

STATE OF MAINE

—
IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-ONE

—
S.P. 557 - L.D. 1705

An Act To Support Maine Students Who Are Dependents of Current or Former Members of the Military

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §2404, sub-§1-A is enacted to read:

1-A. Virtual public charter school eligibility. In addition to the provision in subsection 1, a dependent of a member of the United States Armed Forces who has received official military orders to relocate to this State is eligible to apply to a virtual public charter school.

Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §5205, sub-§12 is enacted to read:

12. Military-connected student. Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary in chapter 901, a military-connected student whose parent is transferred or is pending transfer to the State while on active military duty pursuant to an official military order is considered a resident of the school administrative unit in which the address identified by the parent pursuant to paragraph C is located. For the purposes of this subsection, "military-connected student" has the same meaning as in section 6991.

A. A school administrative unit shall accept applications by electronic means for enrollment under this subsection, including enrollment in a specific school or program within the school administrative unit, and course registration.

B. The parent of a military-connected student shall provide proof of residence in the school administrative unit within 10 days after the arrival date provided on the parent's official military order.

C. A parent may identify any of the following as an address in the State for the purposes of this subsection:

- (1)** A temporary lodging facility on a military installation as defined in section 20102;
- (2)** A purchased or leased house or apartment; or
- (3)** Federal Government or public-private venture military housing.

Sec. 3. 20-A MRSA c. 231 is enacted to read:

CHAPTER 231

PURPLE STAR SCHOOLS

§6991. Definitions

In this chapter, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

1. Military-connected student. "Military-connected student" means a student who is a dependent of:

A. A current or former member of:

(1) The United States military serving in the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Space Force or Coast Guard on active duty;

(2) The Maine National Guard; or

(3) A reserve force of the United States military; or

B. A member of a military or reserve force described in paragraph A who was killed in the line of duty.

§6992. Purple Star School

The department shall designate a school administrative unit as a Purple Star School if the school administrative unit applies and qualifies for the designation under this chapter.

§6993. Program requirements

To qualify as a Purple Star School, a school administrative unit must:

1. Military liaison. Designate a staff member as a military liaison, whose duties include:

A. Identifying military-connected students enrolled at the school administrative unit;

B. Serving as the point of contact between the school administrative unit and military-connected students and their families;

C. Determining appropriate school administrative unit services available to military-connected students; and

D. Assisting in coordinating school administrative unit programs relevant to military-connected students;

2. Website. Maintain on the school administrative unit's publicly accessible website an easily accessible web page that includes resources for military-connected students and their families, including information regarding:

A. Relocation to, enrollment in and transferring records to the school administrative unit;

B. Academic planning, course sequences and advanced classes available at the school administrative unit; and

C. Counseling and other support services available for military-connected students enrolled in the school administrative unit;

3. Transition program. Maintain a transition program led by students, when appropriate, that assists military-connected students in transitioning into the school administrative unit;

4. Professional development. Offer professional development for staff members on issues related to military-connected students; and

5. Initiatives. Initiate one of the following:

A. A resolution showing support for military-connected students and their families;

B. Recognition of the month of the military child or military family month with relevant events hosted by the school administrative unit; or

C. A partnership with a local military installation, as defined in section 20102, that provides opportunities for active duty military members to volunteer at the school administrative unit, speak at an assembly or host a field trip.

§6994. Partnerships between school administrative units

A school administrative unit may partner with another school administrative unit to fulfill any of the requirements of this chapter.

§6995. Rules

The department shall adopt rules as necessary to administer this section. Rules adopted pursuant to this section are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

Sec. 4. 20-A MRSA §10010-A is enacted to read:

§10010-A. Spouse or child of active duty member of United States Armed Forces

A spouse or dependent child of an active duty member of the United States Armed Forces who is assigned to duty out of the State immediately following assignment to duty in the State is eligible for in-state tuition rates and fees at the University of Maine System, the Maine Community College System or the Maine Maritime Academy as long as the spouse or dependent child is continuously enrolled in the postsecondary institution.