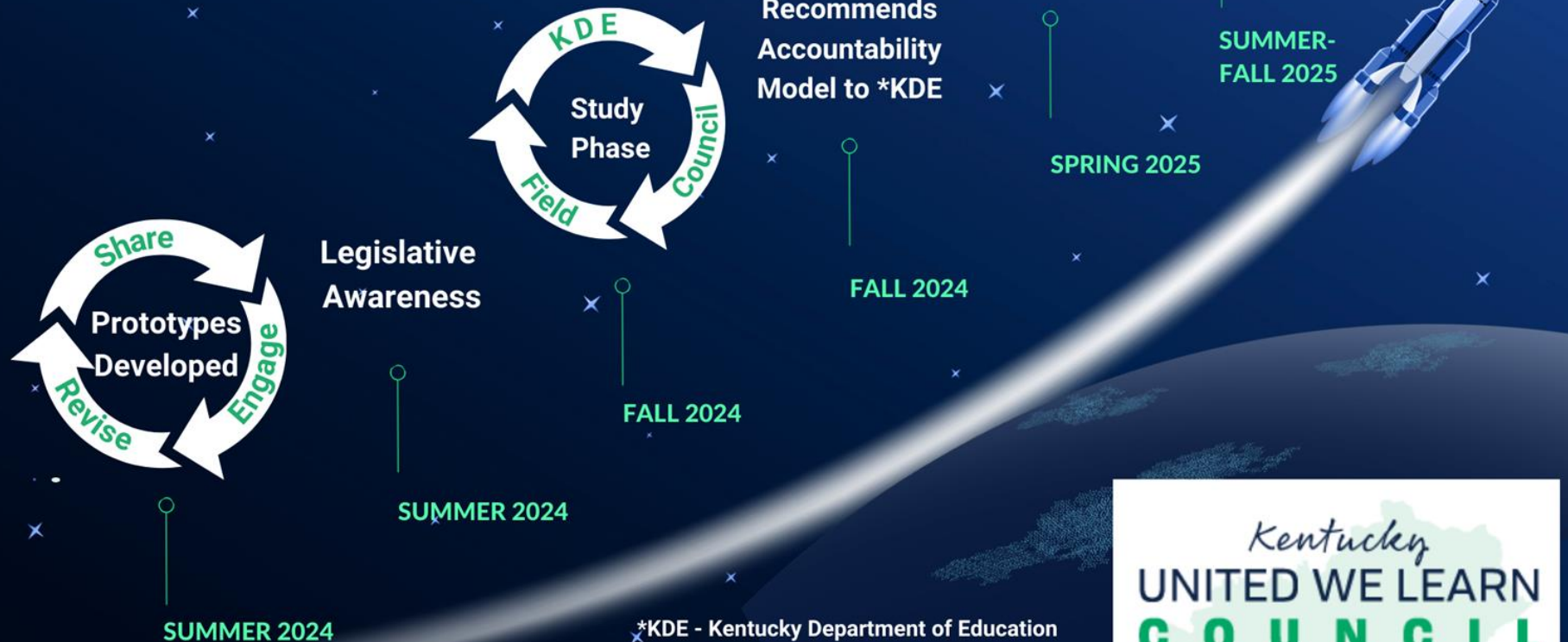
- 3 Committees
 - Accelerating Innovation
 - Bold New Future
 - Vibrant Learning Experiences
- 4 workgroups
 - District Support for Quality
 - Engaging and Communicating with Communities
 - Learning with Local Districts
 - Menu of Options

KENTUCKY UNITED WE LEARN COUNCIL'S: JOURNEY TO THE MOON

Goal:
Approved Reimagined
Accountability System

SUMMER 2026

"To build a prosperous Kentucky, we will launch an accountability system that is meaningful and useful to all our learners."



