



# House of Representatives

**File No. 704**

General Assembly

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January Session, 2021 **(Reprint of File No. 267)**

Substitute House Bill No. 6483  
As Amended by House Amendment  
Schedule "A"

Approved by the Legislative Commissioner  
May 20, 2021

***AN ACT CONCERNING THE ENROLLMENT OF CHILDREN OF MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PURPLE STAR SCHOOL PROGRAM.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (a) of section 10-186 of the general statutes is  
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*  
3 *2021*):

4 (a) Each local or regional board of education shall furnish, by  
5 transportation or otherwise, school accommodations so that each child  
6 five years of age and over and under twenty-one years of age who is not  
7 a graduate of a high school or technical education and career school may  
8 attend public school, except as provided in section 10-233c and  
9 subsection (d) of section 10-233d. For purposes of establishing the  
10 residency of a child of a member of the armed forces, as defined in  
11 section 27-103, and who is seeking enrollment in a school under the  
12 jurisdiction of a local or regional board of education for a town in which

13 such child is not yet a resident, such board shall accept the military  
14 orders directing such member to the state or any other documents from  
15 the armed forces indicating the transfer of such member to the state as  
16 proof of residency. Any board of education which denies school  
17 accommodations, including a denial based on an issue of residency, to  
18 any such child shall inform the parent or guardian of such child or the  
19 child, in the case of an emancipated minor, a pupil eighteen years of age  
20 or older or an unaccompanied youth, as described in 42 USC 11434a, as  
21 amended from time to time, of his or her right to request a hearing by  
22 the board of education in accordance with the provisions of subdivision  
23 (1) of subsection (b) of this section. A board of education which has  
24 denied school accommodations shall advise the board of education  
25 under whose jurisdiction it claims such child should be attending school  
26 of the denial. For purposes of this section, (1) a "parent or guardian" shall  
27 include a surrogate parent appointed pursuant to section 10-94g, and (2)  
28 a child residing in a dwelling located in more than one town in this state  
29 shall be considered a resident of each town in which the dwelling is  
30 located and may attend school in any one of such towns. For purposes  
31 of this subsection, "dwelling" means a single, two or three-family house  
32 or a condominium unit.

33 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2021*) (a) As used in this section,  
34 "military-connected student" means a student enrolled in a public  
35 school who (1) is a dependent of a current or former member of the  
36 armed forces, as defined in section 27-103 of the general statutes, or (2)  
37 was a dependent of a member of the armed forces who was killed in the  
38 line of duty.

39 (b) The State Board of Education shall establish, within available  
40 appropriations, a Purple Star School Program. The state board shall  
41 award a Purple Star School designation to any school that (1) employs a  
42 staff member who serves as a military liaison for the school and whose  
43 duties include (A) identifying military-connected students enrolled at  
44 the school, (B) serving as the point of contact between the school and  
45 military-connected students and their families, (C) identifying  
46 appropriate school services available to military-connected students,

47 and (D) assisting in coordinating school programs relevant to military-  
48 connected students; (2) compiles and makes available on the Internet  
49 web site for the school, information and resources available to military-  
50 connected students and their families, including, but not limited to, (A)  
51 the registration process for enrollment and the transferring of student  
52 records to the school, (B) academic planning, including curriculum and  
53 advanced placement classes offered at the school, (C) counseling and  
54 other support services available for military-connected students  
55 enrolled at the school, and (D) the contact information for the military  
56 liaison of the school; (3) provides a transition program led by students,  
57 where appropriate, that assists military-connected students in  
58 transitioning to the school; (4) provides in-service training or  
59 professional development for staff members on issues related to  
60 military-connected students; and (5) offers at least one of the following  
61 initiatives: (A) A resolution showing support for military-connected  
62 students and their families, (B) recognition of the Month of the Military  
63 Child or Military Family Month, with relevant events hosted by the  
64 school, or (C) a partnership with a local military installation that  
65 provides opportunities for active duty members of the armed forces to  
66 volunteer at the school, speak at an assembly or host a field trip.

67 (c) A local or regional board of education may apply to the State  
68 Board of Education, in a manner and form prescribed by the state board,  
69 for the Purple Star School designation for any school under the  
70 jurisdiction of such local or regional board that satisfies the  
71 requirements of subsection (b) of this section.

