

# FLORIDA CELEBRATES **MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD**

## **MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD EVENT-PLANNER FOR SCHOOL LEADERS**

The purpose of this planner is to provide information and a sample schedule for school leaders in hosting events and celebrations that applaud the courage of military children and honor their hard work!



- **April is Month of the Military Child.** This special recognition, established by former Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger in 1986, serves as a reminder that military children play a role in contributing to the strength of military families.
- The **Month of the Military Child** in Florida gives communities an opportunity to emphasize and recognize the sacrifices of military children while their parents serve our nation.
- Florida is committed to being the **most military-friendly state in the nation.**
- Florida is a member of the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children, which provides support to students of military families.
- **Purple Up! Day is on April 17, 2024.** Celebrate by wearing purple as a visible way to show support and recognize military children in the month of April.
- Purple was chosen because it is the color that symbolizes all branches of the military. It is a combination of Army green, Coast Guard blue, Air Force blue, Marine Corps red and Navy blue.

## **SAMPLE SCHOOL ASSEMBLY SCHEDULE**

- Invite a military member (parent or other family member) to be a guest speaker and share their perspective on life in the military and their profession (10 minutes).
- Students can learn about each of the military branches and why we Purple Up! (5 minutes).
- Celebrate each grade level and have each grade level cheer for their Purple Up spirit (3 minutes).
- Recognize military children, veterans or military staff members that are attending the assembly (2 minutes).
- Have the school band play patriotic songs and/or feature the high school drumline (5 minutes).