Prototypes

Evolving subset of possibilities for discussion

Prototype 1: Accreditation-style Accountability

- The reimagined assessment and accountability systems will emphasize transparency by providing families and communities with information on a broad set of school quality domains through a locally-customizable data display.
- Accreditation-style evaluation where schools submit evidence to an external evaluator and receive ratings on rubrics with feedback for improvement.
- Inclusive collaborative process would be used to set goals and strategies for school improvement.
- Includes an ongoing collection and submission of evidence at regular intervals.
- A reduced and streamlined version of the federal accountability system remains to meet federal law.
- State school color labels would be eliminated and there would be only three levels of school ratings for federal accountability (i.e., Meets Requirements, TSI/ATSI, CSI).

Academic Outcomes and Growth, + Portrait of a Learner (POL) Competencies	Vibrant Learning Experiences	Teaching and Leadership	School Culture & Student Well-being	Community Connections and Post-secondary Readiness	Locally Determined Criteria <i>(optional)</i>	Locally Determined Criteria <i>(optional)</i>	Locally Determined Criteria <i>(optional)</i>
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Individual Student Growth or Change

Option 1.1.A

- Replace the “Change” component in the current state and federal accountability system with individual student growth.
- Student growth would be determined from one year to the next.

Option 1.1.B

- “Change” remains in the state and federal accountability system.

State Assessment Options

Option 1.2.A

- Through-year model that captures student learning and growth in reading and math within the academic year
- Replace the locally-adopted interim assessments, ideally reducing local assessment costs and testing time.
- State assessment in science, social studies and writing would stay the same.

Option 1.2.B

- Pilot a competency-based approach and includes authentic demonstrations of knowledge and skills.
- Math, reading and science would include a combination of short-form standardized assessments and authentic performance tasks.
- Innovative assessment system would be piloted and refined in a subset of districts before scaling statewide.

Option 1.2.C

- Reduce the number of the assessments used to determine academic proficiency to meet the minimum federal requirements (i.e. reading, mathematics and science)
- Social studies and writing would be assessed using local assessments.
- The state assessments to meet federal requirements could use a single summative or through-course approach as described in Option 1.2.A.

Prototype 2: Values Vibrant Learning Experiences

Option 2.1.A

The **federally approved Title 1 accountability system** will include a new menu of options indicator of “Vibrant Learning Experiences.”

The indicator will capture the percentage of students engaged in one or more of the following student-centered learning experiences:

- Student capstone projects
- Student-led conferences
- Service-based learning experiences
- Work-based learning experiences
- Student defenses of learning
- Personalized learning pathways (e.g., career connected learning, independent study, dual enrollment)
- Another locally-proposed, federally-approved option

Option 2.1.B

- Creating a new state accountability indicator that values “Vibrant Learning Experiences.”
- Schools submit evidence of vibrant learning experiences for their students. Evidence will be evaluated on a 5-point rubric that is co-created by the state and inclusive group of education stakeholders.

No evidence submitted related to vibrant learning experiences	Developing evidence of vibrant learning experiences	Advancing evidence of vibrant learning experiences	Strong evidence of vibrant learning experiences	Exceptional evidence of vibrant learning experiences
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- The Vibrant Learning Experiences indicator reported alongside the other accountability indicators in the state report card.
- Schools that achieve a rating of 4 or 5 on the Vibrant Learning will move up one rating on the state color scale (i.e., Red → Orange, Orange → Yellow, Yellow → Green, Green → Blue).

Vibrant Learning Experiences (VLE)

"Learning that matters to students."

“In partnership with families and communities, students are agents of their own learning, engaged in relevant, authentic and joyful learning opportunities. Vibrant learning honors students' cultural wealth, gifts and interests. Vibrant learning culminates in the application of knowledge and skills demonstrated through personalized products.”

Other Considerations for Prototypes

- **Reporting:** Information from the reimagined state assessment and accountability systems will serve as the primary means of communicating about school quality to the public.
- **School Support and Improvement Efforts:** If changes impact federal accountability, information from new system will be used to identify schools for TSI/ATSI, CSI.
- **Fiscal Impact:** When legislative changes occur, they often have a fiscal impact. Changes within the prototypes – such as accreditation, collection of evidence and additional reporting – will impact human resources and implementation costs at the school, district and state level. The fiscal impact caused by legislative changes will need to be part of the ongoing discussions and advocacy.

