

**The Florida Senate**  
**BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

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Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Committee on Appropriations

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BILL: CS/CS/SB 938

INTRODUCER: Appropriations Committee; Education Committee; and Senator Wright

SUBJECT: Purple Star Campuses

DATE: April 22, 2021

REVISED: \_\_\_\_\_

|    | ANALYST          | STAFF DIRECTOR  | REFERENCE | ACTION           |
|----|------------------|-----------------|-----------|------------------|
| 1. | <u>Sagues</u>    | <u>Bouck</u>    | <u>ED</u> | <b>Fav/CS</b>    |
| 2. | <u>Brown</u>     | <u>Caldwell</u> | <u>MS</u> | <b>Favorable</b> |
| 3. | <u>Underhill</u> | <u>Sadberry</u> | <u>AP</u> | <b>Fav/CS</b>    |

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**Please see Section IX. for Additional Information:**

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE - Technical Changes

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**I. Summary:**

CS/CS/SB 938 establishes the Purple Star Campus Program to identify schools that support military-connected children, including public schools, charter schools, and schools participating in the Florida educational choice scholarship program. The bill requires the Department of Education to establish the Purple Star Campus Program to require a participating school to, at minimum:

- Designate a staff member as a military liaison.
- Maintain a webpage on a school's website which includes resources for military students and families.
- Maintain a student-led transition program to assist military students in transitioning into the school.
- Offer professional development training opportunities for staff members on issues relating to military students.
- Reserve at least five percent of controlled open enrollment seats for military-connected students.

The bill also authorizes a school to partner with a school district to procure digital, professional development, or other assistance necessary to implement the criteria of the Purple Star Campus program.

A fiscal impact is not anticipated.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2021.

## II. Present Situation:

### Military Personnel and Families

United States military personnel located worldwide number over 3.5 million.<sup>1</sup> A total of 1.2 million Department of Defense (DoD) active duty military members<sup>2</sup> are assigned to the 50 states and the District of Columbia. More than half of the military members located stateside are in California, Virginia, Texas, North Carolina, Georgia, and Florida.<sup>3</sup>

A total of 807,602 selected reservemembers are assigned to the 50 states and the District of Columbia. Approaching half, or 42.8 percent of selected reserve members in the United States are assigned to California, Texas, Florida, Pennsylvania, New York, Ohio, Georgia, Virginia, Illinois, North Carolina.<sup>4</sup>

Close to two-thirds, 62.8 percent or 1,644,456, of all DoD force family members are children. Over one-third, 36.8 percent, of family members are spouses. Overall, 38.1 percent of the total DoD force has children.<sup>5</sup>

Of military children, more than two-thirds are 11 years of age or younger:

- 37.8 percent or 622,295 children are 0-5 years of age.
- 32 percent or 526,411 children are 6-11 years of age.
- 23.7 percent or 390,448 children are 12-18 years of age.
- 6.4 percent or 105,302 children are 19-22 years of age.<sup>6</sup>

### Military Families in Florida

Florida has 22 military installations.<sup>7</sup> Florida is also home to a number of National Guard and Military Reserve Units.<sup>8</sup> The following chart breaks down the dependents of active duty military personnel located at Florida military bases:<sup>9</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Department of Defense, *2019 Demographics, Profile of the Military Community*, pg. iii (2019), available at <https://download.militaryonesource.mil/12038/MOS/Reports/2019-demographics-report.pdf> (last visited March 11, 2021).

<sup>2</sup> *Id.* Active duty service branches include DoD's Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force.

<sup>3</sup> *Id.* at iv.

<sup>4</sup> Reserve components include DoD's Army National Guard, Army Reserve, Navy Reserve, Marine Corps Reserve, Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve, and Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Coast Guard Reserve. *Id.* at iv and v.

<sup>5</sup> Children include minor dependents age 20 or younger and dependents age 22 or younger enrolled as full-time students. *Id.* at 121 and 122.

<sup>6</sup> *Id.* at 123.

<sup>7</sup> Enterprise Florida, Florida Defense Alliance, *Military and Partners in Florida, Florida Military Installations*, <https://www.enterpriseflorida.com/floridadefense/military-in-florida/> (last visited March 12, 2021).

<sup>8</sup> Student Support Services Project, Florida Department of Education, *Interstate Military Compact Awareness* (2016), available at [https://sss.usf.edu/resources/format/pdf/2016\\_Charter\\_School\\_Presentation.pdf](https://sss.usf.edu/resources/format/pdf/2016_Charter_School_Presentation.pdf).

