



# PIPER USD 203

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Piper USD 203 Earns Kansas Purple Star School District Designation**

PIPER, KS — Piper Unified School District 203 has officially been named a Kansas Purple Star School District, a recognition awarded by the Kansas State Board of Education (KSBE) to districts that show an exceptional commitment to supporting military-connected students and families. Piper is one of only four districts in the state to earn this honor in 2025, joining Spring Hill (USD 230), Emporia (USD 253), and Rose Hill (USD 394).

The Kansas Purple Star School Recognition Program helps schools respond to the educational and social-emotional challenges military-connected children face during transitions between schools, often due to a parent's change in duty station. The designation reflects a district's major commitment to ensuring these students feel welcomed, supported, and set up for success in college, careers, and life.

"This designation reflects our district's values of Connected Cultural Among All, especially those whose family members serve our country," said Dr. Jessica Dain, Superintendent of Piper USD 203. "We are proud to stand among Kansas districts who make military-connected students a priority."

During the Kansas State Board of Education's April meeting, Dr. Dain was joined in presenting on behalf of Piper by Megan Riggs, librarian at Piper Prairie Elementary and a military spouse, and her daughter, Dakota Riggs, a freshman at Piper High School. Also representing the district was Kristin Miller, administrative assistant at Piper Prairie Elementary and a military spouse, along with her daughter Morgan, who helped share their family's perspective on the importance of military-connected student support. Their voices and experiences were instrumental in showcasing Piper's efforts to the Board.

PIPER UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT 203

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Piper's inclusion on the Purple Star list highlights the district's dedication to creating a welcoming, supportive environment for all students, especially those navigating the unique challenges of military life.

For more information on the Kansas Purple Star School Program, visit the [Kansas State Department of Education website](#) or the [Military Child Education Coalition](#).

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