

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 is a dependent of:

(1) 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) a member of a military or reserve force described by Subdivision (1), (2), or (3) 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 25.006.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

6                   (B) recognition of the Month of the Military  
7 Child or Military Family Month with relevant events hosted by the  
8 campus; or

9                   (C) a partnership with a local military  
10 installation that provides opportunities for active duty military  
11 members to volunteer at the campus, speak at an assembly, or host a  
12 field trip.

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

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

18                   (2) professional development required under  
19 Subsection (c)(4); or

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

21           (e) The agency shall adopt rules as necessary to administer  
22 this section.

23           SECTION 3. This Act applies beginning with the 2019-2020  
24 school year.

25           SECTION 4. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
26 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
27 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this

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1 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this

2 Act takes effect September 1, 2019.