

# Exhibit D

Acts 340/341 and Act 501

## **Acts 340/341 and Act 501**

**1. Identical Acts 340 and 341, § 34**, created a “Purple Star School” and “Purple Star School District” designation for public school districts and open-enrollment public charter schools that show a significant commitment to serving students and families connected to the United States Armed Forces. The acts provide that the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education “may” promulgate rules to implement the section creating the designation. **Act 501, § 10**, created a “Purple Star School Program”. The Purple Star School Program requires a public school with twenty (20) or more children of military families to adopt the program. The program requires participating public schools to provide specified assistance to military families. The program provides that the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education “shall” promulgate rules for the program.

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law.  
**Act 341** of the Regular Session

State of Arkansas *As Engrossed: H3/6/25 H3/12/25*

95th General Assembly

## A Bill

Regular Session, 2025

HOUSE BILL 1512

By: Representatives M. Shepherd, *Evans, Beaty Jr., Brooks, Eubanks, Wardlaw, Barker, K. Brown, M. Brown, John Carr, Cavenaugh, Crawford, Gramlich, Hawk, McAlindon, McClure, S. Meeks, Nazarenko, Rose, Torres, Wing, Achor, Beck, Eaves, Unger, Andrews*  
By: Senator J. Dismang

### For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO CREATE THE ARKANSAS ACCESS ACT; TO AMEND  
VARIOUS PROVISIONS OF THE ARKANSAS CODE AS THEY  
RELATE TO EDUCATION IN THE STATE OF ARKANSAS; AND FOR  
OTHER PURPOSES.

### Subtitle

TO CREATE THE ARKANSAS ACCESS ACT; AND  
TO AMEND VARIOUS PROVISIONS OF THE  
ARKANSAS CODE AS THEY RELATE TO  
EDUCATION IN THE STATE OF ARKANSAS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. Title.

This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Arkansas ACCESS Act".

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-1-404(a), concerning the membership of  
the School Leadership Coordinating Council, is amended to read as follows:

(a) The School Leadership Coordinating Council consists of ~~seventeen~~  
~~(17)~~ the following members ~~as follows~~:

~~(1) The Chair of the Arkansas Association of Colleges for  
Teacher Education Council of Deans;~~

~~(2)~~ The Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education;

~~(3) The Director of the Arkansas Leadership Academy;~~

~~(4)~~ (2) The Commissioner of the Division of Higher Education;



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1 (11) One (1) superintendent appointed by the commissioner.

2  
3 SECTION 32. Arkansas Code § 6-21-817(b), concerning the membership of  
4 the Public School Americans with Disabilities Act Compliance Committee, is  
5 amended to read as follows:

6 (b) The committee shall be composed of ~~six (6) members as follows~~ the  
7 following members:

8 (1) One (1) member from the Building Authority Division;

9 (2) One (1) member from the Division of Public School Academic  
10 Facilities and Transportation;

11 (3) One (1) member from the ~~State Fire Marshal Office of the~~  
12 ~~Division of Arkansas State Police~~ Office of Fire Protection Services;

13 (4) One (1) member from the Division of Elementary and Secondary  
14 Education;

15 ~~(5) One (1) member from the Arkansas Association of Educational~~  
16 ~~Administrators; and~~

17 ~~(6) One (1) member from the Arkansas Public School Resource~~  
18 ~~Center, Inc.~~

19 (5) Other relevant stakeholders deemed necessary by the members  
20 designated under subdivisions (b)(1)-(4) of this section.

21  
22 SECTION 33. Arkansas Code § 6-28-112(b), concerning academic course  
23 placement under the Arkansas Military Child School Transitions Act of 2021,  
24 is amended to read as follows:

25 (b) Academic course placement includes without limitation enrollment  
26 in:

27 ~~Honors courses~~ Accelerated learning courses; and

28 ~~The International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme;~~

29 ~~(3) Advanced Placement courses; and~~

30 ~~(4)~~ Academic, technical, and career pathway courses.

31  
32 SECTION 34. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 28, Subchapter 2, is  
33 amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

34 § 6-28-207. Purple Star Schools.

35 (a) A public school district or an open-enrollment public charter  
36 school that shows a significant commitment to serving students and families

connected to the United States Armed Forces may be designated as a Purple Star School or Purple Star School District.

(b) The Division of Elementary and Secondary Education may promulgate rules to implement this section.

