

ACTION GUIDE FOR
CALIFORNIA PUBLIC
HIGH SCHOOL
STUDENTS

MILITARY RECRUITING IN OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS



WHY THIS GUIDE? WHY NOW?

Students see more and more military recruiters at their high schools - giving out gifts, promising money for college, and even promising that they won't be shipped to war. Some students are feeling pressured to enlist. Others feel that the military is targeting low-income students and students of color while they get little information about options for college and other careers.

You might not know that your school is required to give out your private contact information to the military (including your address and your phone number).

If you want to protect your privacy, you have to "opt out" by telling your school that you don't want your private information to be shared with military recruiters.

There are other things that students can do about military recruiting in their public schools. Students can speak out about military recruiting, recruiters' practices, and even the war; refuse to take military classes and tests; and make sure they get accurate information about their career and college options.

This guide will tell you more about your rights and how you can take action in your school.

If you need more information, you can always contact us at: 213 977 9500 or www.mrops.org

OPTING OUT OF MILITARY CONTACT

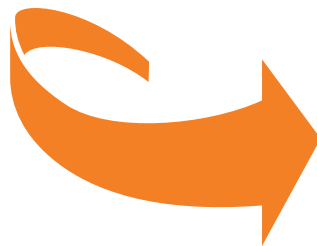


THE MILITARY & YOUR PRIVATE INFO

The military may ask your school to give out the names, addresses and phone numbers of high school students for use by military recruiters.

The law allows you to “opt out,” which means refuse to give your contact information to the military.

IF YOU DON'T OPT OUT, YOUR SCHOOL MAY GIVE YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION TO THE MILITARY.



HERE'S HOW TO OPT OUT:

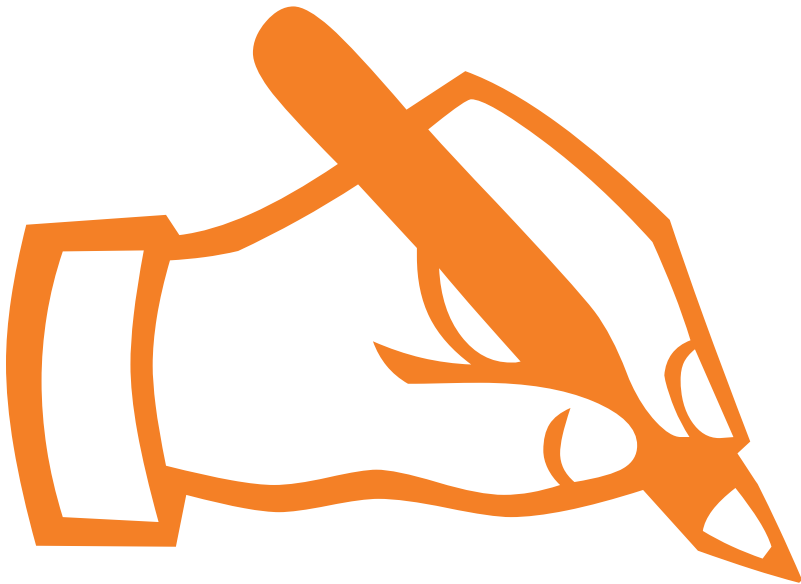
1. You, your parent or your guardian can fill out and sign the form attached to this flyer.
2. Find out from your school principal or counselor if there is a deadline for opting out of military contact.
3. Make a copy of the signed form and keep it.
4. Give the signed form to your school principal or counselor.

YOUR SCHOOL CANNOT FORCE YOU TO:

- Take the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) test. This test is strictly voluntary.
 - ↔ If you do choose to take it, you can choose whether or not to send your scores to the military.
- Take Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) classes. These classes are strictly voluntary.

You can ask your school to set up some guidelines on what recruiters can and cannot do on campus.

MILITARY RECRUITMENT STUDENT OPT OUT FORM



AFTER YOU FILL OUT THIS FORM GIVE
IT TO YOUR SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR
(PRINCIPAL OR COUNSELOR)

DATE

NAME OF HIGH SCHOOL

I hereby request that the contact information, including the name, address, and telephone number, of this student, _____, not be released to the military, without prior written parental consent.

PRINT NAME OF PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN

SIGNATURE OF PARENT OR GUARDIAN

PRINT NAME OF STUDENT

SIGNATURE OF STUDENT

YOUR FREE SPEECH RIGHTS

The law is on your side! You do not lose your free speech rights just because you're in school. The First Amendment of the US Constitution, the California Constitution and California state law give you the right to speak freely and express yourself. But there are rules everyone has to follow.

WHAT YOU ARE ALLOWED TO DO

- ⇒ Distribute flyers
- ⇒ Wear buttons
- ⇒ Hold a peaceful sit-in demonstration
- ⇒ Publish an unofficial newspaper

WHAT YOU ARE NOT ALLOWED TO DO

- ⇒ Distribute ANYTHING that is
 - Obscene
 - Libelous – something that's untrue, harmful and defamatory
 - Likely to incite an immediate disruptive or dangerous disturbance.

WHAT YOUR SCHOOL IS ALLOWED TO DO

- ⇒ Restrict the time and place of your demonstration or protest event.
- ⇒ Limit distribution of obscene and libelous materials.

WHAT YOUR SCHOOL IS NOT ALLOWED TO DO

- ⇒ Punish you for expressing yourself.
- ⇒ Stop you from giving out information just because the school thinks the topic is controversial.



Q & A

- Q:** Students in the Human Rights Club are passing out flyers opposing the military and calling for world peace. The material may offend students who take JROTC classes or whose family members are in the military. Does the school have to allow the students to pass out the flyers?
- A:** Yes. As long as the flyers are not obscene or libelous, and they don't incite imminent unlawful acts or disruption of the school, the school must allow students to pass out their flyers.
- Q:** Students are planning to hold a sit-in demonstration during lunch in the school cafeteria to protest the war. Can the school stop the students from holding the demonstration?
- A:** No. The school can restrict the time and place of the demonstration for purposes of safety and order, but the school must let the students demonstrate peaceably.