Policy Considerations for Prototypes

Possible Federal Policy Implications	Possible State Policy Implications
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• KDE would need to seek approval from the U.S. Department of Education (USED) on changes to the accountability system through amendments to Kentucky's ESSA Consolidated State Plan.• KDE would need to submit changes to assessments to USED for feedback and approval through a Peer Review Process.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• State statutory changes would need to be sought with Kentucky General Assembly.• Regulatory changes would be needed by the Kentucky Board of Education.• The Kentucky Department of Education would need to revise policies to align with changes.

Critical Feedback

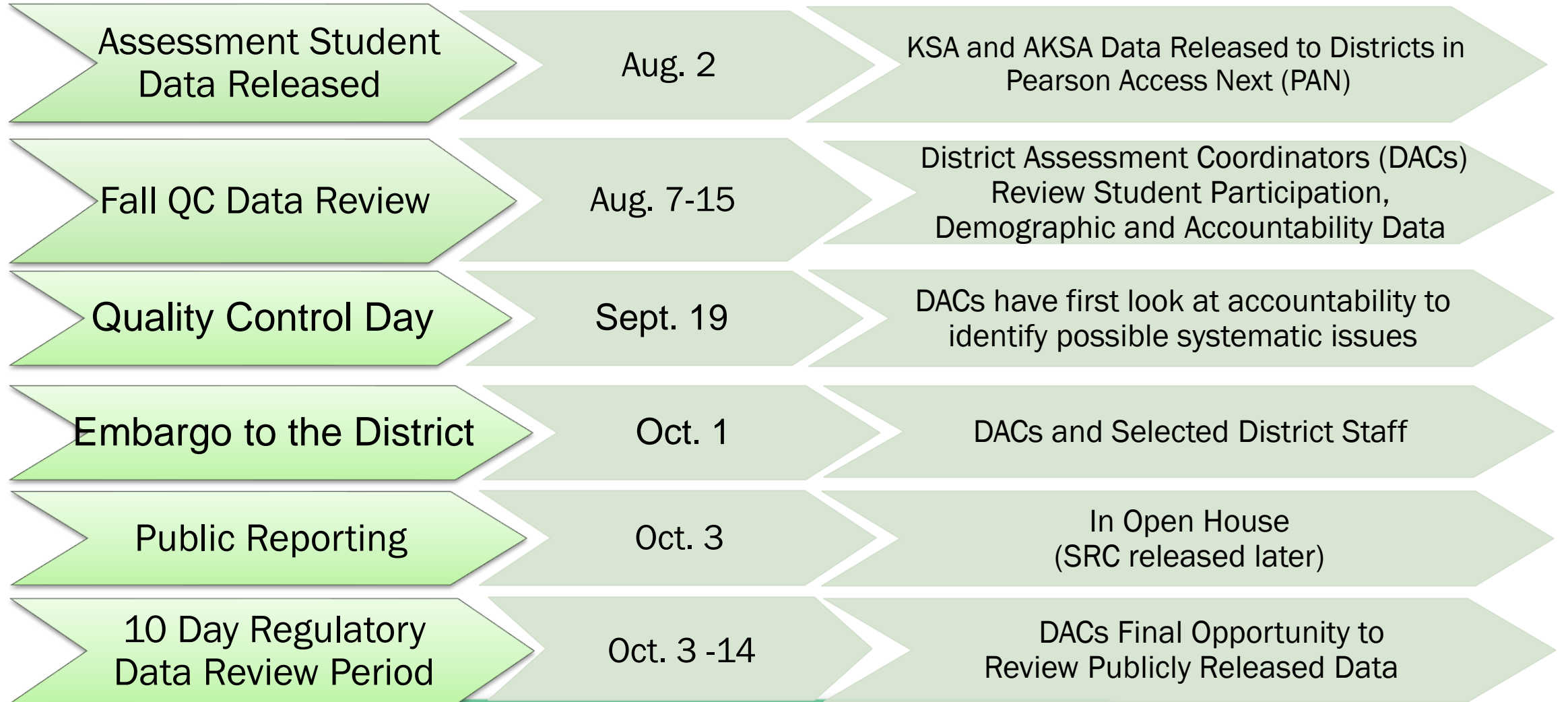
Input Sought	Next Steps
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Input and feedback are critical.• Feedback will be used to create future versions of this document.• Please complete the the Kentucky United We Learn Council - Stakeholder Feedback survey• A more in-depth video will be provided to support the completion of the survey.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Advisory Meetings• Kentucky United We Learn Council Convening• Kentucky Board of Education August Retreat• Version 3.0 and beyond

