

FALL 2023

JROTC

ORGANIZING PACKET

TECMITS

Taskforce To End Compulsory Military Training in Schools

<https://endcom.org> contact@endcom.org



JROTC Organizing -Introduction

“JROTC is one of the best recruiting devices that we could have.” – William Cohen, then Secretary of Defense, February 2000

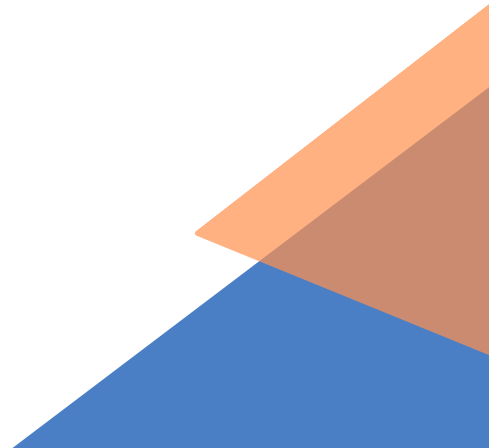
On December 11, 2022 the *New York Times* printed its lead story titled *“Thousands of Teens Are Being Pushed Into Military’s Junior R.O.T.C.”*

The *New York Times* reviewed over 200 public records requests and found schools in Detroit, Los Angeles, Philadelphia, Oklahoma City and Mobile, Alabama were automatically enrolling students in JROTC. For those of us involved in counter-recruitment activism, this was not news. In Chicago, several schools placed all 9th grade students in JROTC. In San Diego, local activists addressed the issue of compulsory enrollment in 2008 only to see it resurface in 2021. The targeted schools serve mostly low-income and students of color. The school-to-military pipeline, of which JROTC is a significant part, channels primarily economically disadvantaged and students of color into military careers over college or non-military occupations without being truthful about the real costs of military enlistment.

In addition to forced enrollment and disingenuous recruitment practices, we are seeing documented cases of students being sexually abused by JROTC instructors in schools around the country. The *New York Times* reported on this issue in July, August, September, and November of 2022.

The *Times* investigations have motivated several Senators, led by Senator Elizabeth Warren, to call for more scrutiny of the program: specifically, its enrollment practices, problems with sexual abuse, biased curriculum, and its close relationship with the National Rifle Association.

While Congressional action is important, it is critical that we take action at the local level. To this end, the Task Force To End Compulsory Military Training In Schools (TECMITS) has put together this organizing packet for groups and individuals around the country wishing to investigate, challenge and change enrollment practices of JROTC. We want students to learn independence and critical thinking, not blind obedience.



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3. Further Information/Feedback

- a. We have created a website for this project. The packet in its entirety is posted [there](#).
- b. We invite you to contact us at contact@endcom.org.
- c. We encourage you to check out the Peaceful Careers [website](#) which will provide alternatives to military enlistment.
- d. Finally, we encourage you to respond to the feedback questions (page 26) included in the packet which will help us improve and expand.

What Is JROTC?

History and Background Information

The National Defense Act of 1916 established Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) in colleges and Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) in high schools to increase the U.S. Army's readiness in the face of World War I. The ROTC Vitalization Act of 1964 directed the secretaries of each military branch to establish and maintain JROTC units for their respective branches. In the 1990s, the programs began expanding rapidly throughout the country. Today, there are approximately 3,500 Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard JROTC units in schools in the United States and its territories. In 2013, Congress instructed the secretary of defense to expand further and to report on "efforts to increase distribution of units in educationally and economically deprived areas."

There are approximately 550,000 students enrolled in JROTC. They include six out of the eight branches of the military.

Estimated Size of JROTC Program in FY2022 (source: Congressional Research Service)

Service	Number of Units	Estimated Enrollment
Army	1,701	302,500
Navy	654	93,100
Marine Corps	256	32,790
Air Force	865	110,000
Space Force	10	1,300

Not included in this chart: the Coast Guard is establishing four new JROTC units for the 2023/2024 school year.

JROTC units are found in all 50 states and territories with a heavy concentration in the South and Southeast.

Targeting students in economically challenged areas is nothing new to the military. Due largely to a dearth of opportunities caused by institutionalized racism, students of color, lured by misleading promises of glamorous military careers, participate in JROTC in far greater numbers than their share of the population. By 1975, nationally, 43 percent of JROTC enrollees were members of minority groups. At public high schools with JROTC programs, 56.6 percent of students are eligible for free or reduced-price lunch, on average. At public high schools without JROTC programs, 46.9 percent of students are eligible for free or reduced-price lunch, on average.

JROTC offers up to four levels of classes for which students earn full credits. In many states, the program meets state requirements for career training. Frequently it is accepted as a substitute for physical education / wellness. In some schools, JROTC instructors offer health, history, and government / civics credits, as well as make-up credit for writing and study skills classes. The 2020



National Defense Act (NDAA) further authorized instruction in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

The JROTC contract requires the hiring of a minimum of two retired officers for the first 150 students enrolled as cadets. After 150, another instructor must be hired for each additional increment of 100 cadets. Retired military personnel teach courses in military science, called Leadership Education Training (LET) in Army JROTC or Leadership Education (LE) in the Marine Corps JROTC, during the school day.


At many high schools today, student loads for most non-JROTC teachers hover between 180 and 220 students (more than twice the load of the JROTC instructors) with class sizes in the 30s and low 40s. JROTC cadets often take JROTC in place of physical education, and a single PE teacher would normally support 250 or more students. If a school district eliminated its JROTC program, the district would hire fewer than half as many teachers to replace them. In general, the federal subsidy covers less than half the total JROTC salary cost and none of the employment taxes or benefits for JROTC instructors. Schools wind up using extra money from their budgets to, in effect, subsidize a high school military training/recruiting program for the Pentagon.

