

Campaign to Challenge Militarism in Schools



THE ISSUE

Nationwide, students, parents and others are speaking out against the way our schools are being used to militarize young people and funnel them into unjustifiable wars. This is made possible because of the almost unrestricted school access granted to the military.

Because of the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act, schools are now forced to give recruiters lists of student names, addresses and phone numbers (unless students have opted out), and schools must allow recruiters to visit schools on an equal basis with employers and college representatives. Failure to comply with these requirements could cost schools any federal money they receive.

In addition to the above, our K-12 schools are being invaded with militaristic classroom programs like Junior ROTC (high schools) and the Young Marines (middle and jr. high schools), and elementary school children were being propagandized through school “partnerships” with military bases and units.

CAMPAIGN GOALS

This campaign will strive to hold local schools accountable for protecting students and their families from unwanted intrusions by the military.

It will initially focus on demanding that school districts prominently notify students and parents about their right to opt out of being on lists released to recruiters and make it easier for them to exercise that right. It will also seek to put a stop to the military’s back-door practice of obtaining information on students through the military’s aptitude test--the ASVAB--which is being given in 2/3rds of all high schools, sometimes to the entire junior and senior classes.

HOW YOU CAN PARTICIPATE

- 1. High school students** can inform themselves and their peers about how to opt out from being included in the school lists released to recruiters, and they can help convince their school district to make it easier to opt out (see the model policy in this packet). They can also watch for announcements that the ASVAB test is going to be given and protest any attempt to force students to take it (students cannot be required to give such data to the military--see more information elsewhere in this packet).
- 2. Parents and school staff** can learn about these issues as well and demand that their school district adopt the model policy on opt-out in this packet. They can also challenge the administration of the ASVAB test in high schools, which provides the military with personal information on students without permission from their parents.
- 3. Other members in the community** can help educate students through outreach activities like leafleting, and they can join in demanding more restrictive policies on opt-out and ASVAB testing.

To participate in specific activities of the campaign, simply fill out the volunteer form in this packet (request one from Project YANO if it’s missing).

**Contact: Project on Youth and Non-Military Opportunities (Project YANO)
P.O. Box 230157, Encinitas, CA 92023; 760-634-3604, www.projectyano.org**

ACT TO PROTECT YOUR PRIVACY

“OPT-OUT” FROM THE LIST GIVEN TO RECRUITERS

Military recruiters may contact students because schools are now required to give them students’ names, addresses and phone numbers (sec. 9528 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act).

Students and parents can avoid this by FILLING OUT AN “OPT-OUT” FORM that tells the school it may not release a student’s personal information to recruiters without written parental permission.

“OPTING OUT” IS A LEGAL RIGHT. There is no penalty for opting out. School officials must comply with such an opt-out request.

Some districts have their own opt-out form, but they have to respect the request if it’s made with the form we provide in this packet or a simple letter to the school. The federal law (section 9528 of ESEA) says students can opt themselves out, but many schools are requiring parents or guardians to sign the request. If you don’t know whether your school district will honor students’ requests to opt out, include a parent’s or guardian’s signature.

BUT OPTING OUT IS NOT ENOUGH! BEWARE OF THE ASVAB:

Students’ personal information can be released to military recruiters if they take the military’s ASVAB test at school. The Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) is a test given in most high schools. When students take this test, their personal information will usually be given to military recruiters **EVEN IF THEY HAVE OPTED OUT.**

The ASVAB test was developed by the Department of Defense to measure skills for military jobs. It is now used in over 14,000 schools around the country. Military recruiters convince schools to give the test so that they can get personal information about students. The ASVAB is also being used by the Pentagon to create a national database on all teenagers called JAMRS (see www.leavemychildalone.org). Schools can ask that ASVAB results not be shared with recruiters, but they rarely do.

The vast majority of students taking the ASVAB are under the age of 18. Even though the ASVAB provides personal information on these students to recruiters, parents are not asked to give their permission.

The ASVAB is NOT a mandatory test. There is NO PENALTY for not taking the ASVAB or for refusing to give this personal information to the military.

