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Perry Local Schools Earn Purple Star Recognition for Supporting Military Families

PERRY TOWNSHIP, OH – (May 20, 2026) Three schools in the Perry Local School District have been recognized by the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce with the prestigious Purple Star Award, honoring schools that demonstrate a strong commitment to supporting military-connected students and families.

As part of the Purple Star Class of 2026, Watson Elementary School, Southway Elementary School, and Lohr Elementary School have each earned the Purple Star designation. Each designation is valid for three years.

The Purple Star Award recognizes schools that go above and beyond to serve students and families connected to the nation's military. Schools earning the designation complete a series of required activities designed to ensure military-connected students receive meaningful support during times of transition and change.

To qualify for the award, schools must:

- Designate a military family liaison to serve as a point of contact for military students and families;
- Complete professional development focused on the unique needs of military-connected students;
- Identify and support military-connected students within the school community; and
- Maintain a dedicated webpage with resources and support information for military families.

Schools must also complete additional activities that demonstrate a supportive culture for military-connected students and families, such as hosting recognition events, celebrating the Month of the Military Child, or implementing peer support and transition programs.

"These recognitions reflect the intentional work happening across our district to ensure every student and family feels welcomed, supported, and connected," said Superintendent Nathan Stutz. "We are proud of Watson, Southway, and Lohr for earning the Purple Star designation and for the care they show our military-connected students and families each day. Their commitment helps create a positive and supportive environment where all students can thrive."

These three elementary schools now join our other schools across the district that have previously earned Purple Star recognition, including Perry High School, Pfeiffer Intermediate School, and Edison Middle School.

The continued recognition across the district reflects Perry Local Schools' ongoing commitment to creating welcoming, supportive environments for all students and families, including those connected to military service.

For more information about the Purple Star Award, visit education.ohio.gov.

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