

HOUSE BILL NO. 256

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
THIRTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVE STAPP

Introduced: 1/16/26
Referred: Prefiled

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act relating to public school students connected to the military; relating to school**
2 **funding for purple star designations; and providing for an effective date."**

3 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

4 *** Section 1.** AS 14.17.410(b) is amended to read:

5 (b) Public school funding consists of state aid, a required local contribution,
6 and eligible federal impact aid determined as follows:

7 (1) state aid equals basic need minus a required local contribution and
8 90 percent of eligible federal impact aid for that fiscal year; basic need equals the sum
9 obtained under (D) of this paragraph, multiplied by the base student allocation set out
10 in AS 14.17.470; district adjusted ADM is calculated as follows:

11 (A) the ADM of each school in the district is calculated by
12 applying the school size factor to the student count as set out in AS 14.17.450;

13 (B) the number obtained under (A) of this paragraph is
14 multiplied by the district cost factor described in AS 14.17.460;

1 (C) the ADMs of each school in a district, as adjusted
2 according to (A) and (B) of this paragraph, are added; the sum is then
3 multiplied by the special needs factor set out in AS 14.17.420(a)(1), [AND] the
4 secondary school vocational and technical instruction funding factor set out in
5 AS 14.17.420(a)(3), **and the purple star funding factor set out in**
6 **AS 14.17.420(a)(4);**

7 (D) the number obtained for intensive services under
8 AS 14.17.420(a)(2) and the number obtained for correspondence study under
9 AS 14.17.430 are added to the number obtained under (C) of this paragraph or
10 under (H) and (I) of this paragraph;

11 (E) notwithstanding (A) - (C) of this paragraph, if a school
12 district's ADM adjusted for school size under (A) of this paragraph decreases
13 by five percent or more from one fiscal year to the next fiscal year, the school
14 district may use the last fiscal year before the decrease as a base fiscal year to
15 offset the decrease, according to the following method:

16 (i) for the first fiscal year after the base fiscal year
17 determined under this subparagraph, the school district's ADM adjusted
18 for school size determined under (A) of this paragraph is calculated as
19 the district's ADM adjusted for school size, plus 75 percent of the
20 difference in the district's ADM adjusted for school size between the
21 base fiscal year and the first fiscal year after the base fiscal year;

22 (ii) for the second fiscal year after the base fiscal year
23 determined under this subparagraph, the school district's ADM adjusted
24 for school size determined under (A) of this paragraph is calculated as
25 the district's ADM adjusted for school size, plus 50 percent of the
26 difference in the district's ADM adjusted for school size between the
27 base fiscal year and the second fiscal year after the base fiscal year;

28 (iii) for the third fiscal year after the base fiscal year
29 determined under this subparagraph, the school district's ADM adjusted
30 for school size determined under (A) of this paragraph is calculated as
31 the district's ADM adjusted for school size, plus 25 percent of the

1 difference in the district's ADM adjusted for school size between the
2 base fiscal year and the third fiscal year after the base fiscal year;

3 (F) the method established in (E) of this paragraph is available
4 to a school district for the three fiscal years following the base fiscal year
5 determined under (E) of this paragraph only if the district's ADM adjusted for
6 school size determined under (A) of this paragraph for each fiscal year is less
7 than the district's ADM adjusted for school size in the base fiscal year;

8 (G) the method established in (E) of this paragraph does not
9 apply to a decrease in the district's ADM adjusted for school size resulting
10 from a loss of enrollment that occurs as a result of a boundary change under
11 AS 29;

12 (H) notwithstanding (A) - (C) of this paragraph, if one or more
13 schools close and consolidate with one or more other schools in the same
14 community and district and, as a result of the consolidation, basic need
15 generated by the district's ADM of the consolidated schools as adjusted under
16 (A) - (C) of this paragraph decreases, the district may use the last fiscal year
17 before the consolidation as the base fiscal year to offset that decrease for the
18 first four fiscal years following consolidation according to the following
19 method:

20 (i) for the first two fiscal years after the base fiscal year,
21 the district's ADM of the consolidated schools as adjusted under (A) -
22 (C) of this paragraph is calculated by dividing the sum of the district's
23 ADM of the consolidated schools as adjusted under (A) - (C) of this
24 paragraph for the base fiscal year by the sum of the district's ADM of
25 the consolidated schools for the base fiscal year without adjustment,
26 and subtracting the quotient obtained by dividing the district's ADM of
27 the consolidated schools for the current fiscal year as adjusted under
28 (A) - (C) of this paragraph by the sum of the district's ADM of the
29 consolidated schools for the current fiscal year without adjustment,
30 multiplying that number by the sum of the district's ADM of the
31 consolidated schools for the current fiscal year without adjustment, and

1 adding that number to the sum of the district's ADM of the consolidated
2 schools for the current fiscal year as adjusted under (A) - (C) of this
3 paragraph;

4 (ii) for the third fiscal year after the base fiscal year, the
5 district's ADM of the consolidated schools as adjusted under (A) - (C)
6 of this paragraph is calculated by dividing the sum of the district's
7 ADM of the consolidated schools as adjusted under (A) - (C) of this
8 paragraph for the base fiscal year by the sum of the district's ADM of
9 the consolidated schools for the base fiscal year without adjustment,
10 and subtracting the quotient obtained by dividing the sum of the
11 district's ADM of the consolidated schools for the current fiscal year as
12 adjusted under (A) - (C) of this paragraph by the sum of the district's
13 ADM of the consolidated schools for the current fiscal year,
14 multiplying that number by the sum of the district's ADM of the
15 consolidated schools for the current fiscal year without adjustment,
16 multiplying that number by 66 percent, and adding that number to the
17 sum of the district's ADM of the consolidated schools for the current
18 fiscal year as adjusted under (A) - (C) of this paragraph;

19 (iii) for the fourth fiscal year after the base fiscal year,
20 the district's ADM of the consolidated schools as adjusted under (A) -
21 (C) of this paragraph is calculated by dividing the sum of the district's
22 ADM of the consolidated schools as adjusted under (A) - (C) of this
23 paragraph for the base fiscal year by the sum of the district's ADM of
24 the consolidated schools for the base fiscal year without adjustment,
25 and subtracting the quotient obtained by dividing the sum of the
26 district's ADM of the consolidated schools for the current fiscal year as
27 adjusted under (A) - (C) of this paragraph by the sum of the district's
28 ADM of the consolidated schools for the current fiscal year,
29 multiplying that number by the sum of the district's ADM of the
30 consolidated schools for the current fiscal year without adjustment,
31 multiplying that number by 33 percent, and adding that number to the

1 sum of the district's ADM of the consolidated schools for the current
2 fiscal year as adjusted under (A) - (C) of this paragraph;

3 (iv) to calculate the district's basic need for each fiscal
4 year, the number obtained through the calculation in (i), (ii), or (iii) of
5 this subparagraph is added to the number obtained under (C) of this
6 paragraph for the remainder of the district;

7 (I) if the basic need calculated under (H)(i) - (iii) of this
8 paragraph for one of the first four fiscal years after consolidation is less than
9 the basic need calculated under (A) - (C) of this paragraph for that fiscal year,
10 the basic need may not be adjusted under (H) of this paragraph for that fiscal
11 year;

12 (J) a district may not offset a decrease under (H) of this
13 paragraph if

14 (i) a new facility is constructed in the district for the
15 consolidation; or

16 (ii) the district offset a decrease under (E) of this
17 paragraph in the same fiscal year;

18 (K) a district that offsets a decrease under (H) of this paragraph
19 may not reopen a school that was closed for consolidation in the district until

20 (i) seven or more years have passed since the school
21 closure; and

22 (ii) the district provides evidence satisfactory to the
23 department that the schools affected by the consolidation are over
24 capacity;

25 (L) a district may not reopen and reconsolidate a school that
26 was consolidated in the district more than once every seven years for purposes
27 of the calculations made under (H) of this paragraph;

28 (M) a district offsetting a decrease under (H) of this paragraph
29 shall provide the department with the list of schools participating in the
30 consolidation and the corresponding ADM;

31 (2) the required local contribution of a city or borough school district is

1 the equivalent of a 2.65 mill tax levy on the full and true value of the taxable real and
 2 personal property in the district as of January 1 of the second preceding fiscal year, as
 3 determined by the Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic
 4 Development under AS 14.17.510 and AS 29.45.110, not to exceed 45 percent of a
 5 district's basic need for the preceding fiscal year as determined under (1) of this
 6 subsection.

7 * **Sec. 2.** AS 14.17.420(a) is amended to read:

8 (a) As a component of public school funding, a district is eligible for special
 9 needs, [AND] secondary school vocational and technical instruction, **and purple star**
 10 funding and may be eligible for intensive services funding as follows:

11 (1) special needs funding is available to a district to assist the district
 12 in providing special education, gifted and talented education, vocational education,
 13 and bilingual education services to its students; a special needs funding factor of 1.20
 14 shall be applied as set out in AS 14.17.410(b)(1);

15 (2) in addition to the special needs funding for which a district is
 16 eligible under (1) of this subsection, a district is eligible for intensive services funding
 17 for each special education student who needs and receives intensive services and is
 18 enrolled on the last day of the count period; for each such student, intensive services
 19 funding is equal to the intensive student count multiplied by 13;

20 (3) in addition to the special needs and intensive services funding
 21 available under (1) and (2) of this subsection, secondary school vocational and
 22 technical instruction funding is available to assist districts in providing vocational and
 23 technical instruction to students who are enrolled in a secondary school; a secondary
 24 school vocational and technical instruction funding factor of 1.015 shall be applied as
 25 set out in AS 14.17.410(b)(1); in this paragraph, "vocational and technical instruction"
 26 excludes costs associated with

27 (A) administrative expenses; and

28 (B) instruction in general literacy, mathematics, and job
 29 readiness skills;

30 **(4) in addition to the special needs and intensive services funding**
 31 **and secondary school vocational and technical instruction funding available**

1 **under (1) - (3) of this subsection, purple star funding is available to a district in**
 2 **which 75 percent or more of the district's schools have a purple star awarded**
 3 **under AS 14.34.100; a purple star funding factor of 1.75 shall be applied as set**
 4 **out in AS 14.17.410(b)(1).**

5 * **Sec. 3.** AS 14.17.440(a) is amended to read:

6 (a) Except as provided in AS 14.17.400(b), funding for state boarding schools
 7 established under AS 14.16.010 includes an allocation from the public education fund
 8 in an amount calculated by

9 (1) determining the ADM of state boarding schools by applying the
 10 school size factor to the student count as described in AS 14.17.450;

11 (2) multiplying the number obtained under (1) of this subsection by the
 12 special needs factor in AS 14.17.420(a)(1), [AND] the secondary school vocational
 13 and technical instruction funding factor set out in AS 14.17.420(a)(3), **and the purple**
 14 **star funding factor set out in AS 14.17.420(a)(4)** and multiplying that product by the
 15 base student allocation; and

16 (3) multiplying the product determined under (2) of this subsection by
 17 the district cost factor that is applicable to calculation of the state aid for the adjacent
 18 school district under AS 14.17.460.

19 * **Sec. 4.** AS 14.30 is amended by adding a new section to read:

20 **Sec. 14.30.287. Accommodation requirements for children of military**
 21 **families.** (a) If the parent or guardian of a student who is the child of an active duty
 22 member of the uniformed services and who was receiving accommodations provided
 23 under 20 U.S.C. 1400 - 1482 or 29 U.S.C. 794 before transferring to a school district
 24 in this state provides documentation that the student was receiving the
 25 accommodations before the student's first day of attendance in the school district, the
 26 school district shall take necessary steps to ensure that the student begins receiving
 27 comparable accommodations on the first day of attendance, including requesting the
 28 transfer of school records, evaluations, and meeting notes. If a student is enrolled in a
 29 school district as allowed under AS 14.03.080(g), the school district shall accept
 30 written documentation of a student's accommodations provided under an
 31 individualized education program or section 504 plan before the student's arrival in the

1 school district and shall make a reasonable effort to ensure that comparable
 2 accommodations are in place on the student's first day of attendance in the school
 3 district. Not later than 30 days after the student's first day of attendance in the school
 4 district, the school district shall either adopt the student's former individualized
 5 education program or section 504 plan and begin providing the services or
 6 accommodations provided under the individualized education program or section 504
 7 plan or develop and complete a new individualized education program or section 504
 8 plan. Whenever possible, the school district shall use existing evaluations in the
 9 development of a new individualized education program or section 504 plan. If the
 10 school district determines that additional evaluations are necessary to develop and
 11 complete a new individualized education program or section 504 plan, the evaluations
 12 shall occur not later than 30 school days after the student's first day attending school in
 13 the school district, subject to the written informed consent of the student's parent or
 14 guardian as provided for in AS 14.30.191.

15 (b) A school district shall take reasonable steps to provide a physical copy of a
 16 student's school records to a student who is the child of an active duty member of the
 17 uniformed services and who is transferring out of the school district because the parent
 18 or guardian has been transferred or is pending transfer from a military installation in
 19 the state to another military installation.

20 (c) A school district shall take reasonable steps to notify the parent or guardian
 21 of a student who is the child of an active duty member of the uniformed services of the
 22 requirements of this section.

23 (d) In this section,

24 (1) "active duty" and "uniformed services" have the meanings given in
 25 AS 14.34.030(g);

26 (2) "military installation" has the meaning given in AS 14.03.080(g);

27 (3) "section 504 plan" means a plan developed as required under 29
 28 U.S.C. 794 (sec. 504, Rehabilitation Act of 1973).

29 * **Sec. 5.** AS 14.34.030 is amended to read:

30 **Sec. 14.34.030. State council on educational opportunity for military**
 31 **children.** The board shall designate a subcommittee of its membership to **comprise**

1 **the state council on educational opportunity for military children, which shall**
2 serve as the state council **required** under AS 14.34.010. Consistent with state law, the
3 board shall designate other persons to serve on the subcommittee to complete the
4 representation required by the compact established under AS 14.34.010.

5 * **Sec. 6.** AS 14.34.030 is amended by adding new subsections to read:

6 (b) The council shall

7 (1) assist state and local education agencies with

8 (A) promoting and communicating the provisions of this
9 chapter to public school district officials and military families;

10 (B) orienting and training district military education
11 coordinators on provisions of this chapter;

12 (C) developing and administering programs that inform
13 military families of the need for self-identification in order to ensure an
14 accurate accounting of the children of military families enrolled in public
15 schools; and

16 (D) developing and administering programs that recognize
17 education agencies, public schools, and leaders who have established or
18 contributed to programs facilitating successful school transitions of children of
19 military families;

20 (2) at least once a year, hold a public forum in a military community to
21 receive feedback regarding the effectiveness of the provisions of this chapter; the
22 public forum may be held in person or virtually;

23 (3) submit an annual report on a date determined by the council to the
24 governor, the board, and the education committee of each house of the legislature that
25 includes

26 (A) information describing the achievements of the council and
27 school districts regarding the support provided to military families under this
28 chapter;

29 (B) details of the reports provided by the council to the
30 Interstate Commission on Educational Opportunity for Military Children as
31 provided for under AS 14.34.010;

1 (C) the number of children in military families in each school
2 district who transferred to or from another state or federal education agency in
3 the previous year;

4 (D) information regarding training provided to school district
5 personnel with respect to this chapter;

6 (E) details regarding plans for future engagement efforts with
7 military families under this chapter; and

8 (F) other information the council considers relevant.

9 (c) The council may

10 (1) form committees to carry out its functions;

11 (2) enlist volunteer participation by individuals or organizations to
12 assist in development and execution of programs;

13 (3) provide recommendations to the department regarding bills before
14 the legislature to amend this chapter and efforts to amend regulations applicable to the
15 department and school districts under this chapter.

16 (d) A majority of council members constitute a quorum.

17 (e) The council shall meet at least quarterly but may meet more often as
18 determined by a majority of the members or at the call of the chair.

19 (f) The department shall provide staff and administrative support for the
20 council.

21 (g) In this section,

22 (1) "active duty" means full-time duty status in the active uniformed
23 service of the United States, including members of the National Guard and Reserve on
24 active duty orders under 10 U.S.C. 1209 and 1211;

25 (2) "children of military families" means one or more school-aged
26 children, enrolled in kindergarten through 12th grade, in the household of an active
27 duty member;

28 (3) "council" or "state council" means the state council on educational
29 opportunity for military children;

30 (4) "federal education agency" means a public authority legally
31 constituted by the federal government as an administrative agency to provide control

1 of and direction for kindergarten through 12th grade public educational institutions;

2 (5) "transition" means the formal and physical process of transferring
3 from school to school and the period of time in which a student moves from one
4 school in the sending state to another school in the receiving state;

5 (6) "uniformed services" means the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine
6 Corps, Coast Guard, Space Force, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
7 Commissioned Officer Corps, and United States Public Health Services
8 Commissioned Corps.

