



Veterans & Military Families Caucus

Democratic Party of New Mexico

HM22

Purple Star Schools
Program Development

Representatives Sariñana, Alcon,
Garcia, A. Martinez and Senator Pope



Why VMFC supports HM 22

New Mexico has four military bases and **43,228 military and family members** reside here.

In addition there are about **3,900 National Guard members** and more than **141,000 veterans** living in New Mexico.

80% of active duty military children attend public schools and **move every two to three years**. The average military child will attend **six to nine schools during their K-12** education experience.

Military children experience many **educational and social-emotional challenges** as they relocate and transition to new schools, or when their parents are deployed away from home.

Purple Star Schools Programs **are effective** in addressing the needs of military children and they **honor veterans, their military service and that of their families**.

This memorial is intended to direct the NM Public Education Department (PED) to motivate public school agencies to implement the Purple Star Schools Program (PSSP) and help our military children do their best in school.

[SB 271](#) (Senators Pope and Hemphill) directs PED to develop the PSSP. It was passed and signed into law in 2021. To date, there is no public-facing evidence that PSSP has been implemented by [PED](#) and the public school agencies. [Alamogordo Public Schools](#) had this program in place before 2021 and provides a useful model to follow.

States such as [Texas](#), [Colorado](#), [Ohio](#) and [Virginia](#) have robust programs that provide valuable assistance to military children in addressing challenges when they start over at a new school:

- ★ gaps and overlaps in curriculum
- ★ differing graduation requirements
- ★ course-place disruption
- ★ leaving supportive friends and activities

They have information widely available on their websites.

There are helpful resources available to NM PED and the public school agencies to assist in implementation, including [Military Child Education Coalition](#), [Military State Policy Source](#), and [PSSP Best Practices](#).

The **DOD grades** installations, the surrounding community and the state based on criteria that include education, professional license portability, health care, etc. Passage of this memorial and implementation of the PSSP will **improve the state's education score**.

Sources: <https://statepolicy.militaryonesource.mil/key-issue/purple-star-schools-program> and <https://www.militarychild.org/purplestarschools>

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