

[First Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 3694

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 24, 2022

Sponsored by:

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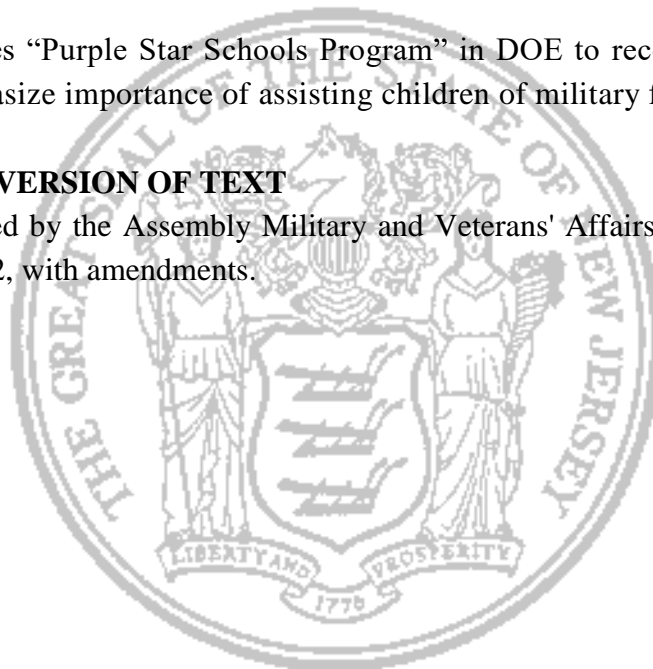
**Assemblywomen Piperno, Eulner, Gove, Assemblymen Space, Wirths,
Senators Pou and O'Scanlon**

SYNOPSIS

Establishes "Purple Star Schools Program" in DOE to recognize schools which emphasize importance of assisting children of military families.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Assembly Military and Veterans' Affairs Committee on May 19, 2022, with amendments.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/16/2022)

1 AN ACT concerning school programs and services for children of
2 military families and supplementing chapter 6 of Title 18A of the
3 New Jersey Statutes.

4
5 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
6 of New Jersey:

7
8 1. a. There is created a Purple Star Schools Program in the
9 Department of Education. Under the program, the Commissioner of
10 Education shall annually recognize as Purple Star Schools those
11 ¹**[public and nonpublic]**¹ schools that provide for, or have made
12 significant progress to respond to, the educational and social-
13 emotional challenges military-connected students encounter during
14 the transition to a new school when the student's parent or guardian
15 is an active duty member of the United States Armed Forces and is
16 relocated due to the active duty member's continued military
17 service. A Purple Star School shall be designated as such if it
18 provides programs and services that include, but need not be limited
19 to, the following:

20 (1) training for faculty and staff members to ease entry into the
21 new school environment for military-connected students;

22 (2) student-led programs to help create social connections,
23 including an emphasis on programs for students who arrive mid-
24 year and miss out on the normal cycles of sports and club activities;

25 (3) a military family webpage on the school website to inform
26 parents and guardians about programs and services;

27 (4) relevant professional development opportunities for
28 additional school staff; and

29 (5) holding school-wide military recognition events that raise
30 awareness and recognize the value of military service.

31 The goal of the programs and services is to ensure that staff can
32 help manage the challenges military-connected students encounter
33 when they move between schools with different cultures, curricula,
34 standards, course offerings, schedules, and graduation requirements.

35 b. The commissioner shall establish a Purple Star Schools
36 Working Group. The purpose of the working group shall be to
37 develop criteria to be used in the designation of ¹**[public and**
38 **nonpublic]**¹ schools as Purple Star Schools. The working group
39 shall consist of members appointed by the commissioner and shall
40 be composed of, but need not be limited to: a school principal; a
41 school administrator; a school board member; an elementary school
42 teacher; a middle school teacher; a high school teacher; a school
43 counselor; a school social worker; and a school psychologist.

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is
not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Assembly AMV committee amendments adopted May 19, 2022.

- 1 c. The criteria established by the working group for a Purple
2 Star Schools designation pursuant to subsection b. of this section
3 shall include, but need not be limited to, the school's efforts to:
- 4 (1) raise awareness and recognize the value of military service,
5 including the sacrifices of military-connected families;
 - 6 (2) respond to the unique educational and social-emotional
7 challenges of military-connected students;
 - 8 (3) highlight and promote equity, inclusion, and belonging;
 - 9 (4) create safe, welcoming, and inclusive environments for all
10 students, faculty, and staff;
 - 11 (5) provide teachers, faculty, and staff with opportunities for
12 instruction in easing the entry into the new school environment for
13 military-connected students; and
 - 14 (6) provide programs and services that align with those
15 enumerated in paragraphs (1) through (5) of subsection a. of this
16 section.
- 17 d. The working group, in consultation with the commissioner,
18 shall establish a scoring system based on the criteria developed
19 pursuant to subsection c. of this section to be used by the
20 commissioner in the designation of Purple Star Schools. The
21 commissioner shall establish a process by which ¹public and
22 nonpublic¹ schools may nominate their school to be designated as
23 a Purple Star School.
- 24
- 25 2. This act shall take effect immediately.