

Happy Labor Day!

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy Labor Day!

Labor Day is our annual opportunity to recognize the value, worth, and dignity of all workers by reflecting on all the contributions to the strength and prosperity of this Commonwealth, and our nation, that have been made.

Hard work pays off, no matter what you do! Whether you punch a clock or are a salaried employee, working for tips, employed for the first time ever or just about to reach retirement – no matter where you live or what kind of work you do, it pays off – you are what makes this the most productive and most powerful country in the world. Thank you.

Pennsylvania's Policies Supporting Military Connected Students

As the new school year pegins, it is important to emember that military amilies are present in every corner of Pennsylvania. Across the Commonwealth, we have:

6,000 active-duty service members, 2,632 spouses, and 5,443 children

37,057 National Guard and Reserve service members, 15,469 spouses, and 23,348 _children



Advance Enrollment for Military ChildrenPennsylvania has implemented four policy initiatives that support military connected students. These initiatives include: Advance Enrollment, the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children, the Military Student Identifier, and the Purple Star School Program.

Advance Enrollment: Allows children of Armed Forces members to enroll in school using military orders prior to establishing residency in the Commonwealth to ensure a smooth transition.

Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children: Addresses the challenges military students face when transferring schools, from enrollment, transferring records, immunizations, program placement, deployment-related absences, extra-curricular activities, and graduation.

Military Student Identifier: A federally required data point that tracks the attendance and academic progress of military-connected children in public schools, which is vital for understanding and addressing the needs of these students.

Purple Star School ProgramPurple Star School Program: Launched in 2024, this state sponsored recognition program honors schools that have taken specific steps to be



district could be next! For additional information on how to apply for Purple Star School designation, please email RA-EDMilitaryFamK12@pa.gov.

military friendly". So far, 6 schools in Pennsylvania have earned this designation. Schools in your"



