

By: Lucio

S.B. No. 1557

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to military-connected students, including providing a designation for certain school district campuses that take actions to assist those students.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Section 25.006(d), Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

(d) In this section, "military-connected student" means a student enrolled in a school district or open-enrollment charter school who:

(1) is a dependent of a current or former member of:

(A) ~~[(1)]~~ the United States military ~~[serving in the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, or Coast Guard on active duty]~~;

(B) ~~[(2)]~~ the Texas National Guard; or

(C) ~~[(3)]~~ a reserve force of the United States military; or

(2) was a dependent of a member of a military or reserve force described by Subdivision (1) who was killed in the line of duty.

SECTION 2. Subchapter Z, Chapter 33, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 33.909 to read as follows:

Sec. 33.909. PURPLE STAR CAMPUS. (a) In this section, "military-connected student" has the meaning assigned by Section

1 25.006.

2 (b) The agency shall designate a school district campus as a
3 Purple Star Campus if the campus applies and qualifies for the
4 designation under this section.

5 (c) To qualify as a Purple Star Campus, a campus must:

6 (1) designate a staff member as a military liaison,
7 whose duties include:

8 (A) identifying military-connected students
9 enrolled at the campus through the Public Education Information
10 Management System (PEIMS);

11 (B) serving as the point of contact between the
12 campus and military-connected students and their families;

13 (C) determining appropriate campus services
14 available to military-connected students; and

15 (D) assisting in coordinating campus programs
16 relevant to military-connected students;

17 (2) maintain on the campus Internet website an easily
18 accessible web page that includes resources for military-connected
19 students and their families, including information regarding:

20 (A) relocation to, enrollment at, registration
21 at, and transferring records to the campus;

22 (B) academic planning, course sequences, and
23 advanced classes available at the campus;

24 (C) counseling and other support services
25 available for military-connected students enrolled at the campus;
26 and

27 (D) the military liaison designated under

1 Subdivision (1) and the liaison's duties under that subdivision;

2 (3) maintain a transition program led by students,
3 where appropriate, that assists military-connected students in
4 transitioning into the campus;

5 (4) offer professional development for staff members
6 on issues related to military-connected students; and

7 (5) offer at least one of the following initiatives:

8 (A) a resolution showing support for
9 military-connected students and their families;

10 (B) recognition of the Month of the Military
11 Child or Military Family Month with relevant events hosted by the
12 campus; or

13 (C) a partnership with a local military
14 installation that provides opportunities for active duty military
15 members to volunteer at the campus, speak at an assembly, or host a
16 field trip.

17 (d) To comply with a requirement under Subsection (c)(2),
18 (4), or (5), a school district campus may partner with the district
19 to provide:

20 (1) an Internet website web page required under
21 Subsection (c)(2) if the campus does not have an Internet website;

22 (2) professional development required under
23 Subsection (c)(4); or

24 (3) an initiative required under Subsection (c)(5).

25 (e) The agency shall adopt rules as necessary to administer
26 this section.

27 SECTION 3. This Act applies beginning with the 2019-2020

1 school year.

2 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
3 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
4 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
5 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
6 Act takes effect September 1, 2019.