

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STAFF ANALYSIS

BILL #: CS/HB 845 Collegiate Purple Star Campuses

SPONSOR(S): Postsecondary Education & Workforce Subcommittee, Dunkley and others

TIED BILLS: None. **IDEN./SIM. BILLS:** CS/SB 732

REFERENCE	ACTION	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR or BUDGET/POLICY CHIEF
1) Postsecondary Education & Workforce Subcommittee	13 Y, 0 N, As CS	McDaniel	Kiner
2) Education & Employment Committee		McDaniel	Hassell

SUMMARY ANALYSIS

Students from military families face academic and mental health challenges as they transition to new schools as a result of a parent's change in duty station. In 2021, the Florida Legislature established the Purple Star School of Distinction Program to recognize K-12 schools that support the unique needs of military families, assist military-connected students in navigating critical challenges, and provide resources for military-connected students. In 2022, the Florida Department of Education recognized 122 inaugural Purple Star Schools of Distinction.

The bill establishes the Collegiate Purple Star Campuses Program, modeled after the K-12 Purple Star School of Distinction Program. This program will identify participating Florida College System (FCS), state university system (SUS) institutions, or career centers that support military-connected collegiate students.

At a minimum, the program must require a participating FCS, SUS, or career center to: designate a staff member as a military liaison; maintain a web page on the institution's website which includes resources for military students and their families; maintain a student-led transition program that assists military students in transitioning to the institution; offer professional development training opportunities for staff members on issues relating to military students; and provide priority course registration for military students.

The State Board of Education (SBE) and Board of Governors (BOG) may establish additional criteria to identify FCS, SUS, and career centers that demonstrate a commitment to or provide critical transition supports for military-connected families.

The bill requires the SBE to adopt rules, and the BOG to adopt regulations, to implement the program.

The bill has no fiscal impact to the state. See Fiscal Comments.

The bill has an effective date of July 1, 2023.

FULL ANALYSIS

I. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS

A. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

Present Situation

Military Personnel and Families

There are over 3.5 million United States military personnel located worldwide.¹ A total of 1.3 million active duty² service members are assigned throughout all 50 states and the District of Columbia. More than half of the military members stationed stateside reside in California, Virginia, Texas, North Carolina, Georgia, and Florida.³

A total of 1,162,591 select reserve component members⁴ are assigned throughout the 50 states and the District of Columbia. More than one-half of the reserve members are located in six states: California, Virginia, Texas, North Carolina, Georgia, and Florida.⁵ Florida is home to 20 military installations and employs 860,221 military personnel.⁶

Approximately 38 percent of all active duty service members nationwide have children.⁷ Of the 136,600 Active Duty children over 14 years of age, 72.5 percent are between 15 and 18 years, and 27.5 percent are between 19 and 22 years.⁸

Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children

Florida joined the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children (Interstate Compact) in 2008.⁹ Currently, all 50 states are members of the Interstate Compact.¹⁰ The purpose of the Interstate Compact is to remove barriers to educational success imposed on students from military families due to frequent moves and deployment of their parents.¹¹ To accomplish this purpose, current law provides for:

- Prioritizing students from military families in the controlled open enrollment process;¹²
- Providing an exception to restrictions on participation in extracurricular activities for students from military families;¹³
- Establishing memoranda of understanding between school districts and military installations;¹⁴

¹ Department of Defense, 2022 *Demographics, Profile of the Military Community* (2022), at iii, available at <https://download.militaryonesource.mil/12038/MOS/Reports/2021-demographics-report.pdf>.

² 10 U.S.C. s. 101. The term “active duty” means full time duty in the active military service and includes full-time training, annual training duty, and attendance. *Id.*

³ Department of Defense, 2022 *Demographics, Profile of the Military Community* (2022), at iv, available at <https://download.militaryonesource.mil/12038/MOS/Reports/2021-demographics-report.pdf>.

