

# Military Recruitment in the High Schools – The Important Questions Parents Should Be Asking

**Joining the military is a serious decision – one that should be made after asking a lot of questions, considering options, and figuring out exactly WHY your child wants to join.**

Should it be because of the cool uniform?  
Should it be because a recruiter complimented them for doing well on an obstacle course?  
Should it be because they've been impressed by free gifts from recruiters?  
Are they excited about the promise of a great job?  
Or the promise of free college tuition?



**Enlisting in the military is not like taking any other job – for the next 8 years or more, your child will be bound by the contract they sign today.** They literally become the property of the government, the job description can change at any time for any reason, they are potentially risking their lives, and they cannot quit.

**Recruiters are not teachers or counselors but salespeople sent into the schools to convince your kids to enlist.** Under pressure to enlist a certain number of people each month, they might not disclose all of the “fine print,” nor emphasize that the primary function of the military is to participate in war. Based on previous experience, some school districts have adopted limitations on military recruiters' activities and amount of time they spend in the schools.

**Are you aware of the rules and regulations that govern military recruiters' conduct at your teenager's high school?** Be an advocate for your child. Send an e-mail or letter or call the principal, guidance counselor, superintendent and school board members. Ask the following:

1. Has the school released names, addresses and phone numbers of students to the military services? If so, when did they do so, and did parents receive advance notice that this was being done?
2. Does your school provide a “opt out of release of student information to the military” form? If not, why not? (It's required by law.) If so, how is the form's availability communicated to students and parents/guardians? (e.g. Is it included in the parent/guardian newsletter or in registration materials?)
3. If parents or guardians sign the military “opt out” form, are their kids penalized? That is, are their names removed from college and business recruiter's lists? Are there any additional restrictions placed on the student if they “opt out”?
4. Does your high school have a policy regarding access by military recruiters?

*(continued)*

5. Does your school specify the number of times that a recruiter or other military personnel may visit each year?
6. Are recruiters able to visit the student cafeteria during lunch, enter the building before or after school, enter and/or teach in classrooms, (including tech. ed. or phys. ed. classes as "assistants" or "visitors") or visit in full military uniform?
7. Does your school staff help each student ask important questions and analyze options before they choose to enlist? Is information from non-military sources available and posted at the school to assist in an informed decision?
8. Is your school willing to accommodate speakers with differing views on recruitment and the military?
9. Who is the primary person that interacts with and arranges visits by the military at your school?
10. Does your school administer the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) during the school day? If so, do they choose "Option 8," which ensures that the military only receives personal information if the student/parent specifically requests it?
11. Do members of your school staff receive any benefits from the military such as subsidized visits to military academies or other facilities? If so, do they make such visits in their capacity as school employees, on school time?
12. When recruiters come to your school, what is counted as a military recruitment visit?
  - When they visit a counselor to communicate military information or set up a display?
  - When they attend a career fair at the high school?
  - When they participate in a class such as Phys. Ed, Technology or in small group discussions?
  - When they set up a table or booth in cafeteria during lunch hour?
  - When they make unscheduled visits to obtain student information from school personnel (graduation profile, transcript)?
  - When they meet with students in the hallway or school parking lot?
  - When alumni visit the school in full military uniform?
  - When recruiters hand out free items such as pens or pencils during unannounced visits?

**Learn what you and your families' rights are in regard to military recruitment in the schools.** To get involved or for more information contact:

Truth and Alternatives to Militarism in Education (*TAME*) [www.tamewisconsin.org](http://www.tamewisconsin.org)  
 E-mail: [info@tamewisconsin.org](mailto:info@tamewisconsin.org) Phone: (608) 250-9240

Revised 4/28/07