SECTION 35. Arkansas Code § 6-41-610(b)(2), concerning the membership of the committee that develops and updates the Arkansas Dyslexia Resource Guide, is amended to read as follows:

(2)(A) The committee shall include ~~one (1) representative who has the following members who shall have~~ experience working in the field of dyslexia intervention ~~from the following organizations, and are~~ appointed by the Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education:

~~(i)(A) The Arkansas Association of Educational Administrators~~ One (1) public school administrator;

~~(ii)(B) The Division~~ A representative from the Office of Learning Services of the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education;

~~(iii)(C) The~~ A representative from the Division of Higher Education;

~~(iv)(D) The Arkansas Education Association~~ One (1) public school licensed educator;

~~(v)(E) The Arkansas School Boards Association~~ One (1) public school district board of directors member;

~~(vi)(F) The Arkansas School Psychology Association, A~~ school psychologist with at least three (3) years of experience in testing for dyslexia; ~~and~~

~~(vii)(G) An education service cooperative administrator;~~ and

~~(B)(H)~~ Three (3) professionals who have worked in a public school who are knowledgeable in and have expertise in dyslexia screening and interventions.

SECTION 36. Arkansas Code §§ 6-51-602 and 6-51-603 are amended to read as follows:

6-51-602. Definitions.

As used in this subchapter, ~~unless the context otherwise requires:~~

(1) "Admissions representative" means a person who executes an

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law.  
**Act 501** of the Regular Session

State of Arkansas *As Engrossed: H3/10/25 H3/19/25*

95th General Assembly

## A Bill

Regular Session, 2025

HOUSE BILL 1545

By: Representative K. Brown

By: Senator J. English

### For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO AMEND THE ARKANSAS MILITARY CHILD SCHOOL  
TRANSITIONS ACT OF 2021; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

### Subtitle

TO AMEND THE ARKANSAS MILITARY CHILD  
SCHOOL TRANSITIONS ACT OF 2021.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. Legislative findings and intent.

(a) The General Assembly finds:

(1) Arkansas adopted the Interstate Compact on Educational  
Opportunity for Military Children in 2013, but found it ineffective in  
supporting National Guard and highly mobile active-duty families;

(2) To untether support for military families, Arkansas  
established the Arkansas Military Child School Transitions Act of 2021,  
expanding eligibility and resources offered to uniformed services families;

(3) Arkansas is the only state that has taken an independent,  
parallel path outside of the compact to better serve our highly mobile  
uniformed services families;

(4) On December 31, 2024, the United States Department of  
Defense reported to the United States Congress that, "States could consider  
the benefits of implementing the Arkansas model for a statute outside the  
Compact"; and

(5) Arkansas is recognized for initiative, innovation, and  
responsiveness to meeting emerging needs of uniformed services families.

(b) This act further improves the Arkansas Military Child School



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1           (3) Develop and promote the Purple Star School program as  
2 required by § 6-28-302;

3           ~~(3)~~(4) Assist in the development and delivery of programs that  
4 inform current and former uniformed services families, including Gold Star  
5 families, of the need for self-identification in order to assure accurate  
6 accounting of children of uniformed services families enrolled in public  
7 school districts to self-identify to assure:

8                   (A) They are recognized for their service; and

9                   (B) That the student is accounted for in all applicable  
10 programs for which the student qualifies; and

11           ~~(4)~~(5) Assist in the development and administration of programs  
12 recognizing education agencies, public schools, and leaders who have  
13 established or contributed to programs facilitating successful school  
14 transitions of children of uniformed services families.

15  
16           SECTION 9. Arkansas Code § 6-28-204(i), concerning administrative  
17 staff to support the Chair of the Arkansas Council for Military Children, is  
18 amended to read as follows:

19           (i) The council shall post on its website or post by utilizing another  
20 form of public notice, including without limitation social media, information  
21 for uniformed services families, including without limitation information  
22 regarding:

23                   (1) The purpose, duties, membership composition, meeting  
24 agendas, and meeting minutes of the council;

25                   (2) Resources to assist uniformed services families with making  
26 decisions concerning school choice and educational freedom accounts;

27                   (3) Guidance for advance enrollment;

28                   (4) Contact information for military family education  
29 coordinators; and

30                   (5) Purple Star School Program highlights and contact  
31 information for military family education facilitators.

32           (j) The division shall provide administrative staff support to the Chair  
33 of the Arkansas Council for Military Children to assist with the achievement  
34 of the purpose and the administration of duties of the council.

35  
36           SECTION 10. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 28, is amended to add

1 additional sections to read as follows:

2 Subchapter 3 – Purple Star School Program

3  
4 6-28-301. Purple Star School Program.

5 (a) Each public school with twenty (20) or more children of military  
6 families enrolled annually by October 1 shall:

7 (1) Adopt the Purple Star School Program developed by the  
8 Arkansas Council for Military Children and approved by the Division of  
9 Elementary and Secondary Education; and

10 (2) Survey arriving and departing uniform services families to  
11 assess the effectiveness of programs and services under this chapter as  
12 specified by the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education.

13 (b) The purpose of the Purple Star School Program shall be to:

14 (1) Assist children of uniformed services families by addressing  
15 the educational, social, and emotional challenges the children of uniformed  
16 services families face during their transition to a new school; and

17 (2) Keep children of uniformed services families on track to  
18 enroll and excel in college, enter the workforce, and become life-ready.