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2023-2024 Accountability Tentative Reporting Timeline

Director Jennifer Stafford,
KDE Division of Assessment and Accountability Support

Tentative Reporting Timeline





Purple Star Program

Building Resiliency for Kentucky's Military
Connected Youth

What is the Purple Star Award Program?



Vision: Every military-connected youth in Kentucky receives what they need to succeed.

Mission: Instill a sense of connection and strengthen resilience within Kentucky's military-connected youth.

What Does the Purple Star Program Do?

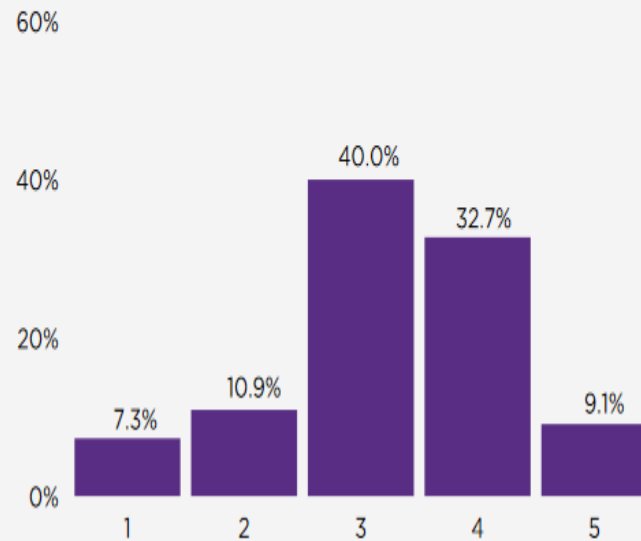
- Helps military-connected youth overcome academic and socio-emotional challenges of military life (frequent moves parental, deployments).
- Provides military-connected youth with a point of contact who has been trained to deal with the unique challenges that military-connected youth face.
- Builds communitywide support for military-connected families.

How Do We Know it Works?

Graph 7

“How would you rate the impact of the Purple Star program on the academic progress of military-connected children at your school?”

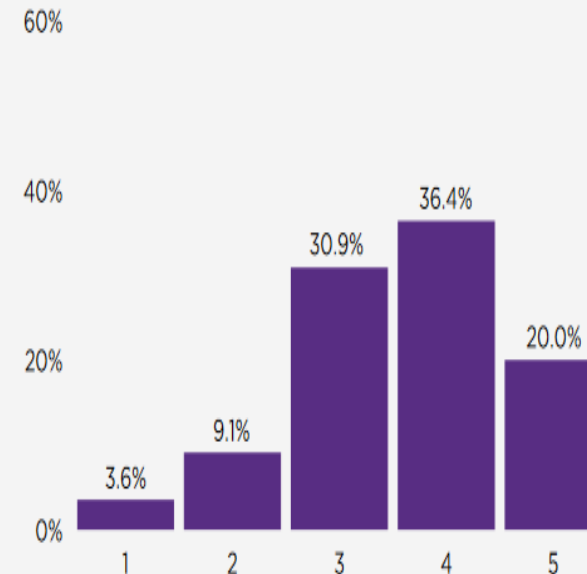
(1 = No Impact, 3 = Some Impact, 5 = Significant Impact)



