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State of Minnesota

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETY-THIRD SESSION

H. F. No. **4451**

02/29/2024 Authored by Bennett; Newton; Clardy; Olson, B.; Bakeberg and others
The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Veterans and Military Affairs Finance and Policy
03/13/2024 Adoption of Report: Amended and re-referred to the Committee on Education Policy

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to education; establishing a Purple Star School designation; proposing
1.3 coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 127A.

1.4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.5 Section 1. **[127A.853] PURPLE STAR SCHOOL DESIGNATION.**

1.6 Subdivision 1. **Definition.** For purposes of this section, "military-connected student"
1.7 means a student who has an immediate family member, including a parent or sibling, who:
1.8 (1) is currently a member of the armed forces serving as either a reservist or on active duty
1.9 in the United States Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, or Coast Guard; (2) is currently
1.10 serving in the Minnesota National Guard; (3) has recently retired from the armed forces; or
1.11 (4) is the dependent of a member of the armed forces who was killed in the line of duty.

1.12 Subd. 2. **Purple Star School.** (a) The commissioner of education may designate a school
1.13 as a Purple Star School if the school:

1.14 (1) has a designated staff member serving as a military liaison whose duties include:

1.15 (i) identifying military-connected students enrolled at the school;

1.16 (ii) serving as the point of contact between the school and military-connected students
1.17 and families;

1.18 (iii) determining appropriate school services available to military-connected students;

1.19 and

1.20 (iv) assisting in coordinating school programs relevant to military-connected students;

- 2.1 (2) maintains easily accessible information on the school website that includes resources
2.2 for military-connected students and families, including information regarding:
- 2.3 (i) student relocation, student enrollment, student registration, and transfer of school
2.4 records;
- 2.5 (ii) academic planning, course offerings, and advanced classes available at the school;
- 2.6 (iii) counseling and other support services available for military-connected students
2.7 enrolled at the school; and
- 2.8 (iv) the designated military liaison under clause (1);
- 2.9 (3) offers a transition program led by students, where appropriate, that assists
2.10 military-connected students in transitioning into the school;
- 2.11 (4) offers professional development opportunities for staff members on issues related
2.12 to military-connected students; and
- 2.13 (5) offers at least one of the following:
- 2.14 (i) a resolution showing support for military-connected students and families;
- 2.15 (ii) recognition of the Month of the Military Child or Military Family Month with relevant
2.16 events hosted by the school; or
- 2.17 (iii) a partnership with a local military installation that provides opportunities for active
2.18 duty military members to volunteer at the school, speak at an assembly, or host a field trip.
- 2.19 (b) The commissioner must establish a process for schools to seek Purple Star School
2.20 designation by July 1, 2026. The commissioner may award Purple Star School designations
2.21 starting in the 2026-2027 school year, and on an ongoing basis as schools meet qualifications
2.22 for the designation.