

ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION - 2021
COMMITTEE STATEMENT
LB5

Hearing Date: Tuesday February 23, 2021
Committee On: Education
Introducer: Blood
One Liner: Adopt the Purple Star Schools Act

Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:
Advanced to General File

Vote Results:

Aye: 8 Senators Day, Linehan, McKinney, Morfeld, Murman, Pansing Brooks, Sanders, Walz

Nay:

Absent:

Present Not Voting:

Oral Testimony:

Proponents:

Carol Blood
John Holgert
Amy Bonn

Representing:

Introducer
Nebraska Department of Veterans Affairs
Self

Opponents:

Representing:

Neutral:

Representing:

Submitted Written Testimony:

Proponents:

Daniel Russell
Jason Hayes
Jeremy Ekeler

Representing:

Stand For Schools
NSEA
Nebraska Catholic Conference

Opponents:

Representing:

Neutral:

Representing:

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

Section 1. Creates the Purple Star Schools Act.

Section 2. Sets out definitions of "military-connected student" and "school" for the purposes of this act.

Section 3. Allows the State Board of Education to designate a school that applies for such designation, as a purple star

school.

To qualify as a purple star school the school must:

-Designate a staff member as a military liaison that is required to:

- Identify military-connected students enrolled in the school;
- Serve as a point of contact in the school for military-connected students; and
- Assist in the coordination of school programs relevant to military-connected students;

-Maintain an easily accessible web page that includes resources for such students and their families. Such information shall include:

- Relocation to, enrollment at, registration at, and transferring records to the school;
- Academic planning, course sequences, and advanced classes that are available;
- Counseling and other support services available such students; and
- Contact information for the military liaison and a list of their duties;

-Maintain a transition program for such students;

-Offer professional development for staff members on issues relating to such students;

-And do one of the following:

- Post a resolution showing support for military-connected students and their families on the schools web site;
- Recognize April as the Military Child Month or November as Military Family Month with relevant events hosted by the school; or
- Partner with a local military installation that provides opportunities for active duty military members to volunteer at the school, speak at an assembly, or host field trips for students.

Section 4. Gives the State Board of Education the ability to adopt and promulgate rules and regulations to carry out this act.

Lynne Walz, Chairperson