

Advance Enrollment for Military Students; Sub. for HB 2102

Sub. for HB 2102 requires school districts to permit the advance enrollment of any military student if the student provides evidence that their parent or guardian will be stationed at a military installation in Kansas during the current or immediately succeeding school year.

The bill prohibits proof of address from being required at the time of enrollment, but residency may be required for attendance if the school district does not have open seats, as determined by Open Enrollment law.

The bill applies to kindergarten through grade 12, as well as school districts with pre-existing pre-kindergarten (pre-K) programs. The bill requires school districts with pre-existing pre-K programs to permit the advance enrollment of any military student if the student is eligible for the particular program. [Note: Public schools are required to provide only certain pre-K programs, such as programs for special education and at-risk students, but some schools provide additional programs.] If the school district has no open seats for the pre-K program, the student would be placed on a waiting list for enrollment. The bill specifies that no school district will be required to offer a pre-K program that is not already required or currently offered.

If the enrolling military student has a special education plan, such as an individualized education program or a 504 plan, the bill requires school districts to take measures to ensure the student receives the required education and related service upon attendance.

The bill defines “military student” as it is defined in School District State Aid law: a dependent of a full-time active duty service member or member of the military reserve forces who has been ordered to active duty under certain circumstances.