STATE OF NEW YORK

7083

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

April 21, 2021

Introduced by M. of A. BURDICK -- read once and referred to the Committee on Education

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to authorizing the commissioner of education to implement a purple star schools program

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. Section 305 of the education law is amended by adding a new subdivision 59 to read as follows:

59. The commissioner shall establish a "purple star schools program" to recognize schools and school districts which demonstrate a commitment to assisting military-connected students and their families.

a. The commissioner, or his or her designee, shall designate a school as a "purple star school" upon application of a school or school district which:

(i) has designated a staff member as a military liaison whose duties include: (A) identifying military-connected students enrolled in the district; (B) serving as the point of contact between the school or school district and such students; (C) determining appropriate campus services available to military-connected students; and (D) assisting in coordinating campus programs relevant to military-connected students;

(ii) maintains on its website an easily accessible page that includes resources for military-connected students and their families, including information regarding: (A) relocation to, enrollment at, registration at, and transferring records to the campus; (B) academic planning, course sequences, and advanced classes available at the campus; (C) counseling and other support services available for military-connected students enrolled at the campus; (D) the military liaison designated under subparagraph (i) of this paragraph, and the liaison's duties under such subparagraph; and (E) the state military family education liaison designated pursuant to section thirty-three hundred eight of this chapter;

EXPLANATION--Matter in *italics* (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [-] is old law to be omitted.

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(iii) maintains a transition program led by students, where appropriate, that assists military-connected students in transitioning into the campus;

(iv) offers professional development for staff members on issues related to military-connected students;

(v) for purposes of monitoring academic progress of military-connected students, includes an identifier on the student record of a military-connected student and include in the basic educational data system reports (BEDS), the number of military-connected students enrolled in such school or school district; and

(vi) the board of education or other person or entity authorized to act on behalf of the school or school district has either: (A) issued a resolution, proclamation, or other official statement of support for military-connected students and their families; or (B) issued a resolution, proclamation, or other official statement recognizing the month of April as the "month of the military child" and/or the month of November as "military family month" and has hosted events on campus celebrating either or both; or (C) entered into a partnership with a military installation, national guard armory or reserve center that provides opportunities for military members to volunteer at the campus, speak at an assembly, host a field trip, or participate in such other educational activities as the commissioner or his or her designee deem appropriate.

b. A school or school district may partner with a third party to provide those services and initiatives specified under paragraph a of this subdivision.

c. The commissioner may promulgate rules to effectuate the purposes of this subdivision.

d. As used in this subdivision, "military-connected student" means a school-aged child enrolled in kindergarten through twelfth grade in the household of an active duty member of the United States military, a reserve force of the United States military, the organized militia of this state or any other state.

§ 2. This act shall take effect immediately.