
 THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1867 Session of
2021

INTRODUCED BY BOBACK, M. MACKENZIE, ROTHMAN, HELM, CIRESI,
R. BROWN, PENNYCUICK AND POLINCHOCK, SEPTEMBER 15, 2021

AS AMENDED ON THIRD CONSIDERATION, IN SENATE, JUNE 28, 2022

AN ACT

1 ~~Amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), entitled "An <--~~
 2 ~~act relating to the public school system, including certain~~
 3 ~~provisions applicable as well to private and parochial~~
 4 ~~schools; amending, revising, consolidating and changing the~~
 5 ~~laws relating thereto," providing for military connected~~
 6 ~~students.~~

7 AMENDING THE ACT OF MARCH 10, 1949 (P.L.30, NO.14), ENTITLED "AN <--
 8 ACT RELATING TO THE PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM, INCLUDING CERTAIN
 9 PROVISIONS APPLICABLE AS WELL TO PRIVATE AND PAROCHIAL
 10 SCHOOLS; AMENDING, REVISING, CONSOLIDATING AND CHANGING THE
 11 LAWS RELATING THERETO," PROVIDING FOR PURPLE STAR SCHOOL
 12 PROGRAM.

13 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
 14 hereby enacts as follows:

15 ~~Section 1. The act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known <--~~
 16 ~~as the Public School Code of 1949, is amended by adding an~~
 17 ~~article to read:~~

18 ARTICLE XIII F

19 MILITARY CONNECTED STUDENTS

20 Section 1301 F. Definitions.

21 The following words and phrases when used in this article

22 shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the

1 ~~context clearly indicates otherwise:~~

2 ~~"Department." The Department of Education of the~~
3 ~~Commonwealth.~~

4 ~~"Military connected student." A student who is the dependent~~
5 ~~of either an individual in the active military service of the~~
6 ~~United States or in a full time status during active service~~
7 ~~with a force of the Pennsylvania National Guard.~~

8 ~~"School." A school in a school district, charter school,~~
9 ~~regional charter school, cyber charter school, intermediate unit~~
10 ~~or career and technical school in this Commonwealth.~~

11 ~~Section 1302 F. Purple Star Schools.~~

12 ~~(a) Designation. The department shall designate a school~~
13 ~~as a Purple Star School if the school applies and qualifies for~~
14 ~~the designation under this article. To qualify as a Purple Star~~
15 ~~School, a school must:~~

16 ~~(1) Designate a staff member as a military liaison,~~
17 ~~whose duties include:~~

18 ~~(i) identifying military connected students enrolled~~
19 ~~at the school;~~

20 ~~(ii) serving as the point of contact between the~~
21 ~~school and military connected students and their~~
22 ~~families;~~

23 ~~(iii) determining appropriate student services~~
24 ~~available to military connected students; and~~

25 ~~(iv) assisting in coordinating programs relevant to~~
26 ~~military connected students.~~

27 ~~(2) Maintain on the school district's publicly~~
28 ~~accessible Internet website resources for military connected~~
29 ~~students and their families, including information regarding:~~

30 ~~(i) relocation to, enrollment at, registration at~~

1 ~~and transferring records to the school;~~

2 ~~(ii) academic planning, course sequences and~~
3 ~~advanced classes available at the school; and~~

4 ~~(iii) counseling and other support services~~
5 ~~available for military connected students enrolled in the~~
6 ~~school.~~

7 ~~(3) Maintain a transition program led by students, if~~
8 ~~appropriate, which assists military connected students in~~
9 ~~transitioning into the school.~~

10 ~~(4) Offer professional development for staff members on~~
11 ~~issues related to military connected students.~~

12 ~~(5) Offer at least one of the following initiatives:~~

13 ~~(i) a resolution showing support for military~~
14 ~~connected students and their families;~~

15 ~~(ii) recognition of the Month of the Military Child~~
16 ~~or Military Family Month with relevant events hosted by~~
17 ~~the school; or~~

18 ~~(iii) a partnership with a local military~~
19 ~~installation that provides opportunities for active duty~~
20 ~~military members to volunteer at the school, speak at an~~
21 ~~assembly or host a field trip.~~

