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November 29, 2023

Joe Burgess
Principal
Lawton Chiles High School

Dear Principal Burgess:

Congratulations to you and Lawton Chiles High School on their designation as a 2023 Florida Purple Star School of Distinction! The Florida Department of Education is honored to recognize your support of our military families.

The Purple Star School of Distinction Designation, established by the Florida Legislature and signed into law in June 2021, recognizes schools that support the unique needs of military families. Florida is committed to being the most military-friendly state in the nation, and this program supports students as they relocate to new schools due to a parent's change in duty station.

A Purple Star School of Distinction supports military students and families through the implementation of activities such as:

- Highlighting annual military recognition events, e.g., Month of the Military Child, Month of the Military Family, Purple-Up! for Military Kids, Veteran's Day and Memorial Day;
- Publicizing support for military students and families;
- Providing opportunities for active-duty parents to volunteer at the school;
- Participating in one or more service projects that connect the school with the military community; and
- Offering the Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC) program.

The Department recognizes and applauds the commitment your school has made to ensure military-connected families are supported in Florida. The school will maintain its designation as a Purple Star School of Distinction for three (3) school years. After three years, the school may reapply to maintain the Purple Star School of Distinction Designation.

Sincerely,

Dr. Paul O. Burns

DR. PAUL O. BURNS
CHANCELLOR OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Florida

PURPLE STAR



SCHOOL OF DISTINCTION

Lawton Chiles High School

is recognized as a

PURPLE STAR SCHOOL OF DISTINCTION

~Recognizing schools that support the unique needs of military families~

valid through 2026

Manny Diaz, Jr., Commissioner of Education

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FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION
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Dr. Paul O. Burns, Chancellor of Public Schools

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