⁴ The reserve components of the armed forces include the Army National Guard, Army Reserve, Navy Reserve, Marine Corps Reserve, Air National Guard, Air Force Reserve, and the Coast Guard Reserve. 10 U.S.C., § 10101.

⁵ Department of Defense, 2022 *Demographics, Profile of the Military Community* (2022), at 35, available at <https://download.militaryonesource.mil/12038/MOS/Reports/2019-demographics-report.pdf>

⁶ Enterprise Florida, *Florida’s Military Profile* (2022), at 1, available at <https://www.enterpriseflorida.com/wp-content/uploads/Floridas-Military-Installations-Map.pdf>.

⁷ Department of Defense, 2022 *Demographics, Profile of the Military Community* (2022), at v, available at <https://download.militaryonesource.mil/12038/MOS/Reports/2019-demographics-report.pdf>.

⁸ *Id.* at 146.

⁹ Ch. 2008-225, Laws of Fla.

¹⁰ Military Interstate Children’s Compact Commission, *Interactive Map*, <https://mic3.net/interactive-map/> (last visited Mar. 6, 2023).

¹¹ Military Interstate Children’s Compact Commission, *Background*, <https://mic3.net/background/> (last visited Mar. 6, 2023).

¹² Section 1002.31, F.S.

¹³ Section 1006.15(3)(h) and (9)(b), F.S.

¹⁴ Section 1003.05(2), F.S.

- Providing for students from military families who are otherwise eligible for special academic programs at any school in the district school to receive first preference for admission;¹⁵ and
- Pending a transfer to a military installation within the school district, considering students from military families as residents of that county for purposes of enrollment.¹⁶

Other Educational Benefits

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

- In-state tuition rates and fee waivers.
- Priority course registration for veterans receiving GI Bill benefits.
- Required college credit for military training and education courses.
- Course withdrawal due to military service, without penalty.
- National Guard Educational Dollars for Duty Program.
- Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission.
- 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.¹⁷

Purple Star Campus Program

In 2021, the Florida Legislature established the Florida Purple Star Campus Program.¹⁸ The purpose of the Purple Star School of Distinction is to recognize K-12 schools that support the unique needs of military families, help military-connected students navigate critical challenges, and provide resources for military-connected students when transitioning to a new school environment.¹⁹ Under the program, schools will be recognized as Purple Star Campuses if they meet the following requirements:²⁰

- designate a staff member as a military liaison;
- maintain a webpage on the 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; and
- reserve at least five percent of open enrollment seats for military-connected students.

In addition, each school must complete at least three of the following activities to support military families:²¹

- The school hosts at least one of the following annual military recognition events: Month of the Military Child, Month of the Military Family, Purple-Up! For Military Kids!, Veteran's Day, Memorial Day.
- The district school board where the school is located, or governing board in the case of a charter or private school, issues a resolution publicizing support for military students and families.

¹⁵ Section 1003.05(3), F.S. For the purposes of this section, special academic programs include magnet schools, advanced studies programs, advanced placement, dual enrollment, Advanced International Certificate Educations, and International Baccalaureate.

¹⁶ Section 1003.05(4), F.S.

¹⁷ Enterprise Florida, *Advantage Florida Military Benefits Guide* (2022-23), available at <https://www.enterpriseflorida.com/wp-content/uploads/Advantage-Florida-Military-Benefits-Guide.pdf>.

¹⁸ The Florida Department of Education, *Purple Star School of Distinction Designation*, <https://www.fldoe.org/schools/family-community/activities-programs/parental-involvement/purple-star.stml> (last visited Mar. 6, 2023).

¹⁹ *Id.*

²⁰ Section 1005.051(2)(a)1.-5., F.S.

²¹ Rule 6A-1.0999(3)(f)1.-6., F.A.C.

- The school partners with one or more military school liaison officer(s) to provide opportunities for active-duty parents to volunteer at the school.
- The school maintains a public display recognizing service members, veterans, or military students and families.
- The school participates in a service project that connects the school with the military community, such as adopt-a-school, sending letters or care packages to deployed troops, or Yellow Ribbon events.
- The school offers the Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps program.

