

From: [Peel, Jackson](#)
To: [Press](#)
Subject: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Representatives Learned's and Maney's Purple Star School legislation Passes the Florida House
Date: Friday, April 23, 2021 9:06:05 PM

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**Representatives Learned's and Maney's Purple Star School
Legislation Passes the Florida House**

Tallahassee, FL— In a move that will help military families across the state, the Florida House of Representatives passed HB 429: Purple Star Campuses with unanimous support. This bipartisan effort to connect incoming military students with transitional resources was spear-headed by **Representative Andrew Learned (D - Brandon)** and **Representative Patt Maney (R - Fort Walton Beach)**. Together, with **Senator Tom Wright (R- Port Orange)** and 32 other cosponsors, these lawmakers have shown a dedication to solidifying Florida's position as the most military-friendly state in America.

“As a Veteran and the father of two wonderful 8 year-olds, I know the process of changing schools, particularly in the middle of a school year can be incredibly difficult for families and students. We want to recognize the schools that invest in programs that will help our military students transition when their parents assignments change,” stated **Representative Learned**.

Currently in Florida, military families who are transitioning to a new base have no way to identify schools with additional support programs for their students. The Purple Star Program will help schools respond to the unique educational and social-emotional challenges military-connected children face during their transition to a new school and help families identify where these programs are available.

Representative Maney served as the Prime co-sponsor for the Purple Star Program and is also a retired Brigadier General in the U.S Army. “I am privileged to serve a district with a large population of service members, military dependents and veterans and a school district that supports them,” said **Representative Maney**. “I hope this bill will showcase Florida's many military friendly schools.”

Florida has a well-established reputation as the most Veteran-friendly state. This legislation would make Florida the 10th state to develop and implement a Purple Star School Program, supporting the needs of our educational institutions as they work with military-connected students and reinforcing Florida's commitment to service members.

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