

**2022 PETE TAYLOR PARTNERSHIP
OF EXCELLENCE AWARD**



MCEC[®] TM

Maxwell-River Region Partnership for Educational Excellence - Alabama

PARTNERS:

Maxwell Air Force Base

Elmore County Public Schools

Montgomery Public Schools

Pike Road Schools

Autauga County Schools

MGMWERX

Alabama Military Stability Foundation

DoD Education Activity

Prattville Chamber of Commerce

Montgomery Chamber of Commerce

Alabama State Department of Education

Civil Air Patrol National Headquarters

The goal of the Maxwell-River Region Partnership for Educational Excellence is two-fold. First, the organization aims to identify and implement near-term ways to provide military-affiliated families with high-quality public education options. Second, the organization aims to serve as a catalyst/facilitator for sustainable public education approaches benefitting the River Region. We realized these objectives could only be achieved in partnership with the community. Accordingly, representatives from across our installation work collaboratively with local schools, nonprofit organizations, community leaders, and other stakeholders for the past 3.5 years.

The primary focus of the Partnership is on the 3,000+ children of active-duty parents stationed at Maxwell-Gunter Air Force Base, the initiative has a much broader reach through the Alabama Purple Star School Program and the A+ Toolkit. This was possible thanks to the support of local universities, non-profits, and elected officials. We have benefited from the assistance of national organizations and advice of peers at comparable installations.

Some of the positive outcomes from this partnership are: on-demand MIC3 training (locally developed), collaboration bringing the Purple Star School Program to Alabama (benefiting 16,000+ military-connected students statewide), widespread media and social media campaigns keeping military-connected students in focus, the A+ Toolkit (endorsed by Gen and Mrs. Brown, reaching thousands via books and online), the DoDEA Pilot Program allowing off base military-connected children to attend on base school, and many more. We are proud of our accomplishments thus far, committed to this approach for the long run, and confident the best is yet to come!

Operation Grow Where You Go: Cultivating Support for Military-Connected Children, Tweens and Teens - Alaska

PARTNERS:

**Fort Wainwright
Fairbanks North Star Borough
School District
Eielson Air Force Base
University of Alaska
Fairbanks Co-Op**

The Fairbanks North Star Borough (FNSB) is home to Fort Wainwright US Army Alaska and Eielson AFB as well as Army National Guard, Air Guard and Reserve units. Every April, our community celebrates our military-connected children on the military installations and in our Fairbanks North Star Borough community Operation Grow Where You Go: Cultivating Support for Military-Connected Children, Tweens, and Teens is a community partnership that recognizes, supports, and honors the sacrifices of our military-connected children.

MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD (MOMC) IS VERY SPECIAL TO US AND WE CELEBRATE BY:

- Partnering with the University of Alaska Cooperative Extension 4-H/Military to work with the Alaska Governor's Office to do a Month of the Military Child Proclamation
- Hosting the 1st Annual Alaska Purple Star Schools Recognition Ceremony on April 15, 2022
- The Mayors of North Pole, Fairbanks, and FNSB signed a Month of the Military Child Proclamation
- Fort Wainwright and Eielson AFB Commanders signs Month of the Military Child Proclamations
- Fort Wainwright and Eielson AFB organizations celebrates the Month of the Military Child with a variety of activities throughout the month; Imagination Movers events, Parades, Operation Megaphone, Eielson AFB Base Housing Door Decorating, Plus, much more!
- The Fairbanks North Star Borough School District's (FNSBSD) School Board passed an April is MOMC Resolution
- The FNSBSD's schools celebrate the MOMC in a wide variety of ways; Positive Picketing, Spirit Weeks, Door/Bulletin Board Decorating, Art Contests, Plus, much more!

Bay Area Education Alliance - Florida

PARTNERS:

**Tyndall Air Force Base
Bay District Schools
Naval Support Activity Panama City**

The Bay Area Education Alliance is a strong partnership that is multi-faceted and mutually supportive in its one purpose and initiatives. The partnership members, Tyndall Air Force Base, Naval Support Activity Panama City, and Bay District Schools, are all strongly committed to exceptional service to military families, military-dependent students, to students in the broader community and to those in education who serve them.

The Bay Area Education Alliance began in 2006; however, the partnership grew significantly in 2009 when both Tyndall Air Force Base and Naval Support Activity Panama City (NAS PC) hired School Liaison Officers to serve as advocates for military families.

Today, the resilient alliance continues to implement innovative programs and initiatives that were negatively impacted due to the catastrophic damage the community sustained from Hurricane Michael on October 10, 2018. Immediately following the hurricane, Tyndall Air Force Base worked closely with Bay District Schools to establish virtual learning programs for displaced military students. Collaboration between both military installations and the school district resulted in military students completing all requirements.