72 (d) A local or regional board of education may partner with the  
73 Department of Education to provide assistance or materials for the (1)  
74 provision of the in-service training or professional development  
75 described in subdivision (4) of subsection (b) of this section, or (2)  
76 offering of an initiative described in subdivision (5) of subsection (b) of  
77 this section.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
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Section 1	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	10-186(a)
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	New section

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

**OFA Fiscal Note**

**State Impact:**

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 22 \$	FY 23 \$
Education, Dept.	GF - Cost	60,000	60,000
State Comptroller - Fringe Benefits <sup>1</sup>	GF - Cost	24,780	24,780

Note: GF=General Fund

**Municipal Impact:** None

**Explanation**

The bill results in an annual cost of approximately \$84,780, beginning in FY 22, associated with a part-time Program Development Coordinator within the State Department of Education, with a salary of \$60,000 and corresponding fringe benefits of \$24,780. The newly established position would be responsible for establishing and maintaining the Purple Star School Program, including providing in-service training and professional development for staff members on issues related to military-connected students.

House "A" makes various procedural changes that do not result in a fiscal impact.

**The Out Years**

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation.

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<sup>1</sup>The fringe benefit costs for most state employees are budgeted centrally in accounts administered by the Comptroller. The estimated active employee fringe benefit cost associated with most personnel changes is 41.3% of payroll in FY 22 and FY 23.

**OLR Bill Analysis****sHB 6483 (as amended by House "A")\******AN ACT CONCERNING THE ENROLLMENT OF CHILDREN OF MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PURPLE STAR SCHOOL PROGRAM.*****SUMMARY**

This bill requires local and regional boards of education to accept, as proof of residency for any child of an armed forces member who is seeking enrollment in a public school, the military orders directing the member to the state or any other armed forces' documents indicating the member's transfer to the state. By law and under the bill, "armed forces" means the U.S. Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, and Air Force and any of their reserve components, including the Connecticut National Guard when under federal service.

The bill also requires the State Board of Education (SBE), within available appropriations, to establish a Purple Star School Program to designate schools that provide specific support services, assistance, and initiatives for military-connected students and their families. Under the bill, a "military-connected student" is a public-school student who (1) is a dependent of a current or former armed forces member or (2) was a dependent of a member killed in the line of duty.

\*House Amendment "A" (1) requires boards of education to accept other armed forces documents indicating the member's transfer to the state as proof of residency, rather than allowing them to specify the required documentation, and (2) adds the qualification that SBE establish the Purple Star School Program within available appropriations.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2021

**PURPLE STAR SCHOOL PROGRAM**

**Eligible Schools**

Under the bill, SBE must establish the Purple Star School program within available appropriations and award a Purple Star School designation to any public school that does the following:

1. employs a staff member as the school's military liaison, as described below;
2. compiles and posts on its website specified information and resources available to military-connected students and their families;
3. provides a transition program for military-connected students that is student-led, where appropriate;
4. provides in-service training or professional development for staff members on issues related to military-connected students; and
5. offers at least one of the initiatives described below.

**School Military Liaison.** Under the bill, the school's military liaison's duties must include (1) identifying military-connected students enrolled there, (2) serving as the point of contact between the school and these students and their families, (3) identifying appropriate school services available to military-connected students, and (4) assisting in coordinating school programs relevant to military-connected students.

**Website Information and Resources.** To qualify for the designation, a school must post on its website, at a minimum:

1. the registration process for enrolling and transferring student records to the school;
2. academic planning, including curriculum and advanced placement classes offered at the school;
3. counseling and other support services available for military-connected students enrolled there; and

4. the school’s military liaison’s contact information.

**Initiatives.** To qualify for the designation, the school must provide at least one of the following:

1. a resolution showing support for military-connected students and families;
2. recognition of the Month of the Military Child or Military Family Month, with relevant school-hosted events; or
3. a partnership with a local military installation providing opportunities for active duty armed forces members to volunteer at the school, speak at an assembly, or host a field trip.

**Application Process**

Under the bill, boards of education may apply to SBE for the designation for any school under their jurisdiction that meets the eligibility requirements described above.

**Partnership With the State Department of Education (SDE)**

The bill allows boards of education to partner with SDE to provide assistance or materials for the initiatives or in-service training and professional development described above.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Veterans’ Affairs Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute  
 Yea 17 Nay 0 (03/18/2021)

Appropriations Committee

Joint Favorable  
 Yea 49 Nay 0 (05/10/2021)