Graph 8

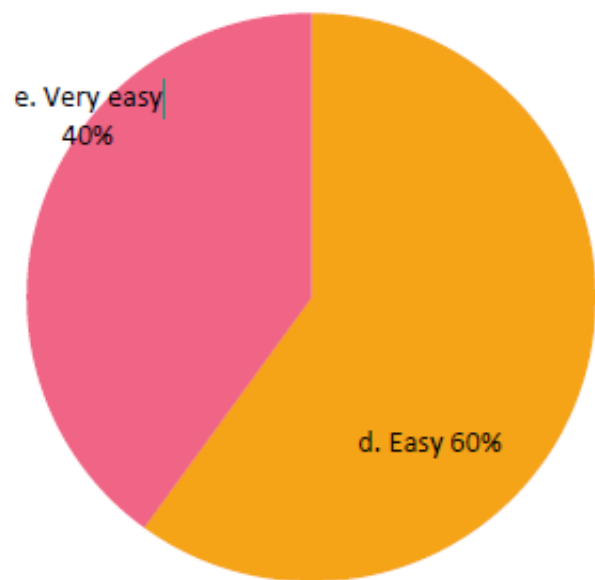
“How would you rate the impact of the Purple Star program on the socio-emotional development of military-connected children at your school?”

(1 = No Impact, 3 = Some Impact, 5 = Significant Impact)

