

STANHOPE ELMORE HIGH SCHOOL
“PURPLE STAR PROGRAM”
MILLBROOK, ALABAMA

Purple Star Program Mission Statement

Stanhope Elmore High School located in Millbrook, Alabama provides a high-quality environment that includes: safety, diversity, outstanding academics, competitive athletics, prominent clubs, and many other programs to all students; which include our transitioning military families. The highly touted Purple Star Program is the program of record that we administer to our transitioning students. The program is all encompassing and thoroughly addresses the students needs of integration into a new environment. **We Are SE! and We Win!**

Principals Intent

To provide a quality experience of integration into the Stanhope Elmore High School family to transitioning students. I intend that the Purple Star Program we administer be a premier and model program within the State of Alabama in it's design and execution that thoroughly addresses the needs of every student.

Fundamental Message

Military/ Transitioning students experience many challenges as they relocate to new schools due to a parent's change in duty station. By establishing statewide Purple Star Schools programs, states can encourage local education agencies to implement practices that assist military children with transitions/deployments and also recognize military service and civic responsibility.

Analytics and Statistical Data

The average military-connected student will experience six to nine different schools

during their K-12 education experience. More than 1.1 million such students and their families have identified school transitions as a top priority and concern as they integrate into new communities and school systems. In fact, the school system generally drives the local community where the family decides to settle. Military - connected students often experience difficulties as a result of parents being deployed or constantly on the move. There are many challenges that mobile military students face such as learning gaps and overlaps in curriculum, differing graduation requirements and course placement disruption. These students also face social and emotional challenges that include leaving supportive friends and activities only to start over in a new community and school system.

The Military Demographic Data for Alabama is as follows:

- 12,970 active-duty service members
- 6,688 active-duty spouses
- 14,426 active-duty children
- 24,835 National Guard and Reserve Members
- 12,109 National Guard and Reserve Spouses
- 17,777 National Guard and Reserve children

The Demographic Data for Stanhope Elmore High School in Millbrook, Al:

- 1,090 total student body population
- 50% Caucasian
- 45% African-American
- 1.1% Hispanic
- .8% American Indian
- .03% Other
- .01% Pacific Islander
- .03% Unclassified

Stanhope Elmore High School Purple Star Program

Meeting Required Activities

- Stanhope Elmore High School Counselors are the schools single initial point of contact as a military liaison along with two teachers who are veterans and program administrators of the Purple Star Program.
- We will be able to and have identified our military-connected students enrollment by way of our counselors and their use of the INOW program through the Public Education Information Management System via the Military Student Identifier.
- The Schools Counselors and Military Liaison Administrators will serve as the points of contact between the school and military-connected students and their families, installation leadership and the installation school liaison officer.
- The total team of administrators, counselors, teachers, and military liaisons will assist families and students in identifying services available and required to our military-connected students.
- The Stanhope Elmore Team will also assist in coordinating school programs relevant to military-connected students through transition support, alternative schooling options, deployment support/ counseling if required, college-career-military readiness, special education and scholarship and grant resources.
- The Stanhope Elmore High School Purple Star Program primary administrator has been fully trained on the Interstate Compact On Education Opportunity For Military Children and will train the remaining staff members and student program sponsors within 30 day of receiving program certification.
- The Program Primary Administrator will conduct professional development training sessions that inform all employees of the unique needs of military-connected students via designated faculty meeting.
- Stanhope Elmore High School has a school website (mysehs.com/#) where you can go to Parent Information and find a Purple Star Program link. This link will be linked to many other information tabs that are full of information about Stanhope Elmore High School for all transitioning families.

SEHS Purple Star Program Specifics

- The SEHS Purple Star Program is and was formally the Military Child Education Coalition (MCEC) Student2Student Program(S2S). This program incorporates well with the Purple Star Program and we will continue with the foundational tenants of S2S.
- Student-led and faculty advised program with the goal of taking care of all new students entering Stanhope Elmore High School. The Program has two faculty advisors and seven students; the advisors are both veterans and both thoroughly understand the difficulties of transition. The students are the very best hand selected young men and women to function in this capacity and with a bi-lingual capability. We call our students Ambassadors.
- The program will maintain the core values of leadership, academics, services, finding the way, relationships and complete acceptance.
- The Purple Star Program/ S2S Team will work very closely with our counselors in identifying newly transitioning students into the SEHS family; military-connected students, and any and all other students from other communities. We are an all-inclusive organization-school-family.
- This team has a charter that will:
 - Provide every student a tour
 - Show the new student all of the school links for pertinent information
 - Eat lunch with the new student
 - Provide academic resources and encouragement
 - Provide activities to new students and help them meet other students
 - Follow-ups with the transitioning students to insure complete integration.
- The SEHS Purple Star Program/ S2S Team is well trained through the MCEC/S2S Program. The training is very encompassing in the challenges faced by students making transition into our school, and is steeped in the core values of the program. The training is a school day long and will now add the Compact On Education Opportunity For Military Children training. The training is in a virtual format.
- Transitioning families can go to the Stanhope Elmore High School site; mysehs.com/# and select Parent Information that will take you to the Purple Star Program. There will be links that will take you to Program Documents, Guidance Counselors, Academics, Athletics, Clubs and Organizations, Relocation Information to Millbrook, Alabama, Special Education, and Information on the Interstate Compact On Education Opportunities for Military Children.

- **Contact Information-** The primary contacts for the Purple Star Program can be accessed by making direct contact to the school administration and or COL (R) Charles A Bonasera, JROTC Senior Army Instructor at (334)285-4263.