22 ~~(b) Regulations. The department shall promulgate rules and~~
23 ~~regulations as necessary to administer this section.~~

24 ~~Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.~~

25 SECTION 1. THE ACT OF MARCH 10, 1949 (P.L.30, NO.14), KNOWN <--
26 AS THE PUBLIC SCHOOL CODE OF 1949, IS AMENDED BY ADDING AN
27 ARTICLE TO READ:

28 ARTICLE XV-K

29 PURPLE STAR SCHOOL PROGRAM

30 SECTION 1501-K. SCOPE OF ARTICLE.

1 THIS ARTICLE RELATES TO THE PURPLE STAR SCHOOL PROGRAM.

2 SECTION 1502-K. DEFINITIONS.

3 THE FOLLOWING WORDS AND PHRASES WHEN USED IN THIS ARTICLE
4 SHALL HAVE THE MEANINGS GIVEN TO THEM IN THIS SECTION UNLESS THE
5 CONTEXT CLEARLY INDICATES OTHERWISE:

6 "DEPARTMENT." THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION OF THE
7 COMMONWEALTH.

8 "MILITARY-CONNECTED STUDENT." A SCHOOL-AGED CHILD WHO IS A
9 DEPENDENT OF ANY OF THE FOLLOWING:

10 (1) AN ACTIVE OR A FORMER MEMBER OF ANY OF THE
11 FOLLOWING:

12 (I) THE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES SERVING IN THE
13 UNITED STATES ARMY, NAVY, AIR FORCE, MARINE CORPS, SPACE
14 FORCE OR COAST GUARD ON ACTIVE DUTY.

15 (II) THE PENNSYLVANIA NATIONAL GUARD.

16 (III) A RESERVE FORCE OF THE UNITED STATES ARMED
17 FORCES.

18 (2) A MEMBER SPECIFIED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) WHO WAS
19 KILLED IN THE ACTIVE LINE OF DUTY.

20 "NONPUBLIC SCHOOL." A NONPROFIT SCHOOL, OTHER THAN A PUBLIC
21 SCHOOL WITHIN THIS COMMONWEALTH, WHERE A RESIDENT OF THIS
22 COMMONWEALTH MAY LEGALLY FULFILL THE COMPULSORY SCHOOL
23 ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS ACT AND WHICH MEETS THE
24 REQUIREMENTS OF TITLE VI OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1964 (PUBLIC
25 LAW 88-352, 78 STAT. 241).

26 "PROGRAM." THE PURPLE STAR SCHOOL PROGRAM ESTABLISHED UNDER
27 SECTION 1503-K(A).

28 "PUBLIC SCHOOL." A SCHOOL DISTRICT, A SCHOOL IN A SCHOOL <--
29 DISTRICT, CHARTER SCHOOL, CYBER CHARTER SCHOOL, INTERMEDIATE <--
30 UNIT, REGIONAL CHARTER SCHOOL OR AN AREA CAREER AND TECHNICAL

1 SCHOOL.

2 SECTION 1503-K. PURPLE STAR SCHOOL PROGRAM.

3 (A) ESTABLISHMENT.--THE PURPLE STAR SCHOOL PROGRAM IS
4 ESTABLISHED WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT.

5 (B) DESIGNATION.--THE DEPARTMENT SHALL DESIGNATE A PUBLIC
6 SCHOOL OR NONPUBLIC SCHOOL AS A PURPLE STAR SCHOOL IF THE PUBLIC
7 SCHOOL OR NONPUBLIC SCHOOL APPLIES AND QUALIFIES FOR THE
8 DESIGNATION UNDER THE PROGRAM.

9 SECTION 1504-K. QUALIFICATIONS FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

10 (A) QUALIFICATIONS.--IN ORDER TO QUALIFY FOR THE DESIGNATION
11 AS A PURPLE STAR SCHOOL, A PUBLIC SCHOOL SHALL DO ALL OF THE
12 FOLLOWING:

13 (1) SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO THE DEPARTMENT CERTIFYING
14 THAT THE PUBLIC SCHOOL MEETS ALL OF THE FOLLOWING:

15 (I) THE CRITERIA UNDER SECTION 1183.

