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Tina Kotek, Governor



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Director of the Department of Education

TO: Chair Dembrow & Members of the Senate Education Committee

DATE: Feb 14, 2023

FROM: Zoe Larmer, Government Relations Director

RE: Question posed around military-connected students / SB 183

Chair Dembrow and Members of the Senate Education Committee,

Thank you so much for the opportunity to share more information on supporting military-connected students, as posed during the hearing on Senate Bill 183. We are more than happy to continue providing information to you on our work and look forward to our continued partnership on behalf of all Oregon students. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me if you need further clarification.

With gratitude,
Zoe Larmer

Question: I would like to hear from ODE on the bill. Are they able to implement this?

Response:

At this time, ODE has no position on SB 813. Oregon does not currently have a Purple Star Program to recognize schools that provide certain support services to military-connected students. The Department would request a part-time Program Analyst to administer the program. This position would allow ODE to set up the program, provide technical assistance to public and private schools who wish to participate, communicate to schools and families about the program and establish processes for school designation.

It is believed at this time that the additional requirements that pertain to ODE regarding the Military Spouse Education License can be absorbed by the agency with existing resources, although this section may also impact other agencies that issue professional licenses.



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Question: I would like to understand how we are supporting students, especially around tracking credits.

Response:

Oregon is currently a member of the Military Interstate Children's Compact (MIC3). The compact is between 50 states plus DC. It addresses key transitional issues encountered by military families: eligibility, enrollment, placement and graduation. It covers students in public K-12 schools, including specifically the following children:

- Children of active-duty members of the uniformed services (Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Coast Guard and Space Force), National Guard and Reserve on active-duty orders, commissioned officers of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the United States Public Health Services (USPHS).
- Children of members or veterans who are medically discharged or retired for one year are eligible for assistance under the Compact.
- Children of members who perish on active duty for a period of one year following their death.

In participating in MIC3, Oregon is committed to assisting families who have questions or encounter issues around tracking credits. Oregon's work under the compact frequently involves working directly with families, military family liaisons or other states' compact commissioners.