

School Districts Limit Militarism!

The No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 opened the door for military recruiters to approach our high school students without safeguards. It contains a little known provision that makes federal funding contingent on giving military recruiters the same access to students as college recruiters. Though the legislation stipulates a way for individual students and parents to "opt-out," it also threatens federal funding if the school refuses to turn over student contact information upon demand. Within the confines of the law, committed people are finding ways to protect our kids. **In city after city militarism in our high schools is being challenged by people like you!**

Los Angeles, CA:

In the Whittier Union High School District, recruiters are banned from appearing in classrooms, and no Humvees are allowed on school grounds. The school district is developing a pamphlet for students about how to verify recruiters' claims regarding financial benefits. In Castro Valley Unified School District, CA, recruiters are only allowed in the Career Center during lunch on scheduled days. A Career Center Technician stays with the recruiter while he/she is in the presence of students to monitor the interaction. themmob.org/lmca/goodpolicies.html

Pittsburgh, PA:

The School Board voted 8-1 to adopt five guidelines including: requiring recruiters to register with the principal or an administrator upon arrival; prohibiting them from sponsoring contests, drawings, lotteries or from exchanging gifts unless they are of scholarships or are of minimal value; banning them from using exhibits that violate the district's weapons policy or using video games that depict weapons or violence; and limiting them to meeting students in areas designated by the principal. www.blackpressusa.com

Montgomery County, Silver Springs, MD:

It is the only district in the country to select Option 8 for all its schools' Armed Service Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) test. The ASVAB test is a main recruiting tool of the military. Most students don't know what the test is or that it is sent to the military. Option 8 allows students to take the aptitude test without sending their results to military recruiters. silverchips.mbhs.edu

Cambridge, MA:

The School District schedules recruiter visits by appointment only; a third party must be present. There are criminal history checks for all recruiters. Recruiters

are limited to the Guidance office and Career Center, and they are escorted by school security to the Guidance office.

Minneapolis, MN:

Students at Bloomington Kennedy High School won the basic right to table alongside recruiters. Leaders from other schools report similar successes. At South High in Minneapolis and Mound Westonka High, where recruiters had virtually free rein before, protests have forced military recruiters to retreat into the career centers. www.pulsetc.com/article.php?sid=1678

Seattle, WA:

2005 Guidelines limit how frequently recruiters are allowed on campus and where they can set up. They are required to make advance appointments with schools, and schools have to post calendars showing when those appointments are scheduled. No one recruiter can visit a campus more frequently than another, and they must come in uniform. Schools must ensure groups offering alternatives to military service can have equal access to students at the same time and same place. www.beta.mbpo.org/press/pressreleases/file.2007-09-06.9152711545

Pinellas County, FL:

Antiwar groups such as Veterans for Peace will be allowed on Pinellas County high school campuses. The Board's adoption of an "access to students" policy makes Pinellas the first large district in the state to approve such a plan. Visits must be scheduled in advance with school administrators. Meetings can take place before and after school and at lunch time only, and all visitors must wear district-issued identification badges while on campus. www.sptimes.com/2007/08/29/Southpinellas/antiwar_vets_get_scho.shtml