

1 SENATE BILL 271

2 **55TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2021**

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 Harold Pope, Jr. and Siah Correa Hemphill

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10 AN ACT

11 RELATING TO PUBLIC SCHOOLS; CREATING PURPLE STAR PUBLIC
12 SCHOOLS, WHICH ARE SCHOOLS THAT DEMONSTRATE A COMMITMENT TO
13 STUDENTS AND FAMILIES CONNECTED TO THE UNITED STATES MILITARY
14 OR HONOR THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF VETERANS AND ACTIVE AND RESERVE
15 MEMBERS OF THE MILITARY AND THE NATIONAL GUARD.

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17 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

18 SECTION 1. A new section of the Public School Code is
19 enacted to read:

20 "[NEW MATERIAL] PURPLE STAR PUBLIC SCHOOLS PROGRAM.--

21 A. The department shall develop a "purple star
22 public schools program" that provides a mechanism for public
23 schools to ease the transition of students of military families
24 into new schools by providing academic, social and emotional
25 support to those students or, for public schools not located

1 near a military installation, those schools that want to
2 recognize and celebrate military service and the
3 accomplishments of active military and veterans.

4 B. A public school that has students from active-
5 duty military families may apply to the department to be a
6 purple star public school by:

7 (1) designating school staff as a point of
8 contact for military-related students and their families and
9 for the military;

10 (2) providing professional development for
11 point-of-contact staff;

12 (3) including a page on its school website
13 that features resources and information for military families;

14 (4) describing the academic, social and
15 emotional supports available to assist transitioning military
16 students; and

17 (5) submitting a resolution to the local
18 school board supporting military students and the public
19 school's application to become a purple star public school.

20 C. A public school that does not have students from
21 active-duty military families may apply to be a purple star
22 public school by:

23 (1) emphasizing the importance and honor of
24 military service;

25 (2) recognizing the service to the country and

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1 accomplishments of veterans, active-duty and reserve military
2 and the national guard in their communities;

3 (3) sponsoring special events recognizing
4 military service;

5 (4) celebrating students who have committed to
6 serving in the military; and

7 (5) submitting a resolution to the local
8 school board supporting students of military families and the
9 public school's application to become a purple star public
10 school."