JROTC instructors are not certified in the same way as other school district teachers. Typically, the military decides who is qualified to be a JROTC instructor and then presents them to the school district for hiring. JROTC instructors must be retired military with a minimum of 20 years' experience in the military. The Department of Defense has only recently begun to require that instructors earn an associate's degree within five years of employment (although the commander must have at least a BA). Some states now require a special JROTC teaching certificate for which the requirements vary but are generally far below what states mandate for a standard high school teaching license. In most states, there is still no required teacher training of any sort for JROTC personnel.

The Pentagon contracts with publishing companies to write JROTC curriculum, including social studies, health, and "leadership" textbooks. The local school district has no control over their content. No process exists for regular certified staff to review JROTC materials for appropriateness, accuracy, or conformity to educational standards.

JROTC units continue to use high-powered lead pellet rifles for target practice in many schools. To further motivate students, the National Rifle Association (NRA) sponsors national marksmanship competitions for JROTC students. However, organizing makes a difference. In some school districts, organizers have worked successfully with stakeholders to discontinue marksmanship training. In San Diego, for example, the Education Not Arms Coalition, made up of students, teachers, parents, and community groups, successfully removed target practice with air rifles from San Diego JROTC programs in 2009.

Many schools have embraced school-based initiatives, including a commitment to restorative justice and peer mediation, that teach and encourage students to resolve conflicts nonviolently.



JROTC's militarism runs counter to these programs. Schools across the country are employing a variety of methods to curb bullying and violent incidents, create safe learning environments, and teach peaceful means of conflict resolution. JROTC's use of weapons training at some schools, its partnership with the NRA to sponsor marksmanship matches, and its modeling of authoritarian militaristic solutions to problems contradict the schools' stated opposition to violence.

The sole mission of the U.S. military is to prepare for and fight wars. JROTC in middle and high schools, ROTC in colleges, the military's aptitude test (i.e. the ASVAB), military partnerships with schools, research and development programs – all are designed as tools for fulfilling this goal. Military recruiters and JROTC personnel are notorious for not disclosing the whole truth and for making seductive promises – verbally and in writing – that can be broken at any time.

Sources:

Congressional Research Service, U.S. Congress. *Defense Primer: Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC)*. CRS Report (IF11313, Dec. 16, 2022), by Kristy N. Kamarck. <https://crsreports.congress.gov › product › pdf->

Department of Defense, DoD Instruction 1205.13 -81,25 *Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps Program*, May 2021. <https://www.esd.whs.mil/Portals/54/Documents/DD/issuances/dodi/120513p.pdf?ver=a1uXg9XAwVtI4sLTPUSIFA%3D%3D>

Jahnkow, Rick. "San Diego Students Give Pink Slip to High School Military Program." *Draft Notices*, April 2012. <http://www.comdsd.org/index.php/articles-archive/149-san-diego-students-give-pink-slip-to-high-school-military-program>

Kershner, Seth, and Scott Harding and Charles Howlett. *Breaking the War habit: The Debate Over Militarism in American Education*. University of Georgia Press, 2022.

McGauley, Sylvia. "The Military Invasion of My High School." *Rethinking Schools*, vol. 29, no. 1, Fall 2014. <https://rethinkingschools.org/articles/the-military-invasion-of-my-high-school/>

Research Links

[Report: Students being auto-enrolled in JROTC \(newsnationnow.com\)](#)

Counter military recruitment activist Jesus Palafox is interviewed by Chris Cuomo on News Nation. Cuomo, Chris and Tyler Wornell. "Report: Students Being Auto-enrolled in JROTC." *NewsNation*, Dec. 22, 2022.

[Hirono, Warren, Sanders, and Wyden Quest... | Senator Mazie Hirono \(senate.gov\)](#)

Hirono, Mazie. "Hirono, Warren, Sanders, and Wyden Question DoD Over Students Forced into JROTC Enrollment." U.S. Senate, Feb. 2, 2023. Press Release.

[JROTC Is Preying on Poor Students \(jacobin.com\)](#)

Kershner, Scott and Scott Harding. "JROTC is Preying on Poor Students." *Jacobin* January 8, 2023.

[What I Discovered in the JROTC Curriculum \(comdsd.org\)](#)

Morales, Laura Reyna. "What I discovered in the JROTC Curriculum." *Draft NOtices*, Published by Committee Opposed to Militarism and the Draft, July - September 2022.

[Senator Warren Questions Department of Defense on Reports of Students Forced Into JROTC Enrollment - Framingham Source](#)

Warren, Elizabeth. "Senator Warren Questions Department of Defense on Reports of Students Forced into JROTC Enrollment." Framingham Source, Feb. 2, 2023.


Possible Actions

We have included some suggestions for possible actions and related tools to help you get going.

First, though, we suggest you research your local high schools, school board, and state department of education.

Here are some suggestions:

