



# Military Family Advisory Council

---

December 1, 2022

***Our Commitment: Every Student***  
Collaborative ★ Competitive ★ Successful

# Vision and Guidelines for meetings

## Vision

- ★ Informal
- ★ Speak freely
- ★ Coffee table talk
- ★ Opportunity for families to ask questions, submit challenges, and concerns

## Guidelines

- ★ Be Respectful
- ★ Give each person an opportunity to speak
- ★ Please be mindful that school name, staff, or personal identifying information should not be specifically addressed during the meetings.

# Follow-up from last meeting



## Website merger for Military Support

- In-progress: Deadline for completion is Jan 2023



## Peer Support Programs in ALL schools

- In-Progress: Training will take place for remaining schools Spring 2023 (49 schools)



## Choice Program Communication

- Completed: Albritton Family meeting
- Albritton team invited to Choice Planning

# Bloom's Survey: National Military Family Association

- ★ Bloom: Empowering Military Teen organization created by and for military teens
- ★ Research conducted in 2022
- ★ Findings: Mental Health well-being, Food Insecurity and Future Military Service
- ★ “2021 the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Children’s Health Associations and the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry went so far to declare a “National State of Emergency in Children’s Mental Health”

# Initial Survey Results

# Initial Parent Survey: School Climate

## Likert Scale Questions:

1.92- There was a peer support program available to welcome your child to the school such as the Student 2 Student (S2S) or Junior Student 2 Student (JS2S).

1.92- You are familiar with the Purple Star initiative.

## Open Comment:

We have had experience now with three schools. Everyone has been helpful once we know who to contact, but figuring out the right person is sometimes difficult.

Need better communications

# Follow Up Response

- ★ There are 37 schools with the S2S/JS2S/ES2S program. The remaining schools will be trained Spring 2023. Per the Purple Star Award, every schools needs to provide evidence of a peer support transitional program.
- ★ Purple Star award is a relatively new initiative that has taken the national by storm. Started in 2016/2017 in Ohio.

# Initial Parent Survey: Transitions

## Likert Scale Questions:

2.39 -You were familiar with the change in your child's credit requirement prior to enrolling in Cumberland County Schools.

2.67- Your child is familiar with the peer support/ambassador program to help your child transition into the school.

## Open Comment Sections:

Our children are resilient and adaptable, but CCS schools are not supportive enough of military families. The military support is only words, not actions. Very disappointed.

My child has a hard time adapting to different classroom routines after transitioning

Transitioning to CCS was the worst transition we ever had.



# Follow Up Response

- ★ Credit Requirements are listed on the Student Support Services webpage but also on the Military FAQs. Added to Choice Program Military Parent Meeting
- ★ The S2S/JS2S/ES2S program is established in 37 out of the 86 schools. Spring 2023 all schools will be trained.

# Parent Link Submission

# Submitted through Parent Link

**Responding Department:** Dr. Natasha Scott/Fort Bragg School Liaison Officers

**Submitted Comment:** More MFLACs need to be hired ! Maybe an option to enroll in a Monthly counselor appt for our military children or group session so they talk to others who are dealing with similar issues of change in their lives.

**Department Response:** MFLCs are provided to schools by Fort Bragg School Liaison Officers and approved by the IMCOM level. These assignments are based on the percentage of military-connected children enrolled in a school.

CCS offers a variety of supports through our school counselors and school social workers that military-connected students can participate in such as S2S, JS2S, Club USA, SPARCS, School Behavioral Health, etc. Speak with the student services staff at your school to identify which services are available and how to access them.

We can also assist you with linking to services in the community and on post such as Military OneSource, Steven A. Cohen Clinic, Child Behavior Clinic, etc.

# Submitted through Parent Link

**Responding Department:** CCS Human Resources

**Submitted Comment::** There are many children in our district that are military but like myself there are parents working within the district as well. I have many times felt the pressure of having to choose between my job and my children when their father goes on deployment. I feel there should be a program that allows an employee a full nondisclosure, protection, and even a sense of understanding during those hard months when a military parent/employee becomes a single parent due to deployment. Those months in particular are always hard on my children, it would be very comforting and appreciated if CCS offered a personal day for the parent/employee to just practice self care. This is just a suggestion, as I have been a military parent for 17 years and have also worked and have never seen that offered. Thank you for your time

**Department Response:** All leave types available and the use/allocation of leave is governed by North Carolina Public Schools Benefits and Employment Policy. All classroom teachers earn personal leave which may be used at their discretion in line with NC policy. All non-classroom teachers, certified staff who do not require a substitute, and classified staff have the ability to utilize annual leave in accordance with NC policy. There are also several exigencies within the policy that allow for the use of an employee's accrued leave due to deployment-related activities.

# Submitted through Parent Link

**Responding Department:** Student Support Services/Military Support Team

**Submitted Comment::** My child (ren) connect with other military children, so they know they are not alone in the struggles of military life.

**Department Response:** Currently, CCS has 37 S2S programs. Cumberland County Schools will be training the remaining schools to have the S2S program with the training completion to occur during this school year.

# Submitted through Parent Link

**Responding Department:** Federal Programs/Ms. Maria Pierce-Ford

**Submitted Comment::** The enrollment process for kids is not overly difficult, but communication and assistance for new students was lacking during the middle school and high school open houses. For students coming from out of state, this was a huge concern for us. Being able to have someone to help us with PowerSchool accounts, walk our kids through how the day flows would be beneficial during open house. Our home room teacher was very helpful, but he was overwhelmed with families and students due to mass rush of families. **Additionally, we would like the briefing on the schools Title I status sent to us. We were told there would be a briefing at 5pm, but the building didn't open until 5 and we were told to go straight to the home room.** Otherwise, faculty etc. have been great and it looks like an awesome school.

**Department Response:** Title I Funds are allocated for schools that have students who receive free/reduced meals status greater than 40%. These funds are allocated to ensure that schools increase student achievement for high poverty students, as well as the school. In addition, CCS utilizes its funds in a schoolwide approach so that all students receive an equitable learning experience.



# Submitted through Parent Link

**Responding Department:** Student Support Services

**Submitted Comment::** Lack of after school care for military kids living off post. After school care like Prime Time have gotten expensive and some schools used to offer after school care catering military kids at no cost.

**Department Response:** Prime Time's objective is to provide a comprehensive before and after school care program for children. This program is currently in 21 elementary schools. More site locations will become available as staff are hired. Please visit the Prime Time website for Financial Aid and Discounts that may be available. The program is available to all students.

# Heroes Homecoming Video 2022- Heroes at Home





# Purple Welcome Packet



# Closing