

Senate Engrossed House Bill

purple star school designation; requirements

State of Arizona
House of Representatives
Fifty-sixth Legislature
Second Regular Session
2024

HOUSE BILL 2246

AN ACT

AMENDING TITLE 15, CHAPTER 2, ARTICLE 2, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES, BY
ADDING SECTION 15-249.01; RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona:

2 Section 1. Title 15, chapter 2, article 2, Arizona Revised
3 Statutes, is amended by adding section 15-249.01, to read:

4 15-249.01. Purple star school program; application; annual
5 report; definitions

6 A. THE PURPLE STAR SCHOOL PROGRAM IS ESTABLISHED WITHIN THE
7 DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO IDENTIFY SCHOOLS IN THIS STATE THAT PROVIDE
8 TRANSITION SUPPORT TO MILITARY STUDENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES. THE DEPARTMENT
9 MAY ADOPT POLICIES AND PROCEDURES TO IMPLEMENT THIS SECTION.

10 B. ANY SCHOOL IN THIS STATE THAT OFFERS INSTRUCTION TO STUDENTS IN
11 KINDERGARTEN PROGRAMS OR ANY COMBINATION OF GRADES ONE THROUGH TWELVE MAY
12 APPLY TO THE DEPARTMENT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PURPLE STAR SCHOOL PROGRAM
13 IN A FORM AND MANNER PRESCRIBED BY THE DEPARTMENT. NOTWITHSTANDING
14 SECTION 15-161, A PRIVATE SCHOOL IN THIS STATE MAY PARTICIPATE IN THE
15 PURPLE STAR SCHOOL PROGRAM UNDER THIS SECTION ON THE SAME TERMS AND
16 SUBJECT TO THE SAME REQUIREMENTS AS ANY PUBLIC SCHOOL IN THIS STATE. THE
17 DEPARTMENT SHALL APPROVE AN APPLICATION UNDER THIS SUBSECTION IF THE
18 SCHOOL DEMONSTRATES THAT THE SCHOOL DOES ALL OF THE FOLLOWING:

19 1. PROVIDES PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT TRAINING TO AT LEAST SEVENTY
20 PERCENT OF THE SCHOOL'S EMPLOYEES, INCLUDING ADMINISTRATORS, RELATED TO
21 THE UNIQUE NEEDS OF HIGHLY MOBILE STUDENTS AND MILITARY
22 STUDENTS. TRAINING PROVIDED PURSUANT TO THIS PARAGRAPH MAY INCLUDE ONLY
23 POLITICALLY NEUTRAL INSTRUCTION AND MATERIALS. THE FIRST TRAINING
24 PROVIDED PURSUANT TO THIS PARAGRAPH MUST BE PROVIDED IN PERSON.
25 SUBSEQUENT TRAINING, INCLUDING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT TRAINING PROVIDED
26 TO NEW EMPLOYEES AND THE ANNUAL CONTINUING EDUCATION AND TRAINING PROVIDED
27 TO ALL EMPLOYEES, MAY BE PROVIDED ELECTRONICALLY. A SCHOOL MAY ACCEPT
28 IN-KIND DONATIONS OF MATERIALS, EQUIPMENT OR SERVICES FOR THE TRAINING
29 REQUIRED UNDER THIS PARAGRAPH.

30 2. DESIGNATES AN EMPLOYEE TO SERVE AS THE SCHOOL'S POINT OF CONTACT
31 FOR THE PURPLE STAR SCHOOL PROGRAM. WHEN SELECTING THE DESIGNATED POINT
32 OF CONTACT, THE SCHOOL SHALL CONSIDER WHETHER AN EMPLOYEE HAS A MILITARY
33 BACKGROUND OR OTHER RELEVANT EXPERIENCES. THE DESIGNATED POINT OF CONTACT
34 MUST:

35 (a) COMPLETE THE TRAINING REQUIRED UNDER PARAGRAPH 1 OF THIS
36 SUBSECTION.