In 2022, the Florida Department of Education recognized 122 inaugural Purple Star Schools of Distinction.²²

Collegiate Purple Star Designation

In 2017, Ohio's PreK-12 school system led the nation by creating the "Purple Star" designation for schools that support military families, and in 2022, Ohio was the first state to expand the program to support military families at the college level by establishing the "Collegiate Purple Star" designation.²³

The Ohio program includes in its student population service members, veterans, their spouses, and dependents.²⁴

Criteria for being chosen as a Purple Star college or university include:²⁵

- having a dedicated military or veteran point of contact or office on campus;
- establishing priority registration for veterans and servicemembers;
- surveying student veterans and servicemembers, along with spouses and dependents, about needs and challenges; and
- allowing for the establishment of student-led groups and organizations for veterans and servicemembers.

Effect of Proposed Changes

The bill creates the Collegiate Purple Star Campus Program to support military-connected collegiate students. The term "military student" is defined as an active duty member or veteran of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Space Force, Marine Corps, or Coast Guard, a reserve component of any branch of the United States military or the Florida National Guard, and his or her spouse and dependents.

The bill requires the State Board of Education (SBE) to adopt rules, and the Board of Governors (BOG) to adopt regulations, to implement the program.

At a minimum, the program requires a participating FCS, SUS, or career center to: designate a staff member as a military liaison; maintain a web page on the institution's website which includes resources for military students and their families; maintain a student-led transition program that assists military students in transitioning to the institution; offer professional development training opportunities for staff members on issues relating to military students; and provide priority course registration for military students.

The SBE and BOG may establish additional criteria to identify FCS, SUS, and career centers that demonstrate a commitment to or provide critical transition supports for military-connected families.

²² The Florida Department of Education, Purple Star School of Distinction Designation, <https://www.fldoe.org/schools/family-community/activities-programs/parental-involvement/purple-star.stml> (last visited Mar. 6, 2023).

²³ Ohio Department of Higher Education, *ODHE Unveils New Collegiate Purple Star Designation*, <https://highered.ohio.gov/about/news-events/all-news/odhe-unveils-new-collegiate-purple-star-designation> (last visited February 23, 2023).

²⁴ Ohio Department of Higher Education, *Directive 2022-004, RE: Proposal to Designate Aspiring Military Friendly Institutions as a "Collegiate Purple Star" Institution in Ohio* (Mar. 23, 2022), available at https://highered.ohio.gov/static/files/Directive_2022-004_PurpleStar.pdf, at 2.

²⁵ *Id.*

B. SECTION DIRECTORY:

Section 1. Creating s. 1004.071, F.S., defining the term “military student”; requiring the State Board of Education to adopt rules and the Board of Governors to adopt regulations to establish the Collegiate Purple Star Campuses program; specifying program criteria for participating Florida College System institutions, state universities, and career centers.

Section 2. Provides an effective date.

II. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

None.

B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

None.

C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

None.

D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

The bill has no fiscal impact to the state. Any expenses incurred by program-participating institutions can be absorbed within their existing resources.

III. COMMENTS

A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:

1. Applicability of Municipality/County Mandates Provision:

None.

2. Other:

None.

B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:

The bill requires the State Board of Education to adopt rules to implement the Collegiate Purple Star Campuses Program. The bill requires the Board of Governors to adopt regulations to implement the program.

C. DRAFTING ISSUES OR OTHER COMMENTS:

None.

IV. AMENDMENTS/COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE CHANGES

On March 21, 2023, the Postsecondary Education & Workforce Subcommittee adopted one amendment and reported the bill favorably as a committee substitute. The amendment:

- expands the definition of “military student”; and
- clarifies the requirements for participating institutions.

The bill analysis is drafted to the committee substitute adopted by the Postsecondary Education & Workforce Subcommittee.