

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 1028 Session of 2022

INTRODUCED BY STEFANO, ROBINSON, AUMENT, BAKER, BARTOLOTTA, DUSH, FONTANA, GORDNER, MASTRIANO, MENSCH, MUTH, PITTMAN, TOMLINSON AND J. WARD, JANUARY 25, 2022

REFERRED TO VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS, JANUARY 25, 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," in professional employees, providing  
6 for Purple Star School Program.

7 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
8 hereby enacts as follows:

9 Section 1. The act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known  
10 as the Public School Code of 1949, is amended by adding a  
11 section to read:

12 Section 1184. Purple Star School Program.--(a) The Purple  
13 Star School Program is established within the department.

14 (b) The department shall designate a public school as a  
15 purple star school if the public school applies and qualifies  
16 for the designation under the program.

17 (c) In order to qualify for the designation as a purple star  
18 school, a public school shall:

19 (1) Submit an application to the department certifying that

1 the public school meets:

2 (i) the criteria under section 1183; and

3 (ii) the program qualifications under this section.

4 (2) Designate a staff member as a military liaison. The

5 military liaison shall have all of the following duties:

6 (i) Identify a military-connected student enrolled at the  
7 public school.

8 (ii) Serve as the point of contact between the public school  
9 and a military-connected student and the military-connected  
10 student's parent or guardian.

11 (iii) Determine appropriate school services available to a  
12 military-connected student.

13 (iv) Assist in coordinating school programs relevant to a  
14 military-connected student.

15 (3) Maintain an easily accessible web page on the public  
16 school's publicly accessible Internet website to provide  
17 resources for a military-connected student and the military-  
18 connected student's parent or guardian, including information  
19 regarding:

20 (i) Relocation to the public school, enrollment at the  
21 public school, registration at the public school and  
22 transferring records to the public school.

23 (ii) Academic planning, course sequences and advanced  
24 classes available at the public school.

25 (iii) Counseling and other support services available for a  
26 military-connected student.

27 (4) Maintain a transition initiative led by students, when  
28 appropriate, that assists a military-connected student in  
29 transitioning into the public school.

30 (5) Offer professional development for staff members on

1 issues related to military-connected students.

2 (6) Offer at least one of the following initiatives:

3 (i) A resolution showing support for military-connected  
4 students and their parents or guardians.

5 (ii) A commemoration of each month honoring active-duty  
6 military service members, including relevant events hosted by  
7 the public school.

8 (iii) A partnership with a local military installation that  
9 provides opportunities for active-duty military service members  
10 to volunteer at the public school, speak at a school assembly or  
11 host a school field trip.

12 (d) A public school may partner with another public school  
13 to meet any program requirement.

14 (e) The department shall promulgate regulations as necessary  
15 to administer this section.

16 (f) As used in this section, the following words and phrases  
17 shall have the meanings given to them in this subsection unless  
18 the context clearly indicates otherwise:

19 "Department." The Department of Education of the  
20 Commonwealth.

21 "Military-connected student." A school-aged child who is a  
22 dependent of any of the following:

23 (1) An active or a former member of any of the following:

24 (i) The United States Armed Forces serving in the United  
25 States Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Space Force or Coast  
26 Guard on active duty.

27 (ii) The Pennsylvania National Guard.

28 (iii) A reserve force of the United States Armed Forces.

29 (2) A member specified under paragraph (1) who was killed in  
30 the active line of duty.

1       "Program." The Purple Star School Program established under  
2 this section.

3       "Public school." A school district, charter school, regional  
4 charter school or career and technical school.

5       Section 2. This act shall take effect in 180 days.