<sup>9</sup> Military bases include: Blount Island, Corry Station Naval Technical Training Center, Eglin Air Force Base (AFB), Homestead AFB, Hurlburt Field, Jacksonville Naval Air Station (NAS), Key West NAS, MacDill AFB, Mayport Naval Station, Naval Coastal Systems Center, Naval Hospital Pensacola, NSA Orlando, Patrick AFB, Pensacola NAS, Southern Command, Tyndall AFB, Whiting Field NAS, and "Other" bases with fewer than 100 active duty personnel. Department of Defense, *supra* note 1, at 176-177.

| Florida Dependents of Active Duty Personnel |         |             |              |               |         |                  |                  |         |
|---|---------|-------------|--------------|---------------|---------|------------------|------------------|---------|
| Active Duty Personnel                       | Spouses | Children    |              |               |         | Other Dependents | Total Dependents | Total   |
|   |         | Ages 0 to 5 | Ages 6 to 11 | Ages 12 to 18 | Age 19+ |                  |                  |         |
| 66,418                                      | 32,715  | 22,114      | 17,760       | 12,266        | 2,322   | 238              | 87,415           | 153,833 |

***Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children***

In 2008, the Florida Legislature enacted the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children (compact).<sup>10</sup> The purpose of the compact is to remove barriers to educational success imposed on children of military families because of frequent moves and deployment of their parents.<sup>11</sup> Currently, all 50 states are members of the compact.<sup>12</sup>

The average military family is estimated to move three times more often than the average non-military family. Frequent moves may cause children to miss out on extracurricular activities and face challenges in meeting graduation requirements. In addition to moving frequently, students repeatedly adjust to new living environments, schools, and peer groups much more than their civilian counterparts.<sup>13</sup>

As a member of the compact and subject to compact rules,<sup>14</sup> Florida recognizes the need to provide support to students of military families. States participating in the compact work to coordinate graduation requirements, transfer of records and course placement, and other administrative policies.<sup>15</sup> The compact is designed to:

- Facilitate the timely enrollment of children of military families and ensure that children are not disadvantaged due to difficulty in the transfer of education records from the previous school district or variations in entrance or age requirements.
- Facilitate the student placement process through which children of military families are not disadvantaged by variations in attendance requirements, scheduling, sequencing, grading, course content, or assessment.
- Facilitate the qualification and eligibility for enrollment, educational programs, and participation in extracurricular academic, athletic, and social activities.
- Facilitate the on-time graduation of children of military families.
- Provide for the adoption and enforcement of administrative rules implementing the compact.
- Provide for the uniform collection and sharing of information between and among member states, schools, and military families.

<sup>10</sup> Florida Department of Education, *Questions and Answers for Schools Concerning The Interstate compact on Educational Opportunities for Military Children* (2104), available at <http://www.fldoe.org/core/fileparse.php/7757/urlt/0082683-gamilitary.pdf>.

<sup>11</sup> Section 1000.36, F.S.

<sup>12</sup> Department of Defense Education Activity, *The Military Interstate Compact*, available at <https://www.dodea.edu/Partnership/interstateCompact.cfm#:~:text=Currently%20all%2050%20States%20and%20the%20Di strict%20of,times%20more%20often%20than%20the%20average%20non-military%20family> (last visited March 11, 2021).

<sup>13</sup> Florida Department of Education, *Military Family Resources*, available at <http://www.fldoe.org/academics/exceptional-student-edu/military-families/> (last visited March 11, 2021).

<sup>14</sup> Interstate Commission on Educational Opportunity for Military Children (2018), available at <https://mic3.net/assets/rules-2018-revised-9-nov--2018.pdf>.

<sup>15</sup> Department of Defense Education Activity, *supra* note 14.

