



State Board of Education

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**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** School District Superintendents

**FROM:** Jacob Oliva

**DATE:** March 12, 2021

**SUBJECT:** April – Month of the Military Child

**Contact Information:**

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**DPS:2021-38**

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. Month of the Military Child provides communities an opportunity to honor and share gratitude for the service of military children. Florida is committed to being the most military friendly state in the nation.

Approximately 31 percent of all service members deployed out of Florida have families with children. The Florida Department of Education supports school districts and schools who are responding to the educational needs of military-connected children to enable them to be on track and ready for a well-rounded, world-class educational journey in Florida.

**This year, we invite you to “Purple Up!” on April 21, 2021, by wearing purple as a visible way to show support and thank military children. The color purple was chosen because it is the color that symbolizes all branches of the military. It is the combination of Army green, Coast Guard blue, Air Force blue, Marine Corps red and Navy blue.**

We are encouraging everyone in each of Florida’s local school districts to reach out with events and celebrations that honor the hard work and applaud the courage of military children. Schools are planning events ranging from military career days. Additional information on events or planning tools may be accessed at <https://mic3.net/motmc/>. Please be sure to also share [the Florida Defense Alliance and Enterprise Florida’s 2021 Military-Friendly Guide](#) that provides information, programs and benefits Florida has implemented to support and assistance military members, veterans and their families. This guide reflects the strong commitment Florida has made to support our military.

JO/ft

cc: School District Student Services Directors  
School Principals

JACOB OLIVA  
CHANCELLOR OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS