

Senate Engrossed House Bill

purple star school designation; requirements

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

## CHAPTER 90

# 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.

APPROVED BY THE GOVERNOR APRIL 8, 2024.

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE APRIL 8, 2024.