STATE OF NEW YORK

5218

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

February 19, 2025

Introduced by Sen. SCARCELLA-SPANTON -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed 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 63 to read as follows:

63. 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 such commissioner's 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 such commissioner's designee deems 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.