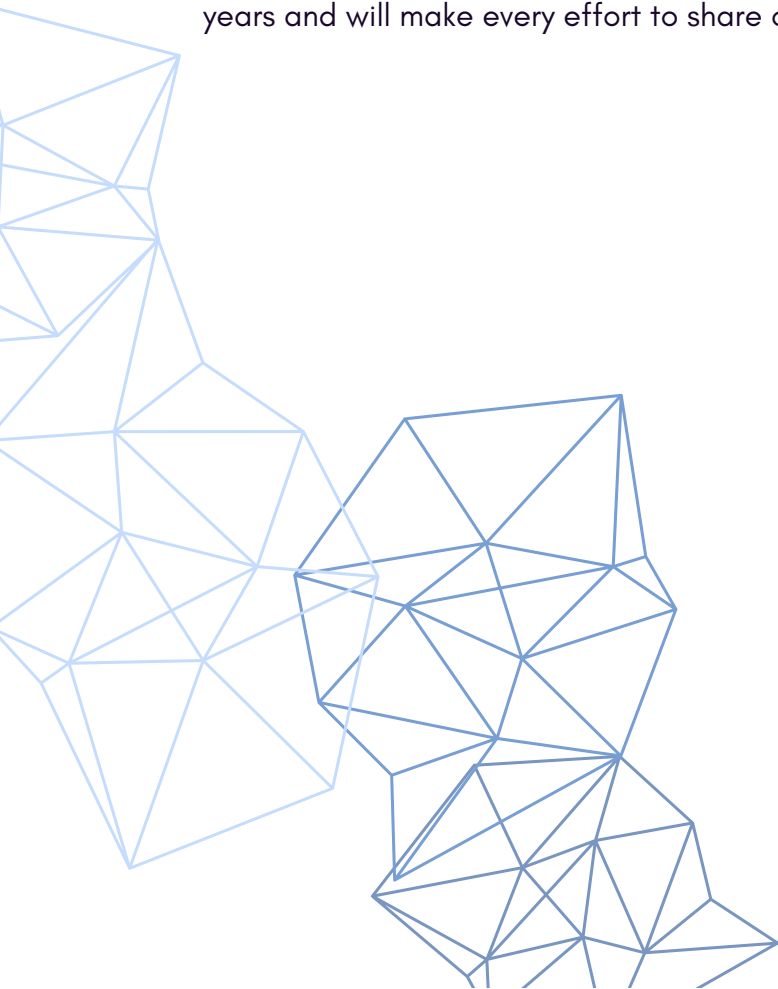
1. If there are schools in your area that have JROTC, check to see if they are forcing students into JROTC or if they possibly have not met the minimum enrollment requirement. (Refer to the section “How to Research JROTC Minimum Enrollment/Forced Enrollment - page 10).
2. Write letters to the editor. Refer to the letter writing tips (page 22) and sample letter (page 23) in the packet.
3. Write op-ed articles. Refer to the sample letter to the editor (page 23) and talking points (page 21).
4. Use our sample talking points (page 21) and social media graphics (page 27) to launch a social media campaign.
5. Campaign for a school district policy that requires fully informed consent be given in writing before a student is enrolled in JROTC. (Refer to the “Form for Parent and Student to Consent to or Decline Participation in the JROTC Program” and the model school board resolution.) You may be able to work with the local teachers' union to develop a school board resolution or Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the school board.
6. Find out if there is student group such as a Peace and Social Justice Club or Black Student Union in your school that you can work with.
7. Contact the Task Force for information on the status of any legislation introduced to restrict JROTC programs and practices.
8. Research your state education codes. There might be a provision that bars forced enrollment in a school program, or prohibits gun ranges, or bans the teaching of military science. See if your state has its education code online. If so, search for key words like military science and JROTC. The link provided [here](#) is to a California Education code that bars a school from requiring a student to enroll in a military science course. Also, of possible interest is a [study](#) that compares JROTC to Physical Education. The article is titled “JROTC as a substitute for PE: Really?” and can be found [here](#).



Please note: groups in many parts of the country have tried removing an existing JROTC unit and learned that the lobbying force that mobilizes in support of JROTC is so successful at intimidating school officials that it makes it virtually impossible to succeed, even in the most anti-war, politically progressive cities. It has sometimes been possible to block the introduction of a new JROTC unit because the lobbying force has not yet grown in strength. But what isn't practical is publicly demanding removal of an existing unit, unless it can be shown that it has been present for at least three years and yet is failing to maintain the minimum enrollment level required by federal law (i.e., the lesser of 100 students or 10% of the total student body).

We have been monitoring the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal year 2024. The U.S. Senate's version of the bill currently contains language that would require the Secretary of Defense to issue a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to schools with JROTC. This MOU would include a requirement that schools certify that they have a process to ensure that student enrollment in JROTC is voluntary. We will continue to monitor and report on this development.

Finally, we stand ready to assist and answer questions to the best of our ability. We are volunteers so our resources are limited. But we have been involved in this work for many years and will make every effort to share our experience and knowledge.





How to Research Minimum Enrollment/Forced Enrollment



The first step in researching these two issues with JROTC is to gather the data.

Obtain the list of students enrolled in JROTC via a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request asking for: "Number of cadets (students) enrolled in each JROTC program by grade in each high school for the school year 2023/2024 (current school year)".

You want the number by grade and by school. (You will need the by grade to identify possible forced enrollment. You will need by school to compare enrollment in a multi-school district.) In most school districts, student enrollment is available on the school district website.

Determine if Minimum Enrollment has been met

The DoD Instruction 1205.13 Junior RESERVE OFFICERS' TRAINING CORPS PROGRAM effective May 21, 2021 is copied below:

SECTION 3: PROCEDURES FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATION OF J.R.O.T.C. AT SCHOOLS

3.1. J.R.O.T.C. ESTABLISHMENT.

Secondary educational institutions that want to establish J.R.O.T.C. units or continue established units will agree to adhere to the procedures outlined in this paragraph.

a. In accordance with Section 2031(b)(1) of Title 10, U.S.C., maintain a J.R.O.T.C. enrollment, as approved by the school's administration to participate, consisting of:

- (1) Students above the seventh grade and physically co-located with a participating unit of the ninth grade or above;*
- (2) Citizens or nationals of the United States or aliens lawfully admitted to the United States for permanent residence; and*
- (3) At least 100 physically fit students or, if fewer than 1,000 students above the seventh grade are enrolled in the institution, a number of physically fit students which represents at least 10 percent of the total student population.*

At least 100 students or 10% of the total student population, whichever is less, need to be enrolled in JROTC for the program to be viable. For example if there are 4,000 students enrolled in a particular school, at least 100 have to be enrolled. If there are 250 students, 25 would have to be enrolled.

Once you have the numbers of students enrolled in JROTC by grade and by school, you can calculate the percentage of students enrolled in the program in each school. You can then compare the results school by school.

