

CHAPTER 2021-65

Committee Substitute for Committee Substitute for Committee Substitute for House Bill No. 429

An act relating to Purple Star Campuses; creating s. 1003.051, F.S.; defining the term “military student”; requiring the Department of Education to establish the Purple Star Campus program; specifying program criteria for participating schools; authorizing schools to partner with school districts to meet such criteria; requiring the State Board of Education to adopt rules; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Section 1003.051, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

1003.051 Purple Star Campuses.—

(1) As used in this section, the term “military student” means a student who is:

(a) Enrolled in a school district, charter school, or any school or educational institution participating in an educational choice scholarship program established pursuant to chapter 1002; and

(b) A dependent of a current member of the United States military serving on active duty in, or a former member of, the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, or Coast Guard, a reserve component of any branch of the United States military, or the Florida National Guard.

(2)(a) The Department of Education shall establish the Purple Star Campus program. At a minimum, the program must require a participating school to:

1. Designate a staff member as a military liaison.
2. Maintain a webpage on the school’s website which includes resources for military students and their families.
3. Maintain a student-led transition program that assists military students in transitioning into the school.
4. Offer professional development training opportunities for staff members on issues relating to military students.
5. Reserve at least 5 percent of controlled open enrollment seats for military students.

(b) The department may establish additional criteria to identify schools that demonstrate a commitment to or provide critical transition supports for

military-connected families, such as hosting an annual military recognition event, partnering with a school liaison officer from a military installation, supporting projects that connect the school with the military community, and providing outreach for military parents and their children.

(3) A school may partner with a school district to procure digital, professional development, or other assistance necessary for the school to meet the criteria specified in subsection (2).

(4) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules to implement this section.

Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2021.

Approved by the Governor June 4, 2021.

Filed in Office Secretary of State June 4, 2021.