

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, J. WARD AND MARTIN, JANUARY 25, 2022

SENATOR STEFANO, VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS, AS AMENDED, FEBRUARY 7, 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 AN ARTICLE 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 ARTICLE XV-K <--

6 PURPLE STAR SCHOOL PROGRAM

7 SECTION 1501-K. SCOPE OF ARTICLE.

8 THIS ARTICLE RELATES TO THE PURPLE STAR SCHOOL PROGRAM.

9 SECTION 1502-K. DEFINITIONS.

10 THE FOLLOWING WORDS AND PHRASES WHEN USED IN THIS ARTICLE
11 SHALL HAVE THE MEANINGS GIVEN TO THEM IN THIS SECTION UNLESS THE
12 CONTEXT CLEARLY INDICATES OTHERWISE:

13 "DEPARTMENT." THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION OF THE
14 COMMONWEALTH.

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

17 (1) AN ACTIVE OR A FORMER MEMBER OF ANY OF THE
18 FOLLOWING:

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

22 (II) THE PENNSYLVANIA NATIONAL GUARD.

23 (III) A RESERVE FORCE OF THE UNITED STATES ARMED
24 FORCES.

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

27 "NONPUBLIC SCHOOL." A NONPROFIT SCHOOL, OTHER THAN A PUBLIC
28 SCHOOL WITHIN THIS COMMONWEALTH, WHERE A RESIDENT OF THIS
29 COMMONWEALTH MAY LEGALLY FULFILL THE COMPULSORY SCHOOL
30 ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS ACT AND WHICH MEETS THE

1 REQUIREMENTS OF TITLE VI OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1964 (PUBLIC
2 LAW 88-352, 78 STAT. 241).

3 "PROGRAM." THE PURPLE STAR SCHOOL PROGRAM ESTABLISHED UNDER
4 1503-K(A)

5 "PUBLIC SCHOOL." A SCHOOL DISTRICT, CHARTER SCHOOL, REGIONAL
6 CHARTER SCHOOL OR CAREER AND TECHNICAL SCHOOL.

7 SECTION 1503-K. PURPLE STAR SCHOOL PROGRAM.

8 (A) ESTABLISHMENT.--THE PURPLE STAR SCHOOL PROGRAM IS
9 ESTABLISHED WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT.

10 (B) DESIGNATION.--THE DEPARTMENT SHALL DESIGNATE A PUBLIC
11 SCHOOL OR NONPUBLIC SCHOOL AS A PURPLE STAR SCHOOL IF THE PUBLIC
12 SCHOOL OR NONPUBLIC SCHOOL APPLIES AND QUALIFIES FOR THE
13 DESIGNATION UNDER THE PROGRAM.

14 SECTION 1504-K. QUALIFICATIONS FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

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

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

20 (I) THE CRITERIA UNDER SECTION 1183.

21 (II) THE PROGRAM QUALIFICATIONS UNDER THIS SECTION.

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

24 (I) IDENTIFY A MILITARY-CONNECTED STUDENT ENROLLED
25 AT THE PUBLIC SCHOOL.

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

29 (III) DETERMINE APPROPRIATE SCHOOL SERVICES
30 AVAILABLE TO A MILITARY-CONNECTED STUDENT.

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

3 (3) MAINTAIN AN EASILY ACCESSIBLE WEB PAGE ON THE PUBLIC
4 SCHOOL'S PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE INTERNET WEBSITE TO PROVIDE
5 RESOURCES FOR A MILITARY-CONNECTED STUDENT AND THE MILITARY-
6 CONNECTED STUDENT'S PARENT OR GUARDIAN, INCLUDING INFORMATION
7 REGARDING ALL OF THE FOLLOWING:

8 (I) RELOCATION TO THE PUBLIC SCHOOL, ENROLLMENT AT
9 THE PUBLIC SCHOOL, REGISTRATION AT THE PUBLIC SCHOOL AND
10 TRANSFERRING RECORDS TO THE PUBLIC SCHOOL.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

26 (III) A PARTNERSHIP WITH A LOCAL MILITARY
27 INSTALLATION THAT PROVIDES OPPORTUNITIES FOR ACTIVE-DUTY
28 MILITARY SERVICE MEMBERS TO VOLUNTEER AT THE PUBLIC
29 SCHOOL, SPEAK AT A SCHOOL ASSEMBLY OR HOST A SCHOOL FIELD
30 TRIP.