PWCS Goes Purple - Virginia

PARTNERS:

Prince William County Schools Marine Corps Base Quantico

Prince William County Public Schools (PWCS) includes 92 schools, over 98,000 students, and over 11,000 staff members. This project, PWCS GOES PURPLE, is designed to educate, and impact the entire PWCS community. All PWCS schools have at least one military-connected student represented. It is our goal to be the first school division of this size in the state of Virginia to have our entire division educated and prepared to welcome military students and their families.

A PWCS school may only have one military student enrolled; yet all students, not only military-connected students, participate and benefit from the lessons and information shared through celebrations, morning announcements, and military-connected displays. As one social worker stated in an elementary school with a small number of military students, “The month of the military child was an amazing history lesson for all of us.” In the Purple Star Guide presentation, schools are encouraged to view the Purple Star status as a baseline foundation for taking their school to the next level each year.

In the first 6 months of initiating PWCS GOES PURPLE, in collaboration with PWCS and Marine Corps Base Quantico (MCBQ), over 300 staff members received Purple Star introductory sessions and/or Purple Star Application Guide sessions. These sessions were designed to provide information based on the familiarity level of the audience member. In addition, over 350 individuals viewed the highly informative Purple Star newsletter to gain more information.

Community Outreach with Focus on Police Department Partnerships - Texas

PARTNERS:

**JBSA San Antonio
Fort Sam Houston Elementary School
Fort Sam Houston Independent School District
JBSA Fort Sam Houston 502nd Security Force
Hunt Military Communities**

Our school is fortunate to have strong partnerships that have been sustained over the years. These include events coordinated with our installations, School Liaison Office, Hunt Military Communities, Army Environmental Command and Yoga Day Nonprofit. We collaborated with the SLO to host a drive-thru Back-to-School Bash in August where we distributed school supplies to nearly 200 families. We partner with Yoga Day Nonprofit to provide yoga classes to our students. We continued our partnership with the Army Environmental Command. We continued our traditional Purple Up day-long event where we collaborated with 4 units across JBSA. Over 850 students were included in these events.

While we sustained our old partnerships, we formed a new alliance to meet the needs of our families. Our collaboration with the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Security Forces, has brought a focus on women in police forces, has helped to develop positive relationships with role models in police forces and has offered safety education to our 4th and 5th graders. Our new partnership brought new events to our campus and provided opportunities for our families to connect with police forces both on post and in our surrounding communities. We are proud of the outreach we accomplished to meet the needs of our students.

Curry County Youth Services Trust Mentor Network Program – New Mexico

PARTNERS:

**Cannon Air Force Base
United Way
Clovis Municipal Schools
Mayor of Clovis
Curry County**

Cannon Air Force Base and Clovis Municipal Schools have created an ideal relationship between the base and local community. There is a multi-faceted list of programs going on that not only benefit our military students, but also enhances the lives of our community students as well. These partnerships support 7,877 students and 14% of them being our military dependent population.

All members of the partnership are dedicated to the success of every student attending Clovis schools and the passion it takes to create a united environment both on and off base. The relationships between our base, schools, and community continue to grow and flourish. We have developed a community-wide enthusiasm for our military-connected students, and those of our veterans.

We work hard to provide our community students the opportunities to better the base, the schools, and the community through various programs; a 2 year BOUNCE Resiliency program, JDC & At Risk Mentoring with dependent and civilian students, Test Proctor Program for our New Mexico state testing, National Math & Science DOD STEM grant with Clovis High, Military Support groups for our active duty and veteran children, school activity volunteer program, JROTC First Sergeant mentoring, Back to School Bazaar, Teachers Understanding Deployment Operations (TUDOS)/Kids Understanding Deployment Operations (KUDOS), United Way Reality Check Days, and Student to Student/Student Council Collaboration for incoming new students to the Clovis.

Partners in Education - Texas

PARTNERS:

**Nimitz Middle School
Central Texas Chapter - National Naval Officers Association
Navy Recruiting**

The need for this choice of partnership stem from the post Covid-19 regression. We found ourselves struggling during the 2020 school year and were searching for a way to get back on track.

During the 2021 school year coming out of pandemic mode we began some semblance of order to our school. To bring ourselves to the future, we focused on education and students. A major part of this was the military child. We decided to take our program to the next level, which we accomplished by partnering with the National Naval Officers Association (NNOA) and Navy Recruiting.

During the early stages of our partnership, Navy personnel visited our school and were treated to VIP tours given by S2S members. It was during these visits that members of the S2S team and the Navy determined how we would grow this program to create a partnership that would benefit all. One of the directions was how do we direct our efforts to service projects for our school and community, much like the Navy does.

Bring in the 2022 school year and a new attitude. The “Partners in Education” was drafted, completed, and enacted by the key players. During this time, we established the basis for our continued growth based on the tenets of this partnership. Together we established a program for S2S to care for all 1400 plus chrome books assigned to Nimitz, the maintenance and delivery are now maintained by our S2S group. We also partnered with PetSmart to deliver a plush pet to every student at Nimitz, and lastly, we continue to keep our school clean. For their part the U.S. Navy put together plans for teaching our students, following up by being included on witnessing, judging, and applauding the student’s work.