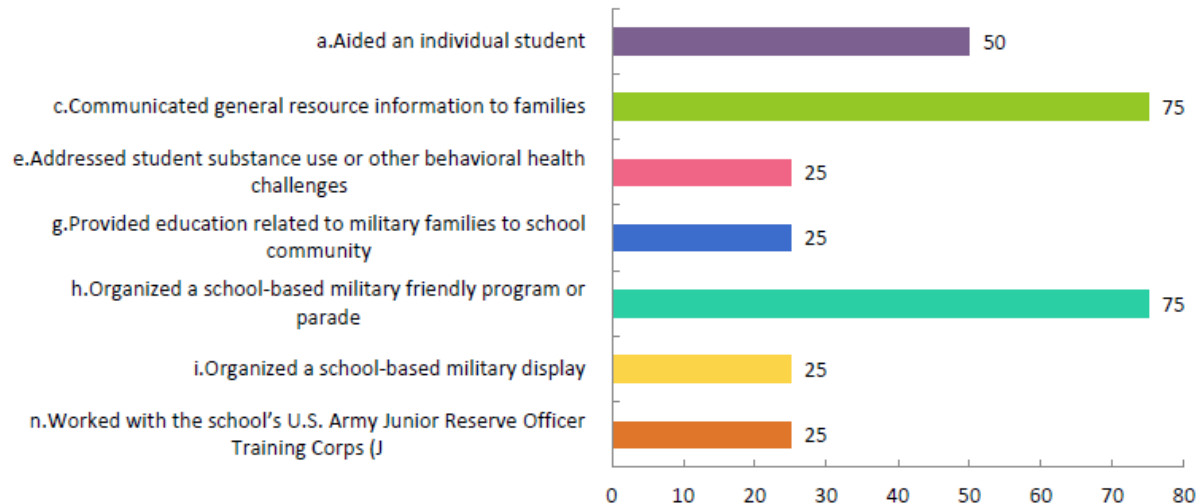


Preliminary State-Level Evaluation Results

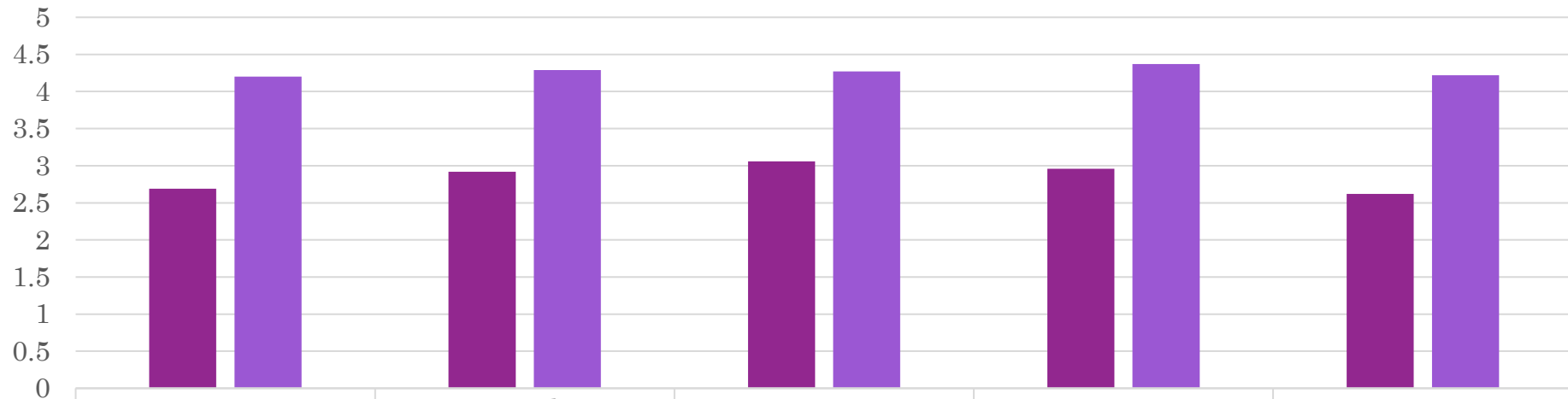
How challenging has it been to maintain the Purple Star program at your school?



Below are some activities considered best practices to support military-connected youth and families by Purple Star schools across the United States. Please select all of the activities you have helped to facilitate in the past six months.