What do you do about schools that are under enrolled? According to the DoD:

3.7. DISESTABLISHMENT OF J.R.O.T.C. UNITS.

a. When a Military Service determines that a J.R.O.T.C. unit does not meet the standards specified in this issuance and Military Service directives (other than for minimum enrollment requirements), institution authorities concerned will be notified that the unit has been placed on probationary status, in accordance with Military Service-specific probation and disestablishment procedures. Disestablishment of the unit will be effective at the conclusion of the probationary period, if the reason for the probationary status has not been resolved. Exceptions are made for enrollment, pursuant to Paragraph 3.7.b.(1)(c) of this issuance.

b. J.R.O.T.C. units in the third year of establishment that do not have the statutory minimum of students enrolled will be placed on probation.

(1) The Military Service concerned will:

(a) No later than the end of the academic year, evaluate the unit's potential to meet the enrollment minimum by the beginning of the institution's fall academic term.

(b) If it is probable that the enrollment minimum will not be met, encourage the institution's authorities to agree to the disestablishment of the unit at the end of that current school year.

(c) Make the final determination on the institution's capability to meet the enrollment minimum. When the Military Service's evaluation indicates that minimum enrollment probably will be met by the beginning of the fall academic term, the unit may continue.

(d) Inform schools identified for disestablishment about the opportunity to convert to a National Defense Cadet Corps (NDCC) unit in accordance with Section 2035 of Title 10, U.S.C.

It is thought that the third year, as noted above, applies to programs that have just been established; not those that have been around for several years.

Forced Enrollment

In addition to anecdotal evidence - comments from parents, students, teachers - it's easy to tell if students have been placed in JROTC from the enrollment data. If, for example, there are 45 students enrolled in ninth grade and there are 45 ninth grade students enrolled in JROTC, it is very likely that they were involuntarily placed in the program.

Often there is a dramatic drop in JROTC enrollment after the 10th grade. Here is a typical example at a neighborhood high school in Chicago. The ninth grade class had 90 students; all were enrolled in JROTC. The tenth grade class had 82 students; 37 were enrolled in JROTC; eleventh grade, 21 out of 64; twelfth grade, 6 out of 62. If it was such a popular program, as the DoD claims, the students would stick with it.

Should the 2024 NDAA pass with the requirement that schools certify a process for ensuring that involuntary enrollment not take place, activist groups and individuals should check to make sure such a process is in place.



Searching for JROTC units by state

Marines

<https://www.mcjrotc.marines.mil/Schools/JROTC-Schools-by-State/>

Navy

<https://www.netc.navy.mil/Commands/Naval-Service-TrainingCommand/NJROTC/Find-an-NJROTC-Unit/>

AirForce

https://www.google.com/maps/d/embed?mid=1Zh9Kwbe3F2OM3kwGIQRfJdl_6dPDaW5J&ehbc=2E312F&ll=37.58191231174202%2C_104.27942579135436&z=4

Army

<https://www.usarmyjrotc.com/u-s-army-jrotc->

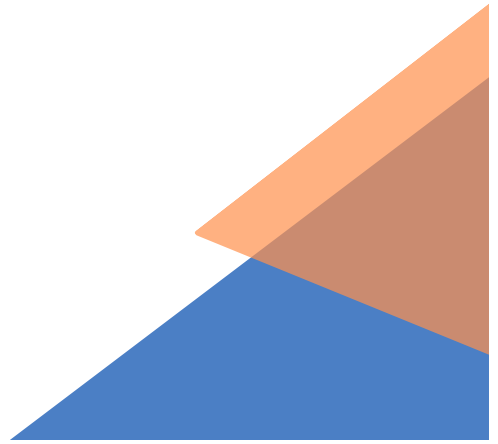
Coast Guard

The Coast Guard JROTC Program is organized into units, which may be established at public and private secondary educational institutions. The following schools currently host a CGJROTC unit:

- MAST Academy - Key Biscayne, FL
- Camden County High School - Camden, NC
- Lucy G. Beckham High School - Mt. Pleasant, SC
- Pinellas Park High School - Largo, FL
- Sussex Technical High School - Georgetown, DE
- Topsail High School - Hampstead, NC
- Saraland High School - Saraland, AL (coming 2023)
- Clinton High School - Clinton, MS (coming 2023)
- Aspira Business and Finance High School (coming 2023)
- Mission Bay High School - San Diego, CA (coming 2023)

Space Force (Fall 2022)

- Arlington Career Center, Arlington, Va.
- Del Norte High School, Albuquerque, N.M.
- Durango High School, Las Vegas, Nev.
- Falcon High School, Peyton, Colo.
- Huntsville High School, Huntsville, Ala.
- Klein High School, Spring, Texas
- Shadow Mountain High School, Phoenix
- Space Coast Junior/Senior High School, Cocoa, Fla.
- The Academy for Academic Excellence, Apple Valley, Calif.
- Warren County High School, Warrenton N.C.



Below is a model form adopted in 2023 by a high school in San Diego, CA.

**JUNIOR RESERVE OFFICERS'
TRAINING CORPS (JROTC)
SAN DIEGO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**FORM FOR PARENT AND STUDENT TO CONSENT TO OR DECLINE
PARTICIPATION IN THE JROTC PROGRAM**

(Draft form proposed by Project on Youth and Non-Military Opportunities)

Student Name (PRINT LAST, FIRST): _____

My child has been asked to enroll in the JROTC program with the understanding of the following:

- JROTC is a military leadership class that is entirely voluntary and, therefore, cannot be required.
- The class may provide Physical Education credit required for graduation; however, the student will be giving up the opportunity to receive healthier physical conditioning provided by a regular Physical Education class.
- The credits for this nonacademic elective do not count toward meeting admission requirements for the California public university system.

We also acknowledge that during the student's enrollment, he/she/they may participate in practices, activities, and exercises that would include the following:

1. Wear a military uniform to school at least once a week.
2. Conform to strict gendered grooming requirements that might require cutting and styling their hair according to military standards.
3. Learn to march, salute, and perform exercises with facsimile rifles.
4. Conform to a system that organizes them in superior and inferior ranks, with certain students empowered to issue orders that their peers must obey.
5. Receive military produced lessons in topics like history and civics, taught by JROTC instructors who are not required to have the regular teaching credentials for those subjects.
6. Participate in JROTC activities during and after school hours, including weekends and holidays.
7. Transport to and from JROTC activities conducted off the school grounds by commercial bus, military furnished vehicles, or privately owned vehicles.

There may be a negative grading consequence if a student fails to comply with any one of these requirements of the program. Parents of a student in JROTC must agree to waive the right to make a claim for compensation in the event of an injury or loss of any kind arising from participation in JROTC activities.

Specific information on any event the student will participate in through the JROTC program will be provided prior to the event. Parents must agree that neither the sponsors, the corresponding



military branch or supervising personnel shall be liable for any injury or damage to person or property resulting from accidents involving the above named or related equipment, or the above named or related demonstrations and exercises where such damage or injury is the result of mechanical breakdown or fatigue. Furthermore, parents must agree to assume full responsibility for any act of misconduct or negligence committed by the student in connection with an orientation visit which may result in damage, destruction or harm to any property or injury or death to any person or persons.

Please check one of the following:

- YES, I DO give my child permission to participate in the JROTC Program and agree to the liability waiver above.
- NO, I DO NOT give my child permission to participate in the JROTC Program.

NOTE: IN ACCORDANCE WITH CALIFORNIA EDUCATION CODE SEC. 51750, THE SIGNATURES OF A PARENT (OR LEGAL GUARDIAN) AND THE STUDENT MUST BE PROVIDED BELOW BEFORE THIS FORM IS TURNED IN. THE STUDENT WILL NOT BE ELIGIBLE FOR ENROLLMENT IN JROTC UNTIL THIS FORM HAS BEEN COMPLETED.

PRINT name of Parent or Legal Guardian: _____

Signature of Parent or Legal Guardian

Date

Signature of Student

Date





**CUERPO DE ENTRENAMIENTO DE OFICIALES
DE LA RESERVA JUNIOR (JROTC)
DISTRITO ESCOLAR UNIFICADO DE SAN DIEGO (SDUSD)**

**FORMULARIO PARA MADRE/PADRE Y ESTUDIANTE PARA ACEPTAR O
RECHAZAR LA PARTICIPACIÓN EN EL PROGRAMA JROTC**

Nombre completo del/la estudiante: _____

Se le ha pedido a mi hija/o que se inscriba en el programa JROTC y entiendo que:

- JROTC es una clase de liderazgo militar que es completamente voluntaria y, por lo tanto, no es obligatoria.
- Es posible que la clase de crédito de Educación Física (P.E.) requisito para graduarse; sin embargo, al aceptar inscribirse en la clase de JROTC, el/la estudiante renuncia a la oportunidad de recibir un acondicionamiento físico más saludable proporcionado por una clase regular de Educación Física (P.E.)
- Los créditos de esta clase optativa y no académica no son parte de los requisitos de admisión del sistema universitario público de California.

También reconocemos que estar en esta clase, el/la estudiante puede participar en prácticas, actividades y ejercicios que incluirán lo siguiente:

1. Usar uniforme militar para ir a la escuela al menos una vez a la semana.
2. Cumplir con los estrictos requisitos de aseo que pueden requerir cortarse y peinarse de acuerdo con los estándares militares y normas de género.
3. Aprender a marchar, saludar militarmente y realizar ejercicios con armas de fuego de imitación.
4. Ajustarse a un sistema que organiza a las/los estudiantes en rangos de jerarquía, donde habrá estudiantes facultados para dar órdenes a otros compañeras/os que deben obedecer.
5. Recibir lecciones producidas por militares sobre temas como historia y educación cívica, impartidas por instructores de JROTC que no están obligados a tener títulos de enseñanza para esas materias.
6. Participar en las actividades de JROTC durante y después del horario escolar, incluyendo los fines de semana y días festivos.
7. Transportarse hacia y desde actividades de JROTC realizadas fuera de la escuela, en autobuses comerciales, vehículos militares o vehículos particulares.

Puede haber consecuencias negativas en la calificación si las/los estudiantes no cumplen con cualquiera de estos requisitos del programa. Las madres/padres de estudiantes en JROTC renuncian al derecho de presentar un reclamo de compensación en el caso de lesión o pérdida de cualquier tipo que surja de la participación en las actividades de JROTC.

Se proporcionará información específica sobre cualquier evento en el que participará el/la estudiante a través del programa JROTC antes del evento. Las madres/los padres deben estar de acuerdo en que ni los patrocinadores, la rama militar correspondiente o el personal de supervisión serán responsables de cualquier lesión o daño a la persona o la propiedad que resulte de



accidentes que involucren el equipo antes mencionado o relacionado, o las demostraciones y ejercicios antes mencionados o relacionados donde dicho daño o la lesión sea el resultado de una falla mecánica o fatiga. Además, las madres/padres deben aceptar toda la responsabilidad por cualquier acto de mala conducta o negligencia cometido por el/la estudiante en relación con una visita de orientación que pueda resultar en destrucción o daño a la propiedad o lesión o muerte de cualquier persona o personas.

Por favor marque uno de los siguientes:

- Sí, PERMITO que mi hija/o participe en el Programa de JROTC y acepto la renuncia de _____ responsabilidad _____ presentada anteriormente.
- NO, no doy permiso a mi hija/o para que participe en el Programa JROTC.

NOTA: DE ACUERDO CON EL CÓDIGO DE EDUCACIÓN DE CALIFORNIA SEC. 51750, LAS FIRMAS DE UN PADRE/MADRE (O TUTOR LEGAL) Y EL/LA ESTUDIANTE DEBEN PROPORCIONARSE A CONTINUACIÓN ANTES DE ENTREGAR ESTE FORMULARIO. EL/LA ESTUDIANTE NO SERÁ ELEGIBLE PARA INSCRIBIRSE EN JROTC HASTA QUE SE HAYA COMPLETADO ESTE FORMULARIO.

