

Legislative Analysis



PURPLE STAR SCHOOL PROGRAM

Phone: (517) 373-8080
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Senate Bill 530 as passed by the Senate

Sponsor: Sen. Dale W. Zorn

House Committee: Military, Veterans and Homeland Security

1st Senate Committee: Families, Seniors, and Veterans

2nd Senate Committee: Local Government

Complete to 9-20-22

Analysis available at
<http://www.legislature.mi.gov>

SUMMARY:

Senate Bill 530 would amend the Revised School Code to create a Purple Star Program and provide for its processes and qualification criteria.

The bill would require the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) to create a Purple Star Program by January 1, 2023, that includes at least both of the following:

- An application process for a public school to apply to receive designation as a Purple Star Program school.
- A process for designating public schools that meet the criteria described below as Purple Star Program schools.

A public school meeting at least all of the following would qualify for designation as a Purple Star Program school:

- The school designates a staff member as a military liaison. The military liaison would, at a minimum, be charged with all of the following:
 - Identifying **military-connected pupils** enrolled in the public school.
 - Serving as the point of contact between other individuals at the public school and military-connected pupils and their families.
 - Determining appropriate services available to military-connected pupils.
 - Assisting in coordinating programs relevant to military-connected pupils.
 - Ensuring that military-connected pupils have access to appropriate counseling, mentoring, volunteering opportunities, and support services.
- The school maintains an easily accessible web page on its website homepage with resources for military-connected pupils and their families that include at least all of the following:
 - Information concerning relocation to, enrollment at, registration at, and the transferring of records to the public school.
 - Information regarding academic planning, course sequences, and advanced classes available at the public school.
 - Information regarding counseling and other support services available for military-connected pupils enrolled at the public school.
 - Information concerning the military liaison described above and the liaison's duties.
- The school maintains a transition program that assists military-connected pupils in transitioning to the public school and that is led, where appropriate, by pupils.

- The school offers professional development for its staff members on issues related to military-connected pupils. This professional development could be provided by a professional educator association in Michigan.
- The school offers at least one of the following initiatives:
 - A resolution showing support for military-connected pupils and their families.
 - A recognition of a military-connected pupil or the family of a military-connected pupil each month with relevant events connected to this recognition hosted by the public school.
 - A partnership with a branch of the **Armed Forces** that provides opportunities for members of the Armed Forces to volunteer at the public school, speak at an assembly, or host a field trip sponsored by the public school.
 - Pupil-driven clubs and groups that show community-family engagement for military-connected pupils and their families.

Military-connected pupil would mean a pupil enrolled in a school district, intermediate school district, or public school academy who meets either of the following:

- The pupil is the family member of a current or former member of the Armed Forces.
- The pupil was the family member of an individual who was a member of the Armed Forces and who was killed in the line of duty.

Armed Forces would mean the United States Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps, Space Force, or Coast Guard or other military force designated by Congress as a part of the Armed Forces of the United States, including the reserve components (which include the National Guard).

Proposed MCL 380.1138a

FISCAL IMPACT:

The bill would increase costs for the state and have no fiscal impact on local school districts, intermediate school districts (ISDs), or public school academies (PSAs).

The state would incur costs to create and administer the Purple Star Program. Section 31cc of 2022 PA 144 appropriates \$1.1 million GF/GP for FY 2022-23 for MDE to create and begin administration of the Purple Star Program. [Note: Section 31cc describes the designation of districts and ISDs; this bill describes the designation of public schools. It is unclear if this difference would create a conflict in administering the program.]

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