Purple Star Liaisons Report Increased Knowledge



■ Pre-Training Questionnaire
 ■ Post-Training Questionnaire

■ Pre-Training Questionnaire ■ Post-Training Questionnaire

Purple Star Award Requirements

Identify

a military
family liaison

Attend

the professional
development
training focused
on military
families

Complete

at least one
additional
military
recognition
activity

Create

a resource page
on the school
website

How to Apply for the Purple Star Award



Visit www.kypurpleschools.org



Submit application to the Advisory Board



Advisory Board reviews application and notifies the school



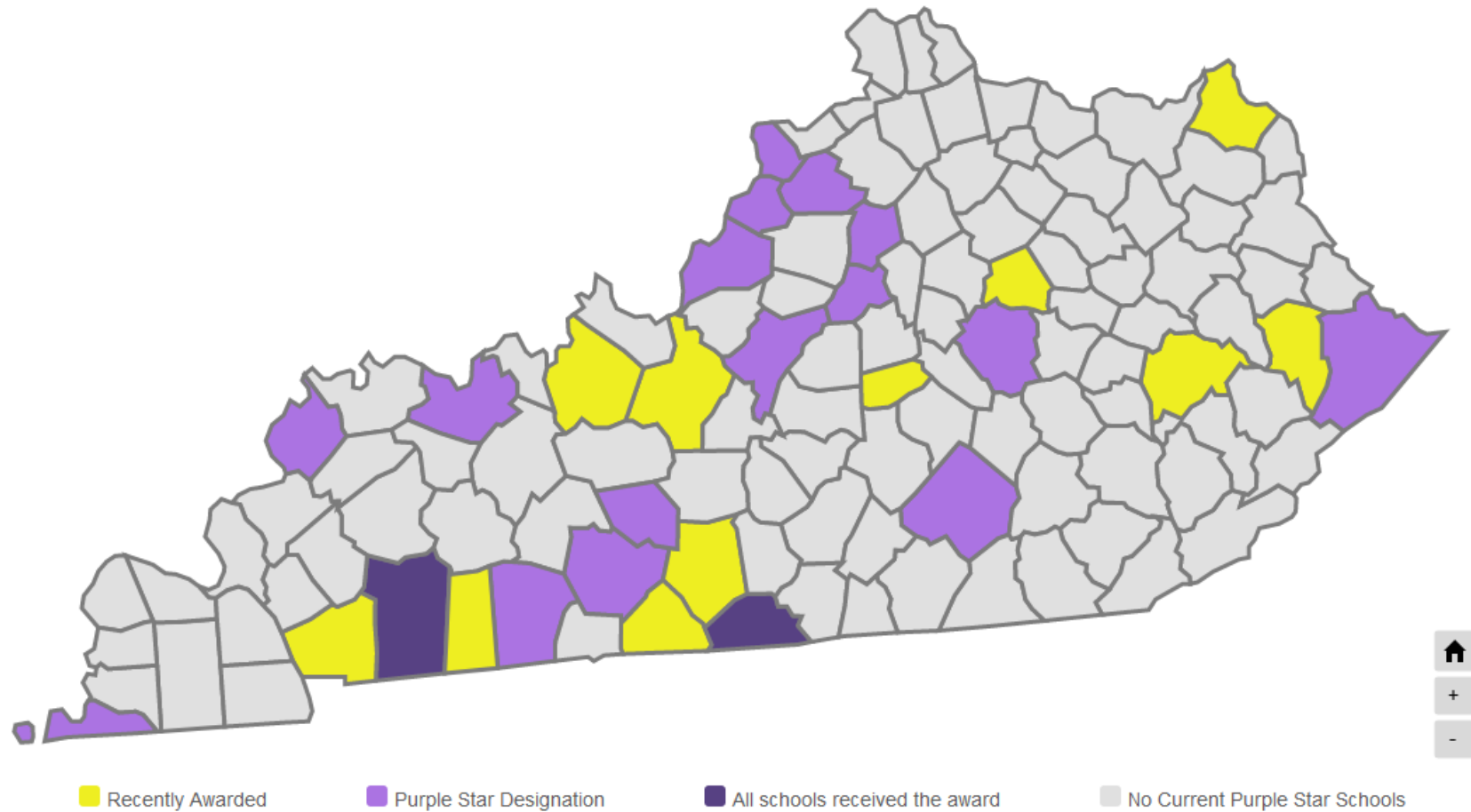
School receives Purple Star Designation



Schools must reapply every two years



Purple Star Schools in Kentucky



Other Resources



CONVERSATION STARTERS

- WHAT ACT OF SELFLESS SERVICE DID YOU DO TODAY?
- WHAT MAKES YOU PROUD TO BE A MILITARY CHILD?
- WHAT MAKES SOMEONE A GOOD FRIEND?
- WHO IS THE MOST COURAGEOUS PERSON YOU KNOW? WHAT MAKES THEM SO BRAVE?
- IF YOU COULD HAVE ANY SUPERPOWER WHAT WOULD IT BE?
- IF YOU COULD BUILD A HOUSE MADE OF ONE FOOD, WHAT FOOD WOULD YOU CHOOSE?
- IF YOU COULD TRAVEL TO ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD, WHERE WOULD YOU GO AND WHY?
- WOULD YOU RATHER FLY A PLANE, BE ON A BOAT, OR DRIVE A TANK? AND WHY?



RESOURCE OVERVIEW

PURPLE STAR EMPATHY LESSON	4
"THEATER OF OPERATIONS" STORY	6
JENESSA LARGENT: REAL-LIFE SUPERHERO PROFILE	7
STUDENT WORKSHEETS	
MILITARY SYMBOLS	9
BRANCH IDENTIFICATION	10
SEEK AND FIND	11
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VETERANS MAD LIBS	13
ONE-ON-ONE EDUCATOR/MILITARY CHILD DISCUSSION RESOURCES	
EMOTIONS THERMOMETER	14
EMOTION CHECK-IN	15
IDENTIFY YOUR EMOTION I CAN	15

ONE-ON-ONE EDUCATOR/MILITARY CHILD DISCUSSION RESOURCES

In addition to the full-class resources included here, Global Game Changers has other resources available on our Educator Portal which, although not specifically geared toward military-connected children, may help you handle some of the emotions that these children experience. These students may act out an emotion for reasons you can identify (e.g., they miss a parent who is serving away from home, they're unsettled by a move to a new school or home, or they worry about a parent who is experiencing the aftereffects of a tour of duty), or they may act out for reasons neither they nor you can initially identify (e.g., fear triggered by a news story).

In these cases, we recommend that you support these students by engaging in a safe conversation about what and how they are feeling and by providing them with coping mechanisms.