1 (B) PARTNERSHIPS.--A PUBLIC SCHOOL MAY PARTNER WITH ANOTHER
2 PUBLIC SCHOOL TO MEET ANY PROGRAM REQUIREMENT.
3 SECTION 1505-K. QUALIFICATIONS FOR NONPUBLIC SCHOOLS.

4 (A) QUALIFICATIONS.--IN ORDER TO QUALIFY FOR THE DESIGNATION
5 AS A PURPLE STAR SCHOOL, A NONPUBLIC SCHOOL SHALL DO ALL OF THE
6 FOLLOWING:

7 (1) SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO THE DEPARTMENT CERTIFYING
8 THAT THE NONPUBLIC SCHOOL MEETS THE PROGRAM QUALIFICATIONS
9 UNDER THIS SECTION.

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

12 (I) IDENTIFY A MILITARY-CONNECTED STUDENT ENROLLED
13 AT THE NONPUBLIC SCHOOL.

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

17 (III) DETERMINE APPROPRIATE SCHOOL SERVICES
18 AVAILABLE TO A MILITARY-CONNECTED STUDENT.

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

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

26 (I) RELOCATION TO THE NONPUBLIC SCHOOL, ENROLLMENT
27 AT THE NONPUBLIC SCHOOL, REGISTRATION AT THE NONPUBLIC
28 SCHOOL AND TRANSFERRING RECORDS TO THE NONPUBLIC SCHOOL.

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

1 (III) COUNSELING AND OTHER SUPPORT SERVICES
2 AVAILABLE FOR A MILITARY-CONNECTED STUDENT.
3 (4) MAINTAIN A TRANSITION INITIATIVE LED BY STUDENTS,
4 WHEN APPROPRIATE, THAT ASSISTS A MILITARY-CONNECTED STUDENT
5 IN TRANSITIONING INTO THE NONPUBLIC SCHOOL.
6 (5) OFFER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR STAFF MEMBERS ON
7 ISSUES RELATED TO MILITARY-CONNECTED STUDENTS.
8 (6) OFFER AT LEAST ONE OF THE FOLLOWING INITIATIVES:
9 (I) A RESOLUTION SHOWING SUPPORT FOR MILITARY-
10 CONNECTED STUDENTS AND THEIR PARENTS OR GUARDIANS.
11 (II) A COMMEMORATION OF EACH MONTH HONORING ACTIVE-
12 DUTY MILITARY SERVICE MEMBERS, INCLUDING RELEVANT EVENTS
13 HOSTED BY THE NONPUBLIC SCHOOL.
14 (III) A PARTNERSHIP WITH A LOCAL MILITARY
15 INSTALLATION THAT PROVIDES OPPORTUNITIES FOR ACTIVE-DUTY
16 MILITARY SERVICE MEMBERS TO VOLUNTEER AT THE NONPUBLIC
17 SCHOOL, SPEAK AT A SCHOOL ASSEMBLY OR HOST A SCHOOL FIELD
18 TRIP.
19 (B) PARTNERSHIPS.--A NONPUBLIC SCHOOL MAY PARTNER WITH
20 ANOTHER NONPUBLIC SCHOOL TO MEET ANY PROGRAM REQUIREMENT.
21 SECTION 1506-K. REGULATIONS.
22 THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PROMULGATE REGULATIONS AS NECESSARY TO
23 ADMINISTER THIS ARTICLE.
24 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 180 days.