- Promote coordination between compacts affecting military children.
- Promote flexibility and cooperation between the educational system, parents, and the student so that the student achieves educational success.<sup>16</sup>

### ***Other Educational Benefits***

In addition to benefits from the compact, Florida also provides other educational benefits to military families, including:

- In-state tuition rates and fee waivers.
- Required college credit for military training.
- Course withdrawal due to military service, without penalty.
- National Guard educational dollars for duty program.
- Accepting military permanent change of station orders that relocate a military family to any military installation within the state as proof of Florida residency.
- Accepting exit or end-of-course exams required for graduation from a sending state.
- Providing preferential treatment to dependent children of active duty military personnel who moved as a result of military orders in a school's controlled open enrollment process.<sup>17</sup>

### **Purple Star Campus Program**

The Purple Star Campus Program seeks to recognize exemplary schools that support military-connected children. Seven states currently participate in the program: Ohio, Virginia, Arkansas, South Carolina, Texas, Tennessee, and Georgia.<sup>18</sup>

The Purple Star Campus program requires that a school:

- Have a staff point of contact (POC), as a counselor, administrator, teacher, or other staff member, for military students and families. The POC serves as the primary link between the military family and the school.
- Maintain a dedicated page on its website featuring information and resources for military families.
- Maintain a student led transition program to include a student transition team coordinator.
- Provide professional development for additional staff on special considerations for military students and families.<sup>19</sup>

### **III. Effect of Proposed Changes:**

CS/SB 938 creates the Purple Star Campus program to support military-connected children. Specifically the bill:

- Defines a military student as a student enrolled in a school district, charter school, or a school or institution participating in a Florida educational choice scholarship program who is either:

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<sup>16</sup> Section 1000.36, F.S.

<sup>17</sup> Enterprise Florida, *Florida's 2021 Military-Friendly Guide* (2021), available at <https://www.enterpriseflorida.com/wp-content/uploads/Florida-Military-Friendly-Guide.pdf>.

<sup>18</sup> Military Child Education Coalition, *Parent Programs, Hot Topic: Purple Star Campus* (2019), available at [https://www.militarychild.org/upload/images/Purple%20Star%20Schools/updated\\_Purple\\_Star\\_Campus.pdf](https://www.militarychild.org/upload/images/Purple%20Star%20Schools/updated_Purple_Star_Campus.pdf).

<sup>19</sup> *Id.*

- A dependent of an active-duty member of the United States military that is the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, or Coast Guard, a reserve component of any of these branches of the military, or the Florida National Guard; or
- A dependent of a former member of the United States military that is the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, or Coast Guard, a reserve component of any of these branches of the military, or the Florida National Guard.
- Requires the Department of Education to establish the Purple Star Campus Program that requires a participating school to at a minimum:
  - Designate a staff member as a military liaison.
  - Maintain a webpage on a school's website which includes resources for military students and families.
  - Maintain a student-led transition program that assists military students in transitioning into the school.
  - Offer professional development training opportunities for staff members on issues relating to military students.
  - Reserve at least five percent of controlled open enrollment seats for military-connected students.
- Authorizes the DOE to establish additional criteria to identify schools committed to supporting military 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.

The bill also authorizes a school to partner with a school district to procure digital, professional development, or other assistance necessary to implement the criteria of the Purple Star Campus program.

The bill requires the State Board of Education to adopt rules to implement the Purple Star Campus program.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2021.

#### **IV. Constitutional Issues:**

##### **A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:**

The bill does not appear to require cities and counties to expend funds or limit their authority to raise revenue or receive state-shared revenues as specified by Article VII, Section 18 of the State Constitution.

##### **B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:**

None.

##### **C. Trust Funds Restrictions:**

None.

**D. State Tax or Fee Increases:**

None.

**E. Other Constitutional Issues:**

None identified.

**V. Fiscal Impact Statement:****A. Tax/Fee Issues:**

None.

**B. Private Sector Impact:**

None.

**C. Government Sector Impact:**

Although a school may incur costs associated with operating as a Purple Star Campus, opt-in is permissive, rather than mandatory. The Department of Education anticipates a fiscal impact associated with maintaining a website and offering staff training on issues related to military students, but indicates that these costs can be absorbed by the department.<sup>20</sup>

**VI. Technical Deficiencies:**

None.

**VII. Related Issues:**

None.

**VIII. Statutes Affected:**

This bill creates section 1003.051 of the Florida Statutes.

**IX. Additional Information:****A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Changes:**

(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

**CS/CS by Appropriations on April 21, 2021:**

The committee substitute makes the following changes:

- Adds that participating schools must reserve at least five percent of controlled open enrollment seats for military-connected students.

<sup>20</sup> Department of Education, *2021 Agency Legislative Bill Analysis, CS/SB 938* (Feb. 1, 2021) (on file with the Senate Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security).

- Adds that the DOE may establish additional criteria to identify schools committed to supporting military 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.

**CS by Education on March 9, 2021:**

The committee substitute makes a technical change to authorize the State Board of Education to adopt rules rather than the Department of Education.

**B. Amendments:**

None.