16 (II) THE PROGRAM QUALIFICATIONS UNDER THIS SECTION.

17 (2) DESIGNATE A STAFF MEMBER AS A MILITARY LIAISON. THE
18 MILITARY LIAISON SHALL HAVE ALL OF THE FOLLOWING DUTIES:

19 (I) IDENTIFY A MILITARY-CONNECTED STUDENT ENROLLED
20 AT THE PUBLIC SCHOOL.

21 (II) SERVE AS THE POINT OF CONTACT BETWEEN THE
22 PUBLIC SCHOOL AND A MILITARY-CONNECTED STUDENT AND THE
23 MILITARY-CONNECTED STUDENT'S PARENT OR GUARDIAN.

24 (III) DETERMINE APPROPRIATE SCHOOL SERVICES
25 AVAILABLE TO A MILITARY-CONNECTED STUDENT.

26 (IV) ASSIST IN COORDINATING SCHOOL PROGRAMS RELEVANT
27 TO A MILITARY-CONNECTED STUDENT.

28 (3) MAINTAIN AN EASILY ACCESSIBLE WEB PAGE ON THE PUBLIC
29 SCHOOL'S PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE INTERNET WEBSITE TO PROVIDE
30 RESOURCES FOR A MILITARY-CONNECTED STUDENT AND THE MILITARY-

1 CONNECTED STUDENT'S PARENT OR GUARDIAN, INCLUDING INFORMATION
2 REGARDING ALL OF THE FOLLOWING:

3 (I) RELOCATION TO THE PUBLIC SCHOOL, ENROLLMENT AT
4 THE PUBLIC SCHOOL, REGISTRATION AT THE PUBLIC SCHOOL AND
5 TRANSFERRING RECORDS TO THE PUBLIC SCHOOL.

6 (II) ACADEMIC PLANNING, COURSE SEQUENCES AND
7 ADVANCED CLASSES AVAILABLE AT THE PUBLIC SCHOOL.

8 (III) COUNSELING AND OTHER SUPPORT SERVICES
9 AVAILABLE FOR A MILITARY-CONNECTED STUDENT.

10 (4) MAINTAIN A TRANSITION INITIATIVE LED BY STUDENTS,
11 WHEN APPROPRIATE, THAT ASSISTS A MILITARY-CONNECTED STUDENT
12 IN TRANSITIONING INTO THE PUBLIC SCHOOL.

13 (5) OFFER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR STAFF MEMBERS ON
14 ISSUES RELATED TO MILITARY-CONNECTED STUDENTS.

15 (6) OFFER AT LEAST ONE OF THE FOLLOWING INITIATIVES:

16 (I) A RESOLUTION SHOWING SUPPORT FOR MILITARY-
17 CONNECTED STUDENTS AND THEIR PARENTS OR GUARDIANS.

18 (II) A COMMEMORATION OF EACH MONTH HONORING ACTIVE-
19 DUTY MILITARY SERVICE MEMBERS, INCLUDING RELEVANT EVENTS
20 HOSTED BY THE PUBLIC SCHOOL.

21 (III) A PARTNERSHIP WITH A LOCAL MILITARY
22 INSTALLATION THAT PROVIDES OPPORTUNITIES FOR ACTIVE-DUTY
23 MILITARY SERVICE MEMBERS TO VOLUNTEER AT THE PUBLIC
24 SCHOOL, SPEAK AT A SCHOOL ASSEMBLY OR HOST A SCHOOL FIELD
25 TRIP.

26 (B) PARTNERSHIPS.--A PUBLIC SCHOOL MAY PARTNER WITH ANOTHER
27 PUBLIC SCHOOL OR NONPUBLIC SCHOOL TO MEET ANY PROGRAM
28 REQUIREMENT.

29 SECTION 1505-K. QUALIFICATIONS FOR NONPUBLIC SCHOOLS.

30 (A) QUALIFICATIONS.--IN ORDER TO QUALIFY FOR THE DESIGNATION

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1 AS A PURPLE STAR SCHOOL, A NONPUBLIC SCHOOL SHALL DO ALL OF THE
2 FOLLOWING:

3 (1) SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO THE DEPARTMENT CERTIFYING
4 THAT THE NONPUBLIC SCHOOL MEETS THE PROGRAM QUALIFICATIONS
5 UNDER THIS SECTION.