19 (c) The council-developed Purple Star School Program required under  
20 subsection (a) of this section shall:

21 (1) Require each public school to designate a military family  
22 education facilitator to:

23 (A) Identify military-connected students who are enrolled  
24 in the public school and inform public school teachers of those students;

25 (B) Serve as the Purple Star School Program point of  
26 contact for the public school, each child of a military family, and the  
27 parent, legal guardian, person having lawful control of, or person standing  
28 in loco parentis to a child of a military family; and

29 (C) Assist in determining and coordinating public school  
30 services and programs for military-connected students;

31 (2) Require a designated public school district military family  
32 education facilitator, public school military family education coordinator,  
33 and public school staff to complete council-recommended and division-approved  
34 initial and continuing education on identifying the needs and unique  
35 challenges faced by children of members of the uniformed services;

36 (3) Require each public school district to include on its



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1 website a "Military Families" section that informs uniformed services  
2 families of:

3 (A) The student enrollment application process;

4 (B) Available education pathways;

5 (C) Notable public school or public school district Purple  
6 Star School Programs;

7 (D) Public school district military family education  
8 coordinator contact information; and

9 (E) Public school military family education facilitator  
10 contact information;

11 (4)(A) Require each public school or public school district to  
12 establish a volunteer student-to-student peer ambassador program that shall  
13 be open to all enrolled students who want to contribute.

14 (B) The volunteer student-to-student peer ambassador  
15 program required under subdivision (c)(4)(A) of this section shall:

16 (i) Connect and welcome inbound students ahead of  
17 their transition to a public school;

18 (ii) Assist with the provision of new student  
19 orientation; and

20 (iii) Assist new students with establishing social  
21 connections at their new school;

22 (5) Establish school and community events to honor and recognize  
23 members of the uniformed services and military-connected students;

24 (6) Ensure that a public school or public school district  
25 appoints a volunteer uniformed services member, military spouse, or  
26 representative from a military installation or unit to serve on the school  
27 community and family engagement committee;

28 (7) Ensure that a public school district's or public school's  
29 parent and family engagement plan required under § 6-15-1702 addresses  
30 relevant military family issues and resources; and

31 (8) Require public schools and public school districts to  
32 collaborate with military commands to encourage uniformed services families  
33 to self-identify their military status.

34 (d) The Purple Star School Program required under subsection (a) of  
35 this section may authorize public schools and public school districts to  
36 expand their Purple Star School Program to include community-level

1 initiatives, including without limitation:

2 (1) Engaging community organizations, local businesses, and  
3 military installations to enhance resources and support for military-  
4 connected students and their families;

5 (2) Organizing community events that raise awareness of  
6 military-connected students and their contributions; and

7 (3) Establishing partnerships with regional stakeholders to  
8 enhance Purple Star School Program efforts while fulfilling all requirements  
9 for the Purple Star School Program established by the division.

10 (e) As used in this section, a "military-connected student" is:

11 (1) An incoming or a currently enrolled student who is a child  
12 or dependent of a current or former active or reserve component uniformed  
13 services member;

14 (2) A child of a uniformed services member who died while on  
15 active duty or as a result of injuries sustained while on active duty;

16 (3) A student who is a sibling of a uniformed services member;

17 (4) A student who has enlisted in the uniformed services; or

18 (5) A Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps cadet.

19  
20 6-28-302. Arkansas Council for Military Children – Purple Star School  
21 Program – Duties.

22 The Arkansas Council for Military Children shall:

23 (1) Develop and review biennially and amend as necessary the  
24 Purple Star School Program model;

25 (2) When developing, reviewing, and amending the Purple Star  
26 School Program as required under subdivision (1) of this section, incorporate  
27 provisions prescribed by the council, the Military Child Education Coalition,  
28 and other relevant, recognized authorities;

29 (3) Use the Purple Star School Program's application and renewal  
30 process along with interdistrict collaboration events to drive continuous  
31 improvement of the program;

32 (4) Define required and optional Purple Star School Program  
33 provisions established by § 6-28-301 and performance standards;

34 (5) Establish phase-in timing and training, if required, when  
35 adopting or amending Purple Star School Program provisions; and

36 (6) Establish a recognition program for public schools, public

1 school districts, and private schools that meet Purple Star School Program  
2 standards as defined and evaluated by the council.

3  
4 6-28-303. Division of Elementary and Secondary Education – Purple Star  
5 School Program – Duties.

6 The Division of Elementary and Secondary Education shall:

7 (1) Provide relevant resources for the orientation and training  
8 of public school district military family education coordinators and public  
9 school military family education facilitators under this chapter;

10 (2) Administer the Purple Star School Program;

11 (3) Provide administrative and logistical support to the  
12 Arkansas Council for Military Children to develop the program; and

13 (4) Promulgate and incorporate Purple Star School program rules  
14 into the rules the division promulgates under this chapter.

15  
16 */s/K. Brown*

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19 **APPROVED: 4/10/25**  
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