Nombre de madre/padre o tutor legal (en letra de molde) _____

Firma de madre/padre o tutor legal

Fecha

Firma del/la estudiante

Fecha





SAMPLE BOARD RESOLUTION

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
[name of] SCHOOL DISTRICT
[city, state]**

**In the Matter of Enrollment in
JROTC Programs**)
)

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the district has agreed to be a host of the Junior Reserved Officers' Training Corps (JROTC), a program co-sponsored with the U.S. Armed Forces; and

WHEREAS, it has [not] been the district's policy to require students to take JROTC or any other military training course;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that prior to enrolling any student in JROTC, the fully informed consent of the student and a legal guardian of the student shall be obtained via a signed consent form; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that any form used to obtain such consent shall acknowledge that the program is a voluntary, non-academic elective that cannot be required, and the form shall contain a method for the student and legal guardian to indicate if JROTC is being chosen in order to receive credit for a different course that is required for graduation, such as physical education; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that any such consent form shall identify JROTC as a military leadership program conducted by retired military officers, and present a complete and accurate description of the program's special requirements and expectations that are imposed on students, including the scope of any required activities and time commitments that may fall outside regular school hours; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in any course catalog or student's transcript, the class shall be clearly labeled as "JROTC"; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a student's enrollment in JROTC shall not occur because the school has failed to provide the student with sufficient options for a different course that is required for graduation, such as physical education; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the district, in consultation with secondary school site administrators, shall ensure adequate options are available to students to satisfy graduation requirements without enrolling in JROTC; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the district shall annually compile and make public JROTC enrollment data broken down by school and grade level and



BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that because a student who has initially enrolled in JROTC may not wish to continue in subsequent years, automatic re-enrollment shall never be done; and if a student does not wish to continue in the program, a new informed consent form for the student must be obtained and placed on file at the school BEFORE each subsequent JROTC enrollment is allowed.

Adopted and approved by the Board of Education of the [school district] at a regular meeting held on the XXth day of MONTH [year].

President

Vice President

Member

Member

Student Board Member

Student Board Member

Approved in public meeting of the Board of
Education of the [district name] on

Board Action Officer, Board of
Education





**SCHOOLS MUST DISESTABLISH UNDER-ENROLLED
JROTC UNITS UNDER FEDERAL LAW**

I. INTRODUCTION

The Junior Reserve Officers Training Program (“JROTC”) is a “military services program in high schools throughout the nation” that is sponsored by the Secretary of each military department.¹ According to its statute, the purpose of the program is to “instill in students of the United States secondary educational institutions the value of citizenship, service to the United States, and personal responsibility and a sense of accomplishment.”² The JROTC program has different names within each military department, including NJROTC for the Navy, MCJROTC in the Marine Corps, AFJROTC for Air Force, and AJROTC for the Army. Units are established at public and private secondary institutions that apply for a unit and meet required standards, and instruction is conducted by retired officers and noncommissioned officers.³

In recent years, concern has arisen among community organizations, students and parents that school districts with established JROTC units are failing to follow the statutory mandate concerning the required number of participants necessary to maintain a JROTC unit. The language regarding the disestablishment of a JROTC unit due to under-enrollment is codified in 10 U.S.C. § 2031. The language mandates that no JROTC unit may be established or maintained if the number of students in the unit is “less than (A) 10 percent of the number of students enrolled in the institution who are in a grade above the 8th grade, or (B) 100, whichever is less.”⁴ In addition, sub section (b)(1) of the statute, which details the minimum numbers of students required to maintain or establish a unit, also requires that the students be “citizens or nationals of the United States, or aliens lawfully admitted to the United States for permanent residence.” In spite of the statutory requirements, some JROTC units have counted ineligible non-citizen students in order to meet the numerical requirements for the establishment and maintenance of units.

II. ALL JROTC UNITS MUST COMPLY WITH FEDERAL LAW.


The continued existence of a JROTC unit at any institution violates the statute if it does not have the required number of qualifying students in the program. The minimum standards for maintaining an existing JROTC unit are that it must enroll a number of “physically fit” students that equals or exceeds 10% of the institution’s total student body, or 100 students, whichever is less. To be counted toward program requirements, all participating students in the JROTC unit must “maintain acceptable standards of academic achievement and conduct” as set by statute, in addition to any

¹ 10 U.S.C. § 2031.

² Id.

³ Id.

⁴ Id.



further requirements by the Secretary of the unit's military department. The institution must also continuously maintain unit facilities for "classroom instruction, storage of arms and other equipment which may be furnished in support of the unit, and adequate drill areas" as determined by the unit's military department. Military department reimbursement of some institutional expenses is available to qualifying JROTC units that meet statutory requirements. This includes military department contributions toward the pay and moving expenses of JROTC instructors employed by the institution, as well as "text materials, equipment, and uniforms" and additional materials necessary for the unit's operation.

Beginning with the third year of enrollment, a JROTC unit that fails to meet its statutory enrollment requirement is on probation. If the enrollment is not projected to be in compliance by the start of the next school year, the military service, according to Department of Defense directives, guides school authorities to disestablish the JROTC unit.⁵ If the JROTC unit has not met its statutory enrollment requirement within 90 days after the start of the next school year, "physical termination shall be scheduled for no later than the end of that school year."⁶

II. CONCLUSION: SCHOOLS MUST CONFORM TO FEDERAL LAW AND DISESTABLISH UNDER-ENROLLED JROTC UNITS.

Institutions with JROTC units that are in at least their third year and do not meet the statutory enrollment requirement of 10% of the student body or 100 students (whichever is less), counting only physically fit U.S. citizens or legal permanent residents, are not in compliance with the federal statute that created them. Since they are breaking the law, they should be disestablished.

The statute does not provide for a probationary period for under-enrolled JROTC units. The Department of Defense JROTC regulations may be invalid because they are in conflict with the statute on this point. Even so, the DOD regulations state that when a unit is in at least its third year and fails to meet the statutory enrollment requirement, disestablishment is dictated unless the required minimum enrollment is achieved within 90 days after the start of the following school year.