6 (2) DESIGNATE A STAFF MEMBER AS A MILITARY LIAISON. THE
7 MILITARY LIAISON SHALL HAVE ALL OF THE FOLLOWING DUTIES:

8 (I) IDENTIFY A MILITARY-CONNECTED STUDENT ENROLLED
9 AT THE NONPUBLIC SCHOOL.

10 (II) SERVE AS THE POINT OF CONTACT BETWEEN THE
11 NONPUBLIC SCHOOL AND A MILITARY-CONNECTED STUDENT AND THE
12 MILITARY-CONNECTED STUDENT'S PARENT OR GUARDIAN.

13 (III) DETERMINE APPROPRIATE SCHOOL SERVICES
14 AVAILABLE TO A MILITARY-CONNECTED STUDENT.

15 (IV) ASSIST IN COORDINATING SCHOOL PROGRAMS RELEVANT
16 TO A MILITARY-CONNECTED STUDENT.

17 (3) MAINTAIN AN EASILY ACCESSIBLE WEB PAGE ON THE
18 NONPUBLIC SCHOOL'S PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE INTERNET WEBSITE TO
19 PROVIDE RESOURCES FOR A MILITARY-CONNECTED STUDENT AND THE
20 MILITARY-CONNECTED STUDENT'S PARENT OR GUARDIAN, INCLUDING
21 INFORMATION REGARDING ALL OF THE FOLLOWING:

22 (I) RELOCATION TO THE NONPUBLIC SCHOOL, ENROLLMENT
23 AT THE NONPUBLIC SCHOOL, REGISTRATION AT THE NONPUBLIC
24 SCHOOL AND TRANSFERRING RECORDS TO THE NONPUBLIC SCHOOL.

25 (II) ACADEMIC PLANNING, COURSE SEQUENCES AND
26 ADVANCED CLASSES AVAILABLE AT THE NONPUBLIC SCHOOL.

27 (III) COUNSELING AND OTHER SUPPORT SERVICES
28 AVAILABLE FOR A MILITARY-CONNECTED STUDENT.

29 (4) MAINTAIN A TRANSITION INITIATIVE LED BY STUDENTS,
30 WHEN APPROPRIATE, THAT ASSISTS A MILITARY-CONNECTED STUDENT

1 IN TRANSITIONING INTO THE NONPUBLIC SCHOOL.

2 (5) OFFER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR STAFF MEMBERS ON
3 ISSUES RELATED TO MILITARY-CONNECTED STUDENTS.

4 (6) OFFER AT LEAST ONE OF THE FOLLOWING INITIATIVES:

5 (I) A RESOLUTION SHOWING SUPPORT FOR MILITARY-
6 CONNECTED STUDENTS AND THEIR PARENTS OR GUARDIANS.

7 (II) A COMMEMORATION OF EACH MONTH HONORING ACTIVE-
8 DUTY MILITARY SERVICE MEMBERS, INCLUDING RELEVANT EVENTS
9 HOSTED BY THE NONPUBLIC SCHOOL.

10 (III) A PARTNERSHIP WITH A LOCAL MILITARY
11 INSTALLATION THAT PROVIDES OPPORTUNITIES FOR ACTIVE-DUTY
12 MILITARY SERVICE MEMBERS TO VOLUNTEER AT THE NONPUBLIC
13 SCHOOL, SPEAK AT A SCHOOL ASSEMBLY OR HOST A SCHOOL FIELD
14 TRIP.

15 (B) PARTNERSHIPS.--A NONPUBLIC SCHOOL MAY PARTNER WITH
16 ANOTHER NONPUBLIC SCHOOL TO MEET ANY PROGRAM REQUIREMENT.
17 SECTION 1506-K. REGULATIONS.

18 THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PROMULGATE REGULATIONS AS NECESSARY TO
19 ADMINISTER THIS ARTICLE.

20 SECTION 2. THIS ACT SHALL TAKE EFFECT IN 180 DAYS.