- **Students:** You can refuse to give the military this private information by refusing to take the test. Insist that students be given an alternative place to go while the test is being given, and ask that it be announced to the entire school that the test is voluntary.
- **School staff:** If the test is to be given at your school, insist that it be given only to students who request it and that they all be informed that they could receive multiple recruiter contacts at home if they take it.
- **Parents:** If you do not want the military to have this personal information on your child, contact your local school and inform them that you do not want your child to take the ASVAB test. Urge your school to offer other aptitude tests that are not administered and controlled by the military.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON “OPT-OUT” AND THE ASVAB, CONTACT:

* American Friends Service Committee (AFSC), (215) 241-7176; youthmil@afsc.org; www.afsc.org/youthmil.htm

* Proyecto Guerrero Azteca Por La Paz, (760) 746-4568; gaztecaproject@yahoo.com; www.guerreroazteca.org

* Project on Youth and Non-Military Opportunities (Project YANO), (760) 634-3604; ProjYANO@aol.com; www.projectyano.org

Campaign Activities

OBJECTIVES:

- **To convince school districts to prominently notify all students and parents about their right to opt out of being on lists released to recruiters.** Presently, few parents and students are aware of this right because the information is buried in hard to find places.
- **To convince school districts to automatically require that the choice to opt out or opt in be recorded at the time of school registration.** It should be treated like other essential information that is required in order for students to attend school, a policy that has been adopted in other parts of the country.
- **To convince school districts to stop allowing the unauthorized release of personal student information via military aptitude testing in secondary schools.** The Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) test is given voluntarily by 2/3rds of all high schools. If they choose to give it, school districts can adopt a policy that will protect students from unauthorized releases of information to the military.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Volunteer to help with the following Campaign tasks and activities (complete a volunteer form to volunteer for specific tasks and to receive campaign notices):

- Contact school districts and request details on how they notify students and parents of the right to opt out of recruiting lists released by schools. Obtain copies of all notices and forms used and share them with the Campaign.
- Find out from school counseling offices if and when the ASVAB is going to be given.
- Write to school superintendents and board members and ask for implementation of the model policies on opt-out and ASVAB testing in this packet.
- Appear at school board meetings and ask that these issues be put on the school board's agenda. (Let us know if you plan to do this so we can alert others who might join you.)
- Volunteer to be a coordinator for these activities in a specific school district.
- Volunteer for the high school leafleting program sponsored by the San Diego Coalition for Peace and Justice. Each month, students and non-students distribute thousands of fliers in the morning at schools around San Diego County. Non-students leaflet outside school entrances. Students can leaflet inside schools or join non-students outside.

A POSSIBLE LEGAL CHALLENGE TO ASVAB TESTING

We are looking for attorneys, parents and students who could help with a legal challenge to the military's practice of using ASVAB testing in high schools to obtain information on students without parental permission. If you would like to help with this, please get in touch with Project YANO, 760-634-3604.

POLICY ON OPTING OUT OF MILITARY RECRUITING LISTS

WHEREAS: Under the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB), Section 9528, “ARMED FORCES RECRUITER ACCESS TO STUDENTS AND STUDENT RECRUITING INFORMATION,” only high school juniors and seniors are subject to having their directory information released to military recruiters according to a joint letter to educators from Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld and (then) Secretary of Education, Rod Paige (October 9, 2002); and

WHEREAS: NCLB, Sec. 9528 (a)(2) provides for students to opt themselves out, stating, “CONSENT- A secondary school student **or** the parent of the student may request that the student’s name, address, and telephone listing... not be released without prior written parental consent...”; and

WHEREAS: NCLB, Sec. 9528 gives _____ School District the legal responsibility to ensure that parents and students are properly notified of their right to privacy through the ‘opt-out’ process; and

WHEREAS: Students and parents wish to be able to ‘opt-out’ of having their information released to one body while simultaneously withheld from others; and

WHEREAS: Students and parents have expressed concerns about having information other than their name, phone number and address released to recruiters; and

WHEREAS: Students/parents should not be forced to opt-out more than once during the student’s time in the school district; and

