

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Interim – May-December:
1292 Sadler Way Rm. 323
Fairbanks, AK 99701
907-452-1088



Session – January-April:
State Capitol Rm 500
Juneau, AK 99801
907-465-3004

Representative Will Stapp

District 32: East Fairbanks, Fort Wainwright, Badger

Rep.Will.Stapp@akleg.gov

Sponsor Statement

HB 256 Military-Connected Students and Purple Star Schools

House Bill 256 is designed to strengthen support for military-connected students and families in Alaska by recognizing and encouraging schools that are prepared to meet their unique educational needs.

Alaska is home to a significant military presence, and military families contribute greatly to our communities and economy. Their children, however, often face challenges that other students do not – including frequent moves, school transitions, and the impacts of parental deployment. HB 256 acknowledges those realities and provides a framework to better support student stability and academic success.

This bill establishes a Purple Star designation for schools that demonstrate a commitment to supporting military-connected students. Schools earning this designation would meet criteria such as having a designated staff point of contact, providing resources to assist with transitions, and maintaining information to support military families. HB 256 also relates school funding to Purple Star designations, creating an incentive for districts to adopt best practices that support these students.

HB 256 does not mandate participation. Instead, it offers a voluntary, recognition-based approach that allows school districts to opt in based on their local needs and military population. The goal is to encourage consistency, preparedness, and awareness across the education system while respecting local control.

By aligning Alaska with a nationally recognized framework, HB 256 positions the state to better leverage existing federal education resources, compete for future grants, and demonstrate Alaska's commitment to military families who choose to live and serve here.

Ultimately, this bill supports student continuity, family stability, and educational success while reinforcing Alaska's long-standing relationship with the military community.

Staff Contact: Bernard Aoto
(907) 465-6541
Bernard.Aoto@akleg.gov