In either case, school administrators must disestablish noncompliant JROTC units that do not meet the enrollment requirement.

Prepared by Joseph Moro, Lee Robbins, Rick Jahnkow and Reber Boulton. October 2013.

⁵ Department of Defense, Dir. 1205.13, Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC) Program 10 (6 Feb. 2006).

⁶ Id.



Talking Points



1. The *New York Times* reported that some schools are enrolling students in JROTC without their consent. Involuntary placement of students in JROTC is a denial of choice.
2. What is the impact on you, your school, your community? How is this affecting you personally?
3. Dozens of JROTC instructors have been charged with sexual misconduct involving JROTC students as reported by the *New York Times* in August 2022.
4. Fully informed consent of the student and parent/guardian should be required for enrollment in JROTC.
5. Whenever JROTC is first proposed at a school, parents and school officials are usually given the impression that there will be no extra cost for having the program because it includes a federal subsidy. In reality, however, JROTC is more expensive to offer than other school programs. This is largely because the subsidy is only partial and two teachers who are retired military officers must be hired to teach a smaller number of students than is normally supported by a single teaching position.
6. The fundamental purpose of JROTC is to funnel young people into the military. As the *New York Times* reported in December 2022, the Pentagon openly discusses expanding JROTC as a way of drawing more young people into military service. The Army says 44 percent of all soldiers who entered its ranks in recent years came from a school that offered JROTC.
7. JROTC instructors are not trained as teachers. Many do not have a four-year degree from a college or university. The curriculum that is taught is outside the purview of the school administration.
8. As the *New York Times* reported, a vast majority of the schools with high JROTC enrollment numbers (indicating involuntary enrollment) were attended by a large proportion of students of color and those from low-income households
9. Substituting JROTC for physical education is not healthy. According to a study reported in the *National Library of Medicine* in 2014, students engaged in significantly more moderate to vigorous physical activity during PE than JROTC sessions and they were significantly less sedentary.
10. JROTC is military training and does not belong in our educational system. Our schools should uphold democratic values and the principle of civilian rule. Instead of teaching these values and critical thinking skills, JROTC emphasizes military values and teaches students to give and obey orders unquestioningly.



LETTER WRITING TIPS



1. Send editorials to several news outlets.
2. Don't forget online news outlets, local and national.
3. Letters should be sent within 24 hours of the issue/event to be most effective.
4. Follow directions for each news outlet.
5. Reference the article you are responding to in the body of your letter.
6. Keep it short and get right to the point - usually the number of words allowed is given in the directions but 1 to 4 paragraphs should be enough.
7. Speak from the heart or personal experience.
8. Refer to the (previous) talking points.



SAMPLE LETTER

*Editor's Name
Newspaper*

*Address
Date*

Dear Editor,

The opening line should reference the article you are referring to (i.e., With respect to the article "titled like this,"), and then state your position. The rest of the paragraph should summarize your issue of concern in a way that captures the attention of the reader. This is your opportunity to tie your issue to a recently discussed topic, take a stance on a debated topic, or correct an error or misrepresentation you felt was portrayed in an article.

Explain your ties to the issue. In other words, why are you speaking out about the subject? The subsequent paragraphs should further explain your issue and why people should care about it. If you have data or statistics to bolster your argument, this is a good place to use them.

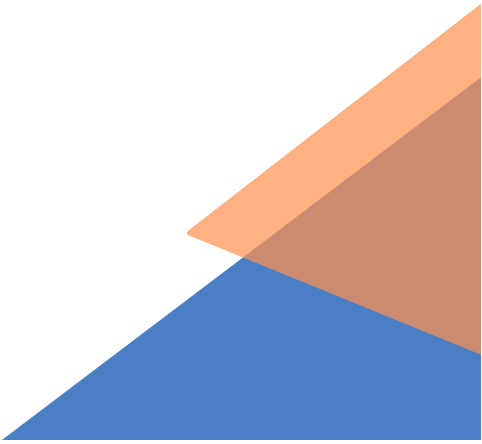
Follow your explanation with a call to action. What is at stake if no action is taken? What will happen if people respond with action? Make the consequences of each very clear, and try, when possible, to inform the reader about the direct impact of taking or not taking action.

In your concluding paragraph, recap your point, reiterate your call to action, and include specific information on how readers can get involved.



Sincerely,

*Name
Organization
Email
Phone number*



The sample questionnaire can be distributed to students who are, or have recently been placed in JROTC involuntarily. The resulting testimonials can be used to further document such practices in schools.

Questionnaire for students who have been placed in JROTC

1. When you were put in JROTC, which school were you at:

2. Did you ask for the class or did your counselor enroll you in it?

- I asked for it.
- Counselor put me in it
- I don't know

3. Were you given the choice of taking regular P.E. instead?

- Yes
- No

4. Were you ever told the JROTC class is required?

- Yes
- No

5. What grade were you in at the time you were put in the class: _____

6. When did you learn you would be in JROTC?

- Found out the first week of school when it was on my schedule.
- I knew before school began when I was asked to choose classes I wanted.
- Other: _____

7. In what month and year were you put in the class:

8. BEFORE you were placed in JROTC, were you required to get a permission form signed by a parent or guardian?

- Yes
- No
- Don't remember

9. If a permission form was given to you, when and how was the form given to you?

- It was sent or given to me before the school semester began.
- It was not given to me until I was in the JROTC class, after school began.

10. Did you ever ask to get out of the class?

- Yes
- No

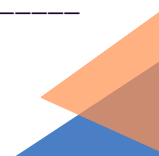
If you did and had any problems getting out, what were they: _____

11. Do you know if other students at the school are required to take JROTC? If yes, what have you heard and from whom:

[OPTIONAL INFO] Student name: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Or other contact method: _____



El cuestionario de muestra se puede distribuir a los estudiantes que fueron colocados en JROTC involuntariamente. Los testimonios resultantes se pueden utilizar para documentar mejor dichas prácticas en las escuelas.