37 (b) OVERSEE THE PEER MENTORSHIP PROGRAM ESTABLISHED UNDER PARAGRAPH
38 3 OF THIS SUBSECTION AND PROVIDE INFORMATION ABOUT THE PROGRAM TO MILITARY
39 STUDENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES.

40 (c) COORDINATE WITH THE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS TO ENSURE THAT THE
41 SCHOOL SATISFIES ALL REQUIREMENTS UNDER THIS SECTION, INCLUDING MONITORING
42 THE PERCENTAGE OF SCHOOL EMPLOYEES WHO HAVE RECEIVED THE TRAINING REQUIRED
43 UNDER PARAGRAPH 1 OF THIS SUBSECTION, ORGANIZING THE PATRIOTIC EVENT
44 REQUIRED UNDER PARAGRAPH 4 OF THIS SUBSECTION AND COLLECTING ANY DATA

1 NECESSARY FOR THE ANNUAL REPORT REQUIRED UNDER SUBSECTION D OF THIS
2 SECTION.

3 (d) UPDATE THE WEBSITE REQUIRED UNDER PARAGRAPH 5 OF THIS
4 SUBSECTION AT LEAST ONE TIME DURING EACH SCHOOL YEAR.

5 (e) SERVE AS THE SCHOOL'S PRIMARY POINT OF CONTACT FOR MILITARY
6 STUDENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES TO ASSIST WITH TRANSITIONS INTO AND OUT OF THE
7 SCHOOL.

8 3. ESTABLISHES A PEER MENTORSHIP PROGRAM FOR MILITARY STUDENTS.
9 THE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS SHALL SELECT AND TRAIN STUDENTS WHO ARE ENROLLED
10 IN THE SCHOOL TO SERVE AS STUDENT MENTORS AND TO SUPPORT MILITARY STUDENTS
11 WHO ARE TRANSITIONING INTO THE SCHOOL.

12 4. HOLDS AT LEAST ONE PATRIOTIC EVENT DURING EACH SCHOOL YEAR. A
13 PATRIOTIC EVENT HELD UNDER THIS PARAGRAPH MUST DO BOTH OF THE FOLLOWING:

14 (a) RECOGNIZE THE SERVICE OF MEMBERS OF THE MILITARY AND THEIR
15 FAMILIES.

16 (b) EDUCATE ATTENDEES ABOUT MILITARY SERVICE IN THE UNITED STATES
17 AND IN THIS STATE.

18 5. CREATES AND MAINTAINS EITHER A WEBSITE OR A DEDICATED PAGE ON
19 THE SCHOOL'S WEBSITE WITH RESOURCES FOR MILITARY STUDENTS AND THEIR
20 FAMILIES, INCLUDING:

21 (a) THE CONTACT INFORMATION FOR THE POINT OF CONTACT DESIGNATED
22 UNDER PARAGRAPH 2 OF THIS SUBSECTION.

23 (b) INFORMATION ABOUT THE PEER MENTORSHIP PROGRAM ESTABLISHED UNDER
24 PARAGRAPH 3 OF THIS SUBSECTION AND INSTRUCTIONS FOR HOW TO PARTICIPATE IN
25 THE PROGRAM.

26 (c) INFORMATION REGARDING THE MOST RECENT AND, IF AVAILABLE,
27 UPCOMING PATRIOTIC EVENT HELD BY THE SCHOOL PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPH 4 OF
28 THIS SUBSECTION.

29 (d) OTHER RELEVANT TRANSITION INFORMATION AND RESOURCES FOR
30 MILITARY STUDENTS OR OTHER HIGHLY MOBILE STUDENTS.

31 C. THE DEPARTMENT MAY DEVELOP ADDITIONAL CRITERIA FOR THE
32 ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATION UNDER SUBSECTION B OF THIS SECTION.

33 D. ON OR BEFORE JUNE 30 OF EACH YEAR, EACH PURPLE STAR SCHOOL SHALL
34 SUBMIT A REPORT TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION THAT CONTAINS ALL OF THE
35 FOLLOWING FOR THE CURRENT SCHOOL YEAR:

36 1. THE NUMBER OF MILITARY STUDENTS SERVED BY THE PURPLE STAR
37 SCHOOL.

