STATE OF NEW YORK

835

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

(Prefiled)

January 8, 2025

Introduced by Sen. TEDISCO -- 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 establishing the "Purple Star School Program" to emphasize the importance of assisting military-connected students and to recognize the value of military service and civic responsibility

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

Section 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Purple Star School Program Act".

§ 2. The education law is amended by adding a new article 66-A to read as follows:

ARTICLE 66-A

PURPLE STAR SCHOOL PROGRAM

Section 3330. Purple star school program.

§ 3330. Purple star school program. 1. The commissioner, in consultation with the state council created pursuant to subdivision one of section thirty-three hundred eight of this title, shall establish the "Purple Star School Program" to recognize schools and school districts which demonstrate a commitment to assisting military-connected students and their families.

2. As used in this section, "military-connected student" means a school-aged child enrolled in kindergarten through twelfth grade in the household of an active duty military member as that term is defined in subdivision one of section thirty-three hundred two of this title, a school-aged child enrolled in kindergarten through twelfth grade in the household of a member of the military reserves, or national guard, or a school-aged child in the household of a recently discharged member of the military who is enrolling in kindergarten through twelfth grade within the state for the first time.

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

LBD02782-01-5

3. The commissioner, or the commissioner's designee, shall designate a school as a "Purple Star School" upon application of a school or school district which (a) has designated a staff member as a military liaison whose duties include (i) identifying military-connected students enrolled in the district and serving as the point of contact between the school and such students; (ii) determining appropriate campus services available to military-connected students; and (iii) assisting in coordinating campus programs relevant to military-connected students;

(b) maintains on its website an easily accessible page that includes resources for military-connected students and their families, including information regarding: (i) relocation to, enrollment at, registration at, and transferring records to the campus; (ii) academic planning, course sequences, and advanced classes available at the campus; (iii) counseling and other support services available for military-connected students enrolled at the campus; and (iv) the military liaison designated under paragraph (a) of this subdivision, and the liaison's duties under such paragraph;

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

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

(e) the board of education or other person or entity authorized to act on behalf of the school or school district has either (i) issued a resolution, proclamation, or other official statement of support for military-connected students and their families; or (ii) 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 (iii) entered into a partnership with a local military installation that provides opportunities for active duty 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 the commissioner's designee deem appropriate.

§ 2. This act shall take effect immediately.