Cuestionario para estudiantes que han participado en JROTC

1. Cuando te pusieron en JROTC, en qué escuela estabas:

2. ¿Pediste la clase o tu consejero te puso en ella?

- o Lo pedí
- o El consejero me lo puso
- o No sé

3. ¿Te dieron la opción de tomar clases regulares de educación física? ¿en cambio?

- o Si
- o No

4. ¿Alguna vez le dijeron que se requiere la clase JROTC?

- o Si
- o No

5. En qué grado estabas cuando te pusieron en la clase: _____

6. ¿Cuándo supiste que estarías en JROTC?

- o Descubrí la primera semana de clases cuando estaba en mi horario.
- o Supe antes de que comenzaran las clases cuando me pidieron que eligiera las clases que quería.
- o Otra: _____

7. En qué mes y año fue puesto en la clase: _____

8. ANTES de estar en JROTC, ¿debía obtener un formulario de permiso firmado por un padre o tutor?

- o Si
- o No
- o No recuerda

9. Si se le entregó un formulario de permiso, ¿Cuándo y cómo se le entregó el formulario?

- o Me fue enviado o entregado antes de que comenzara el semestre escolar.
- o No me lo dieron hasta que estuve en la clase JROTC, después de que comenzara la escuela.

10. ¿Alguna vez pediste salir de la clase?

- o Si
- o No

Si lo hizo y tuvo algún problema para salir, ¿Cuáles fueron?: _____

11. ¿Sabe si se requiere que otros estudiantes en la escuela tomen JROTC? En caso afirmativo, ¿Qué ha escuchado _____ y _____ de _____ quién?:

[INFORMACION OPCIONAL]

Nombre del Estudiante: _____

Teléfono: _____ Correo: _____

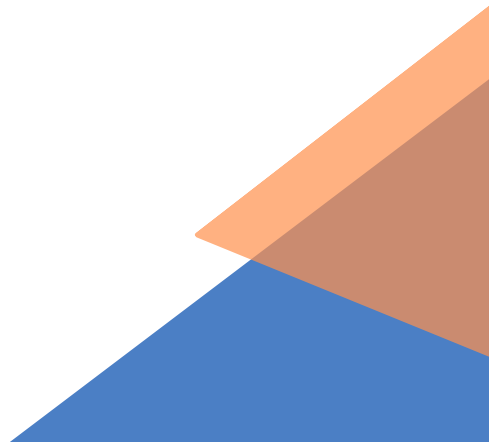
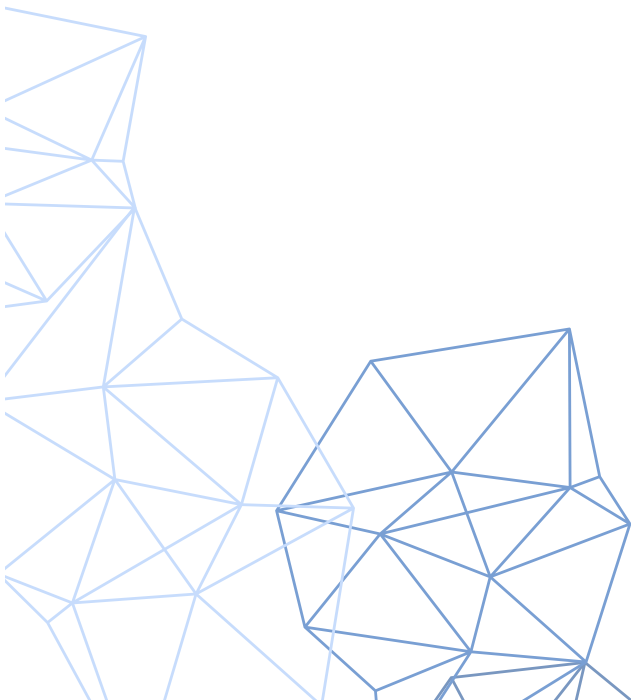
Otra forma de Contacto: _____



Feedback Form

We would greatly appreciate if you could email us at contact@endcom.org with answers to the following questions. It will help refine our materials and improve our outreach. Thanks in advance.

1. Contact Information - name, email, phone, organization (if applicable), city/state.
2. Describe your involvement in counter military recruitment.
3. How do you intend to use this information?
4. Are there organizations and/or individuals you're acquainted with that should be included?
5. Do you want to become involved with the Taskforce on an ongoing basis?
6. Do you want to be included in future mailings?
7. What, if anything, do you know about JROTC in your school district?
8. Please share any comments:



Social Media Graphics

We invite you to use the social media graphics below. They can be downloaded from the website <https://endcom.org/>

THOUSANDS OF TEENS ARE BEING PUSHED INTO MILITARY'S JUNIOR R.O.T.C.

In high schools across the country, students are being placed in military classes without electing them on their own. "The only word I can think of is 'indoctrination,'" one parent said.

New York Times, December 11, 2022.

Percentage of student body composed of Black or Hispanic students

Enrollment Type	Percentage
in schools where at least 3/4 of freshmen were enrolled in JROTC	80%
in schools where less than 3/4 of freshmen were enrolled in JROTC	50%
in schools without JROTC	30%

While Pentagon officials have long insisted that JROTC is not a recruiting tool, they have openly discussed expanding the \$400 million-a-year program as a way of drawing more people into military service.

44% of all soldiers who enlisted came from a school that offered JROTC.

JROTC Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps

JROTC is a program taught in **3500** high schools across the country by retired military officers.

The Pentagon has claimed it's supposed to be an elective, and that requiring students to take them goes against its guidelines.

The New York Times found that thousands of public school students were being funneled into JROTC classes without ever having chosen them, either as an explicit requirement or by being automatically enrolled.

A vast majority of the schools with high enrollment, indicating forced enrollment, are attended by a large proportion of **minority students** and those from **low-income households**.

The NYT collected enrollment data from more than **200** public schools requests.



TECMTS

Taskforce To End Compulsory Military Training in Schools

<https://endcom.org> contact@endcom.org