

PURPLE STAR SCHOOL PROGRAM

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House Bill 4027 (H-2) as reported from committee

Sponsor: Rep. Dale Zorn

Committee: Education

Complete to 12-3-24

Analysis available at
<http://www.legislature.mi.gov>

SUMMARY:

House Bill 4027 would amend the Revised School Code to create a Purple Star Program and provide for its processes and qualification criteria. Under the bill, the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) would have to create a Purple Star Program by January 1, 2026, that includes at least both of the following:

- A process for a public school to apply for designation as a Purple Star Program school.
- A process for designating public schools that meet the criteria described below as Purple Star Program schools.

A public school that meets at least all of the following would qualify for designation as a Purple Star Program school:

- The school designates a staff member as a military liaison. The military liaison would have to do at least all of the following:
 - Identify *military-connected pupils* enrolled in the public school.
 - Serve as the point of contact between other individuals at the public school and military-connected pupils and their families.
 - Determine appropriate services available to military-connected pupils.
 - Assist in coordinating programs relevant to military-connected pupils.
 - Ensure that military-connected pupils have access to appropriate counseling, mentoring, volunteering opportunities, and support services.
- The school maintains an easily accessible web page on its website homepage with resources for military-connected pupils and their families that include at least all of the following:
 - Information about relocation to the public school, enrollment and registration at the public school, and transferring records to the public school.
 - Information about academic planning, course sequences, and advanced classes available at the public school.
 - Information about counseling and other support services available for military-connected pupils enrolled at the public school.
 - Information about the military liaison described above and the liaison's duties.
- The school maintains a transition program that assists military-connected pupils in transitioning to the public school and that is led, where appropriate, by pupils.
- The school offers professional development for its staff members on issues related to military-connected pupils. This professional development could be provided by a professional educator association in Michigan.
- The school offers at least one of the following initiatives:
 - A resolution showing support for military-connected pupils and their families.

- A recognition of a military-connected pupil or the family of a military-connected pupil each month with relevant events connected to this recognition hosted by the public school.
- A partnership with a branch of the *Armed Forces* that provides opportunities for members of the Armed Forces to volunteer at the public school, speak at an assembly, or host a field trip sponsored by the public school.
- Pupil-driven clubs and groups that show community–family engagement for military-connected pupils and their families.

Military-connected pupil would mean a pupil enrolled in a school district, intermediate school district (ISD), or public school academy (PSA, or charter school) who meets either of the following:

- The pupil is the family member of a current or former member of the Armed Forces.
- The pupil was the family member of an individual who was a member of the Armed Forces and was killed in the line of duty.

Armed Forces would mean the United States Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps, Space Force, or Coast Guard or other military force designated by Congress as a part of the Armed Forces of the United States, including the reserve components (which include the National Guard).

Proposed MCL 380.1138a

FISCAL IMPACT:

House Bill 4027 would increase costs for the state and would have no fiscal impact on local school districts, ISDs, and PSAs.

The state would incur costs through the requirements to create and administer the Purple Star Program. MDE has noted that, although the program has already been created, the department would require 0.5 FTE positions and between \$100,000 and \$200,000 annually to manage and operate the program.

POSITIONS:

A representative of the U.S. Department of Defense testified in support of the bill. (6-18-24)

The Michigan Department of Education indicated support for the bill. (11-12-24)

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■ This analysis was prepared by nonpartisan House Fiscal Agency staff for use by House members in their deliberations and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.