WHEREAS: All items in this proposal comply with federal law and have been in use in other school districts without risking federal funds;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the _____ School District’s board policy regarding the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, Section 9528, shall be revised with the understanding that these methods are needed to better protect student/family privacy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That directory information of **only** juniors and seniors shall be released; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the release of directory information to military recruiters and other institutional recruiters will be limited to the name, phone number, and address of the student; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That all high school juniors and senior students shall be allowed to opt themselves out, regardless of age; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That an ‘opt-out’ option shall be prominently displayed on all appropriate versions (English, Spanish, Chinese, etc.) of the student emergency card at its next printing; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That it shall be mandatory for a choice regarding ‘opt-out’ to be recorded for each student on the emergency card by the student or the student’s parent or guardian; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the ‘opt-out’ of release of information to the armed forces will not be co-joined with the release of information to any other body; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That an ‘opt-out’ will remain in place for the remainder of a student’s time in the school district, unless the student/parent decides to reverse the decision at a later date; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That _____ School District shall make every reasonable effort to publicize the right to 'opt-out', including prominently displaying the opt-out notification on the district and high schools' Web sites; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That 'opt-out' forms shall be readily available in every high school office.

POLICY ON REGULATING THE USE OF THE ARMED SERVICES VOCATIONAL APTITUDE BATTERY (ASVAB) IN SCHOOLS

WHEREAS: The ASVAB is a voluntary test that the U.S. Department of Defense uses primarily as a military recruiting tool to test potential recruits to determine their developed abilities;

WHEREAS: The Armed Services ASVAB test has been administered in the district's high schools during class time; and

WHEREAS: The ASVAB test has been administered to students mostly under the age of 18 without parent/guardian permission and test results have been released to the military without parent/guardian permission, even when students have been opted off of contact lists given to military recruiters; and

WHEREAS: Students who sign up to take the test might not know that their scores could be released to military recruiters and that it is a military test; and

WHEREAS: The Department of Defense has revealed that identifying information and data collected via the ASVAB is being included in the national recruiting database known as Joint Advertising and Market Research Recruiting Database; and

WHEREAS: School Districts have a responsibility to protect student and family privacy; and

WHEREAS: The Department of Defense does offer to administer the ASVAB test under an option that stipulates: "No recruiter contact from this listing of student results. Results not released to recruiting Military Services" (ASVAB Counselor Manual, Option 8);

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That _____ District's policy shall be that ASVAB testing be permitted in district schools only under the universally applied option where no results may be released to the Department of Defense for any recruiting purposes, including adding students' test results to the Department of Defense's national recruiting database, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That such policy shall establish the following guidelines:

1. District high school students shall be informed that the ASVAB test is purely voluntary and that they do not have to take the ASVAB test.
2. District high schools shall not provide academic credit for participation in the ASVAB test, and the test shall not be administered during regular school hours.
3. District staff shall issue a bulletin to inform principals, counselors, and high school teachers of the above guidelines and notify them that the test may be given only under the option where the test scores and identifying information for all students cannot be used for recruiting purposes (i.e., "ASVAB Option 8," as described in the ASVAB Counselors Manual).
4. This policy of protecting the test results and identifying information under ASVAB Option 8 shall be applied without variation to all students taking the test, recognizing that students would still be able to arrange outside of school to individually provide the information to a recruiter if they wish to explore military enlistment options.

Opt-out Forms for Schools

- These forms can be used to request that student contact information not be released to military recruiters. School districts sometimes have their own forms, but they must accept any such request regardless of how it is submitted. Cut the form in half and use either the all-English or Spanish/English version.
- Schools normally give a deadline to opt out that is based on when they plan to release their list to recruiters. The schools determine the timing and can choose to not release the information until late in the school year, if they wish. However, most school districts tell people to submit their opt-out requests early in the school year.
- If you missed the school's stated deadline, it is still important to opt out because schools might receive additional requests for the lists later in the school year. Also, the law states that you can ask that student information not be released "without prior written parental consent." This means your opt-out request should remain in effect and not need to be renewed a subsequent year (many schools, however, have been requiring opt-out annually).
- If possible, we recommend that opt-out requests be mailed via certified mail with a return receipt requested. This requires going into the Post Office and paying an extra fee (about \$4.50).

Be sure to make a copy of your opt-out letter or form!

DISTRIBUTING THE FORM TO OTHERS

Feel free to distribute copies of the form to other students and parents. If you wish to distribute a half-page, you can photocopy this form so that the English and Spanish versions are back-to-back. Simply make some one-sided copies first, then flip and run them through again to print the same image on the back (check the first copy to make sure the second side is not upside down, in which case you should rotate the original 180-degrees in the copy machine).