**PICK A SPOT ON THE THERMOMETER
DRAW A FACE THAT SHOWS HOW YOU FEEL**

TAKE 10 DEEP BREATHS

WRITE ME A TALKING POINT

WRITE GOOD!

ASK FOR A HUG

EMOTIONS MANAGEMENT LESSONS

This group of lessons covers each emotion on the chart, and can be used for whole-class or small-group engagement.

There are also other resources available on the Educator Portal. New educators who sign up for the Portal may request a starter kit that includes our Managing Superhero Emotions workbook.

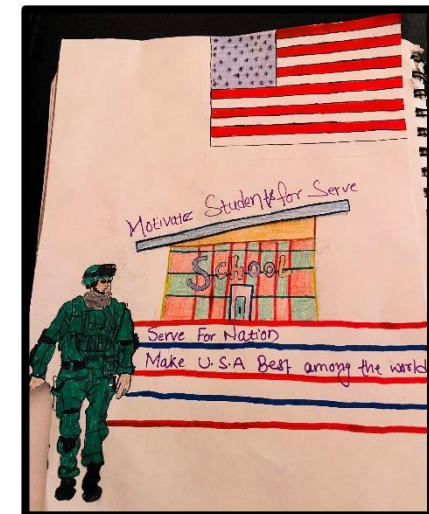
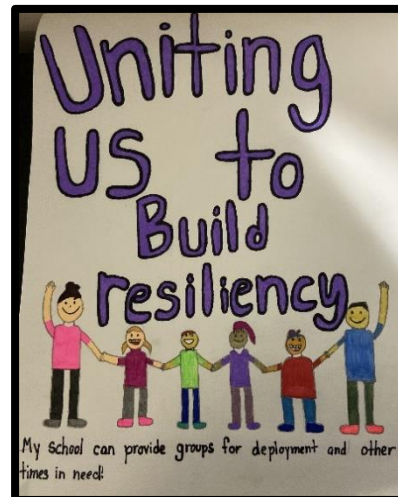
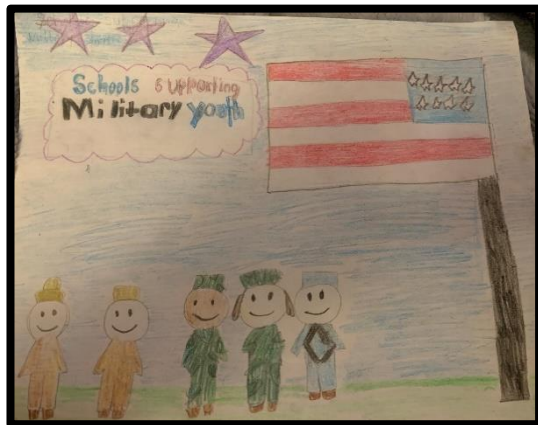
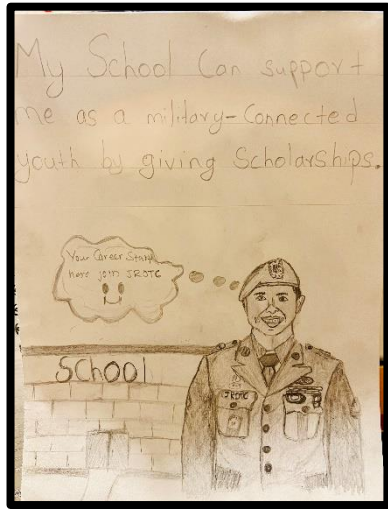
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Purple Star Award Ceremonies



The Purple Star Military Youth Art Contest



Meet the Team



For More Information

Visit www.kypurplestar.org

Or

Contact Steve Cambron at
steve.cambron@ky.gov

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Question and Answer Session

(Submit Questions in Teams)

KDE Leadership

 Kentucky Department of
EDUCATION

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Important Dates

Kentucky United We Learn Convening
July 29

Deadline to have Proficient/Distinguished scores on school and district websites
Aug. 1

Kentucky Board of Education
Aug. 7-8

Superintendents Webcast
Aug. 14

 Kentucky Department of
EDUCATION