

## **Communications Office**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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# **Roye-Williams Elementary School Earns Maryland Purple Star School Designation**

Harford County Public Schools is proud to announce that Roye-Williams Elementary School in Havre de Grace, has earned Maryland Purple Star School designation from the Maryland State Department of Education. Roye-Williams Elementary is the first school in Harford County Public Schools to receive this honor.

The Maryland General Assembly established the Purple Star School Program in 2022. This honor recognizes schools that demonstrate an exceptional commitment to supporting military-connected students and their families. Roye-Williams, where more than 42% of the student population is military-connected, will hold the designation for the 2026-2027 and 2027-2028 school years.

"As the spouse of a veteran, I care very deeply about our ability to connect with and honor our military families," said Dr. Dyann Mack, Interim Superintendent of Schools. "This designation reflects the incredible work being done every day at Roye-Williams Elementary under the leadership of Principal Rose Martino. The staff have built something truly special with an environment where military-connected students feel seen, supported, and set up for success. I am so proud of the Roye-Williams Elementary School community for becoming the first Harford County Public School to attain this prestigious recognition!"

To earn Purple Star designation, schools must meet certain criteria laid out in state law. This includes designating a staff member as a military liaison to support newly enrolled military-connected students, maintaining an accessible webpage of resources for military families, offering a peer-led student transition program, and providing staff training on the unique challenges faced by military-connected students.

Roye-Williams Elementary School will be publicly recognized at the Maryland State Board of Education meeting on April 28, 2026.

To learn more about the Maryland Purple Star Schools Program, visit [www.marylandpublicschools.org](http://www.marylandpublicschools.org). For more information about Roye-Williams Elementary School, visit [rwes.hepsschools.org](http://rwes.hepsschools.org).

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