

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.)

Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Committee on Education

BILL: SB 938

INTRODUCER: Senator Wright

SUBJECT: Purple Star Campuses

DATE: March 8, 2021

REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Sagues	Bouck	ED	Pre-meeting
2.			MS	
3.			AP	

I. Summary:

SB 938 establishes the Purple Star Campus Program to recognize exemplary 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 that requires a participating school to:

- Designate a staff member as a military liaison.
- Maintain a webpage on a school's website which include 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.

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 has no impact on state revenues or expenditures.

The bill takes effect on July 1, 2021.

II. Present Situation:

Military Personnel and Families

The total number of United States military personnel located worldwide is over 3.5 million.¹ A total of 1,153,176 Department of Defense (DoD) active duty military members² are assigned to the 50 states and the District of Columbia. More than half, 54.8 percent, are located in California, Virginia, Texas, North Carolina, Georgia, and Florida.³

A total of 785,119 selected reserve⁴ members are assigned to the 50 states and the District of Columbia. Over half, 50.2 percent, of selected reserve members in the United States are assigned to California, Texas, Florida, Pennsylvania, New York, Ohio, Georgia, Virginia, Illinois, North Carolina, Missouri, Alabama, and Minnesota.⁵

Close to two-thirds, 62.8 percent or 1,644,456, of total DoD force family members are children.⁶ Over one-third, 36.8 percent, of family members are spouses.⁷ Overall, 38.1 percent of the total DoD force has children.⁸

Across the 1,644,456 military children, more than two-thirds are 11 years of age or younger:⁹

- 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.

Military Families in Florida

Florida is home to 16 military bases with 100 or more active duty personnel. Florida is also home to a number of National Guard and Military Reserve Units.¹⁰ The following chart breaks down the dependents of active duty military personnel located at Florida military bases:¹¹

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

² Active duty Service branches include DoD's Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force. Department of Defense, *2019 Demographics, Profile of the Military Community* (2019), available at <https://download.militaryonesource.mil/12038/MOS/Reports/2019-demographics-report.pdf>. at iii.

³ *Id.* at 33.

⁴ 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 iii.

⁵ *Id.* at 89.

⁶ Children include minor dependents age 20 or younger and dependents age 22 or younger enrolled as full-time students. *Id.* at 121.

⁷ *Id.*

⁸ *Id.* at 122.

⁹ *Id.* at 123.

¹⁰ 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.

¹¹ 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

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).¹² 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.¹³ Currently, all 50 states are members of the compact.¹⁴

It is estimated that the average military family moves three times more often than the average non-military family. These frequent moves can cause children to miss out on extracurricular activities and to face challenges in meeting graduation requirements. In addition to moving frequently, students must repeatedly adjust to new living environments, schools, and peer groups much more than their civilian counterparts.¹⁵

As a member of the compact,¹⁶ 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.¹⁷ The compact is designed to:¹⁸

- Facilitate the timely enrollment of children of military families and ensuring such children are not placed at a disadvantage 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.

Defense, *2019 Demographics, Profile of the Military Community* (2019), available at <https://download.militaryonesource.mil/12038/MOS/Reports/2019-demographics-report.pdf> at 176-177.

¹² 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>.

¹³ Section 1000.36, F.S.

¹⁴ Department of Defense Education Activity, *The Military Interstate Compact*, <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 3, 2021).

¹⁵ Florida Department of Education, *Military Family Resources*, <http://www.fldoe.org/academics/exceptional-student-edu/military-families/> (last visited Feb. 15, 2021).

¹⁶ Interstate Commission on Educational Opportunity for Military Children (2012), available at <https://mic3.net/assets/mic3commissionrules-final-amendednov2012.pdf>.

¹⁷ Department of Defense Education Activity, *The Military Interstate Compact*, <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 3, 2021).

¹⁸ Section 1000.36, F.S.

- 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.
- Promote coordination between compacts affecting military children.
- Promote flexibility and cooperation between the educational system, parents, and the student in order to achieve educational success for the student.

Other Educational Benefits

In addition to the benefits the compact affords children of military families, Florida also provides other educational benefits to military families, including:¹⁹

- In-state tuition rates and fee waivers.
- Required college credit for military training.
- Course withdrawal because of 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.

Purple Star Campus Program

The Purple Star Campus Program seeks to recognize exemplary schools that support military-connected children.²⁰ Seven states are currently participating in the program: Ohio, Virginia, Arkansas, South Carolina, Texas, Tennessee, and Georgia.²¹

The Purple Star Campus program requires that a school:²²

- Have a staff point of contact (POC) for military students and families. The POC serves as the primary link between the military family and the school. The individual could be a counselor, administrator, teacher, or another staff member.
- 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.

¹⁹ Enterprise Florida, *Florida's 2021 Military-Friendly Guide* (2021), available at <https://www.enterpriseflorida.com/wp-content/uploads/Florida-Military-Friendly-Guide.pdf>.

²⁰ 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.

²¹ *Id.*

²² *Id.*

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

SB 938 creates s. 1003.051, F.S., Purple Star Campuses, to recognize exemplary schools that support military-connected children. The program may help students transition to a new school environment more easily and remove barriers to educational success. 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 and:
 - A dependent of a current member of the United States military serving in active duty; 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.
- Requires the Department of Education to establish the Purple Star Campus Program that requires a participating school to:
 - Designate a staff member as a military liaison.
 - Maintain a webpage on a school's website which include 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.

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The bill takes effect on July 1, 2021.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

D. State Tax or Fee Increases:

None.

E. Other Constitutional Issues:

None.

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

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

The bill has no impact on state revenues or expenditures.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

The bill gives authority to the Department of Education to adopt rules to implement s. 1003.051, F.S. However, pursuant to s. 1001.02(1), F.S., the State Board of Education is the chief implementing body of public education in Florida, and has the authority to adopt rules, pursuant to law. The sponsor may want to amend the bill to reflect the proper authority.

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.)

None.

B. Amendments:

None.