38 2. A DESCRIPTION OF THE PEER MENTORSHIP PROGRAM ESTABLISHED UNDER
39 SUBSECTION B, PARAGRAPH 3 OF THIS SECTION, INCLUDING THE NUMBER OF TRAINED
40 STUDENT MENTORS AND THE NUMBER OF MILITARY STUDENTS WHO PARTICIPATED IN
41 THE PROGRAM.

42 3. AN ATTESTATION THAT THE SCHOOL UPDATED THE WEBSITE OR DEDICATED
43 WEBPAGE REQUIRED UNDER SUBSECTION B, PARAGRAPH 5 OF THIS SECTION AT LEAST
44 ONCE DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR.

1 4. THE PERCENTAGE OF SCHOOL EMPLOYEES WHO RECEIVED THE PROFESSIONAL
2 DEVELOPMENT TRAINING REQUIRED UNDER SUBSECTION B, PARAGRAPH 1 OF THIS
3 SECTION AND A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE TRAINING PROVIDED.

4 5. A DESCRIPTION OF EACH PATRIOTIC EVENT HELD BY THE SCHOOL DURING
5 THE SCHOOL YEAR.

6 6. THE CONTACT INFORMATION FOR THE DESIGNATED POINT OF CONTACT
7 REQUIRED UNDER SUBSECTION B, PARAGRAPH 2 OF THIS SECTION.

8 E. THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SHALL REVIEW THE REPORTS SUBMITTED
9 PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION D OF THIS SECTION TO DETERMINE WHETHER EACH PURPLE
10 STAR SCHOOL CONTINUES TO SATISFY THE ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS UNDER
11 SUBSECTIONS B AND C OF THIS SECTION. IF THE DEPARTMENT DETERMINES THAT A
12 PURPLE STAR SCHOOL EITHER FAILED TO SUBMIT THE REPORT REQUIRED UNDER
13 SUBSECTION D OF THIS SECTION OR FAILED TO DEMONSTRATE THAT THE SCHOOL
14 MEETS THE ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL NOTIFY THE PURPLE
15 STAR SCHOOL OF THE DETERMINATION AND THE SPECIFIC ACTION REQUIRED BY THE
16 PURPLE STAR SCHOOL TO CURE THE DEFICIENCY. IF THE PURPLE STAR SCHOOL
17 FAILS TO SUBMIT TO THE DEPARTMENT EVIDENCE THAT THE SCHOOL HAS CURED THE
18 DEFICIENCY WITHIN NINETY DAYS AFTER THE NOTICE IS ISSUED, THE DEPARTMENT
19 SHALL NOTIFY THE SCHOOL THAT THE SCHOOL IS NO LONGER APPROVED TO
20 PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM AND MAY NOT REPRESENT ITSELF AS A PURPLE STAR
21 SCHOOL TO THE PUBLIC.

22 F. FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION:

23 1. "MILITARY" MEANS THE ARMY, NAVY, AIR FORCE, SPACE FORCE, MARINE
24 CORPS, COAST GUARD AND NATIONAL GUARD AND ANY MILITARY RESERVE UNIT.

25 2. "MILITARY STUDENT" MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS BOTH:

26 (a) ENROLLED IN OR ELIGIBLE FOR ENROLLMENT IN A KINDERGARTEN
27 PROGRAM OR ANY OF GRADES ONE THROUGH TWELVE IN THIS STATE.

28 (b) A DEPENDENT AS DEFINED IN SECTION 43-1001 OF A VETERAN OR OF AN
29 ACTIVE-DUTY MEMBER OF THE MILITARY.

30 3. "PURPLE STAR SCHOOL" MEANS A SCHOOL THAT IS APPROVED TO
31 PARTICIPATE IN THE PURPLE STAR SCHOOL PROGRAM UNDER THIS SECTION.

32 4. "VETERAN" MEANS A PERSON WHO SERVED IN THE MILITARY AND WHO WAS
33 DISCHARGED OR RELEASED UNDER CONDITIONS OTHER THAN DISHONORABLE.