FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Five Schools Earn Designation of Alaska Purple Star School**

ANCHORAGE – In a ceremony on Friday, April 14, 2023, at the Anchorage School District’s Education Center, five Alaskan schools earned the designation of Alaska Purple Star School for their support of military-connected students and families; this is in addition to the twenty schools who earned this designation last year. The State Board of Education’s Military Advisor Lt. Col. James Fowley presented the awards.

The Purple Star program is designed to help schools respond to the educational and social-emotional challenges military-connected children face during their transition to a new school. The program promotes awareness of available resources and streamlines assistance from schools and districts to improve services for military-connected families.

“I was honored to induct five additional schools into the Purple Star program,” said Lt. Col. Fowley. “The principals, teachers, librarians, para-professionals, support staff and students are what make a Purple Star school a welcoming and inclusive environment for military connected students. Their efforts, throughout the year, are why I know that Alaska truly has risen to the challenge of supporting the military child and we all are working towards an excellent education for every child every day.”

“Alaska’s military students are an important part of our Alaskan communities,” said Acting Commissioner Heidi Teshner. “We thank all schools, especially these five, for recognizing and supporting our military families by ensuring the quality of their education and the value of their experience in Alaska.”

The schools honored with the Purple Star designation this year were:

Anchorage School District

* Aurora Elementary
* Frontier Charter School
* Orion Elementary
* Ravenwood Elementary

Fairbanks North Star Borough School District

* Ladd Elementary

These new Purple Star Schools designations are valid for 2023 through 2026. More information is available on the department’s Purple Star School [webpage](https://education.alaska.gov/purplestaraward).

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*The Alaska Department of Education and Early Development provides information, resources, and leadership to support over 130,000 students in 505 public schools across the state of Alaska. The mission of the department is to ensure an “****Excellent Education for Every Student******Every Day****.”*

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