9 * **Sec. 7.** AS 14.34 is amended by adding new sections to read:

10 **Article 2. Children of Military Families.**

11 **Sec. 14.34.100. Purple star schools.** (a) The department shall establish a
12 process for recognizing public and private schools that show commitment to military-
13 connected students and families as purple star schools. A purple star is valid for three
14 years and may be renewed upon application by the school. A school may reapply for a
15 purple star after an earlier application has been denied. A school shall maintain
16 records demonstrating completion and maintenance of the requirements to receive a
17 purple star and shall provide the records to the department upon request of the
18 department.

19 (b) The department shall award a purple star to a public or private school that
20 has enrolled military-connected students if the school

21 (1) applies for a purple star on an application made available on the
22 department's Internet website;

23 (2) designates a school counselor, teacher, administrator, or support
24 staff member who has completed training provided by the school on the unique needs
25 of military-connected students and families to serve as a military point of contact for
26 the school; the school must assign the military point of contact the duties to

27 (A) support military-connected students and families by
28 serving as the point of contact for and working collaboratively with military-
29 connected students and families, the school, and military personnel;

30 (B) maintain familiarity with existing community and military
31 installation resources and the school's enrollment and withdrawal procedures,

1 records transfers, and student supports; and

2 (C) provide additional resources for school personnel on issues
3 related to military-connected students;

4 (3) publishes information and resources for military-connected
5 students and families on the school's Internet website; the information may include
6 details on enrollment, registration, transfer, and withdrawal procedures, the Interstate
7 Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children, special education services
8 and 29 U.S.C. 794 (sec. 504, Rehabilitation Act of 1973), available student counseling
9 and support services, and opportunities for parental involvement and engagement;

10 (4) provides a list of resources describing the available academic,
11 social, and emotional supports the school provides to assist military-connected
12 students;

13 (5) submits to the local school board a copy of the school's application
14 for a purple star as well as a resolution supporting military-connected students.

15 (c) A public or private school that does not have enrolled military-connected
16 students qualifies for a purple star if the school submits in its purple star application
17 evidence that the school

18 (1) emphasizes the importance and honor of military service; evidence
19 may include holding Veterans Day assemblies, celebrating Armed Forces Day, hosting
20 patriotic events, letter writing campaigns, and care package drives, partnering with
21 veteran organizations, inviting local military personnel to speak, maintaining a wall
22 that honors veterans, recognizing Military Appreciation Month, and producing public
23 service announcements that highlight the value of military service;

24 (2) recognizes veterans' service to the country and accomplishments,
25 active duty and reserve military personnel, and national guard personnel in the
26 school's community;

27 (3) sponsors special events to recognize military service;

28 (4) celebrates students who have committed to serving in the military;

29 and

30 (5) has submitted to the local school board the school's application for
31 a purple star as well as a resolution supporting military-connected students.

1 (d) In this section,

2 (1) "military installation" has the meaning given in AS 14.03.080(g);

3 (2) "military-connected student" means a student who is a dependent
4 of a current or former member of the armed forces of the United States, a reserve unit
5 of the armed forces of the United States, or the Alaska National Guard or who was a
6 dependent of a member of the armed forces of the United States, a reserve unit of the
7 armed forces of the United States, or the Alaska National Guard who was killed in the
8 line of duty.

9 **Sec. 14.34.110. Purple star and military children coordinator.** The
10 department shall establish a position dedicated to coordinating and supporting the
11 purple star process. The position will serve as the designated compact administrator
12 for the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children
13 established under AS 14.34.010. The compact administrator shall cooperate with all
14 departments, agencies, and officers of and in the government of this state and its
15 subdivisions in facilitating the proper administration of the compact or of a
16 supplementary agreement entered into by this state.

17 **Sec. 14.34.120. Priority in open enrollment policies.** If a school district has a
18 policy that allows a child who resides inside or outside of the school district's
19 boundary area to attend a school in the school district that is selected by the student's
20 parent or guardian and the student is the child of an active duty member of the
21 uniformed services as defined in AS 14.34.030(g), the policy must include a provision
22 that

23 (1) ensures the student is not disadvantaged in the admissions process
24 because of the student's location or the date the enrollment is requested; and

25 (2) allows the student to remain at the school through completion of
26 the highest grade level at the school.

27 * **Sec. 8.** AS 14.34.020 is repealed.

28 * **Sec. 9.** This Act takes effect July 1, 2026.