Act to Protect Your Privacy from Military Recruiters

You may be harassed at home by military recruiters because your name, address and phone number will be given to them by your school — unless you tell your school to not give out the information. To exercise your legal right to have this information kept private, you should notify your school office as soon as possible. Some school districts may provide their own forms for this, but they must obey your request no matter how you submit it. You can write your own letter or use the one below. Use a letter or form for each individual student and keep a copy. It is not required by law, but we recommend having a parent or guardian also sign:

Date: _____

Dear administrator of _____:
(Name of high school)

We are exercising our right under the *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001**, and hereby request that the name, address, and telephone listing of:

_____,
(Print name of student)

who is a current student at your school, **not** be released to military recruiters without prior written parental consent. We do, however, consent to the disclosure of such information to colleges and universities other than military schools.

Print name of parent or legal guardian above

Signature of parent or guardian

Signature of student

***Note to school administrators:** Once this request is given to you, it is a serious violation of federal law to disregard it and release the name, address and phone number of this student to any military recruiter without prior written consent. Section 9528(a) of Public Law 107-110 states:

(2) CONSENT- A secondary school student or the parent of the student may request that the student's name, address, and telephone listing described in paragraph (1) [i.e., the paragraph requiring schools receiving federal aid to release information to military recruiters] not be released without prior written parental consent, and the local educational agency or private school shall notify parents of the option to make a request and shall comply with any request.

This flier was produced by the Project on Youth and Non-Military Opportunities, 760-634-3604, www.projecyano.org. For more information on military recruiting and student lists, contact Project YANO or the local organization below:

Proteja Ud. sus datos personales de los reclutadores militares

Los reclutadores militares pueden molestarle a Ud. porque la administración de su escuela les ha dado su nombre, dirección y número de teléfono. Para evitarlo, hay que asegurar tan pronto posible que la escuela no comparta sus datos personales. ES SU DERECHO LEGAL. LOS DISTRITOS TIENEN QUE CUMPLIR. Algunos distritos tienen su propia forma o se puede escribir una carta o se puede usar ésta. Hace falta una forma para cada alumno. Se recomienda que la forma esté firmada o por los padres o por un guardián legal.

Fecha/ Date: _____

Dear administrator of _____:
(Nombre de la escuela/Name of high school)

We are exercising our right under the *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001**, and hereby request that the name, address, and telephone listing of:

_____,
(Nombre del estudiante/Print name of student)

who is a current student at your school, **not** be released to military recruiters without prior written parental consent. We do, however, consent to the disclosure of such information to colleges and universities other than military schools.

Nombre del padre, madre o guardián/Print name of parent or legal guardian above

Firma del padre, madre o guardián/Signature of parent or guardian

Firma del estudiante/Signature of student

***Note to school administrators:** Once this request is given to you, it is a serious violation of federal law to disregard it and release the name, address and phone number of this student to any military recruiter without prior written consent. Section 9528(a) of Public Law 107-110 states:

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VOLUNTEER FORM

Please indicate the activities you are interested in below. Please PRINT clearly.

CHECK ANY OF THE FOLLOWING THAT APPLY

- I am a high school student.
- I work at a school. Circle teacher, counselor or indicate other role: _____.
- I am a parent of a student.
- I was in the military during these years : _____

SCHOOL/DISTRICT INFORMATION

- I would like to focus on the following high school(s) or school district(s):

- I have no preference for school or district.

ACTIVITIES YOU WISH TO PARTICIPATE IN

- I can coordinate organizing in a school district (specify which):

- I will research a district's policy on opt-out.
- I will research a district's policy on military aptitude testing (the ASVAB test).
- I will help leaflet at a school. [Note: The high school leafleting coordinator will contact you.]



- I am willing to speak at a school board meeting.
- I am willing to write letters to a school board.

GENERAL COUNTER-RECRUITMENT ACTIVITIES

- I would like to speak in classrooms (usually weekdays, 7a.m.-2p.m. time frame, around S.D. County).
- I would like to help staff table displays at school career fairs (usually weekdays, 7a.m.-2p.m. time frame, around S.D. County).
- I work at a school or youth agency and can set up presentations. *School/agency:*

Date: _____ Name _____

Phone, incl. area code(s) _____

Mailing address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-mail address _____

Did you receive a campaign packet? _____

Please complete and return form to:

Project YANO, P.O. Box 230157, Encinitas, CA 92023 - www.projectyano.org