



**Department
of Education**

Mike DeWine, Governor
Paolo DeMaria, Superintendent of Public Instruction

January 15, 2020

Andrew Hawkins, Superintendent
Rootstown Local School District

Dear Superintendent Hawkins:

I am pleased to inform you that the Ohio Department of Education selected Rootstown Elementary School as a 2020 Purple Star designee. We applaud and appreciate your outstanding commitment to serving military-connected students and families in your school.

Each Child, Our Future, Ohio's strategic plan for education, recognizes the importance of supporting the needs of the whole child. To be successful in school and when transitioning between school settings, Ohio's military-connected youth require particular supports to ensure that their unique social, emotional and academic needs are met.

The designation is valid for three years, so the school will need to reapply in 2023. Please feel free to use the attached print-ready files to print certificates and banners. You also may display the Purple Star logo on your website or in any other location of your choosing.

The Purple Star designation recognizes schools that meet important criteria for serving military-connected students and families. Since the initiative's inception, many schools have far exceeded these requirements and, as a Purple Star designee, we encourage you to continually seek better ways to communicate, support and serve your students. Please keep the Department and your respective State Board member informed of any special events you may plan around this recognition. Don't hesitate to share photographs or other examples of best practices with the Department. We would like to share these examples with others.

Once again, congratulations for being a Purple Star recipient and for your continuous support of Ohio's military families.

Sincerely,

Paolo DeMaria
Superintendent of Public Instruction

