



MILITARY RECRUITMENT

in Western Massachusetts High Schools

Records from the 2017-2018 School Year



RESISTANCE CENTER
for PEACE and JUSTICE
www.theresistancecenter.org

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We dedicate this report to the students of Western Massachusetts.



Table of Contents

Executive Summary.....	2
Review of Current Literature.....	4
Our Question.....	10
Methodology.....	10
Results.....	13
Analysis & Discussion.....	16
Recommendations.....	16
School Grades.....	18



Executive Summary

Thousands of young people enlist in the U.S. military every year. With promises of scholarships, a chance to see the world, and an opportunity to earn honor and respect, the military crafts a compelling narrative. Most recruits sign on to an eight year contract, and some sign this binding contract as young as 17 years old.¹ It is illegal for teenagers to take out loans, buy a home, and consume alcohol-- with good reason. Yet, committing eight years of their life to the U.S. military, a decision that could result in death, is both advertised and encouraged.

Military recruiters are dining at school lunch tables, coaching after school sports, and messaging students online.² It's no wonder some children choose to enlist as soon as they turn 17. Information directly from the military reveals recruiters are encouraged to engage with students as young as 12 years old.³ The presence of military recruiters in schools is not new, but since the "No Child Left Behind Act" (NCLB) of 2001 granted the Department of Defense access to public schools as enlistment sites, their presence has increased drastically. The interaction between school youth and the most powerful and well-financed institution in the world merits monitoring.

Since the 1960s, the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) of Western Massachusetts, now The Resistance Center for Peace and Justice (TRC), has engaged and educated students about peaceful post-graduation alternatives to military service, including community colleges and universities, volunteer opportunities, and labor apprenticeships. During involvement in the school system, TRC realized (1) we did not have comprehensive data about military recruitment in high schools across Western Massachusetts, and (2) we needed to bring information about recruiter involvement to light, so that parents, school committee members, and others are aware of the enhanced presence of military recruiters in schools, the risks associated with military service, and the extent of disclosed information given to the military by their children and their schools.

For the past four years, TRC has published an annual report recording the involvement of the U.S. military in Western Massachusetts high schools. We started compiling data on military recruitment in 2012 by sending simple, one page requests to public high schools for information about the frequency of recruiter involvement. These went ignored by most schools. After submitting our inquiries in the form of Massachusetts Public Records Act requests, we received more responses. Responses collected between 2012-2015 were compiled into the first edition of *Military Recruitment in Western Massachusetts High Schools*. We repeated the process of submitting public record requests to schools to obtain information for the 2015-2016 School

¹ "Are You Eligible to Join the Military?" Military.com. 2019. <https://www.military.com/join-armed-forces/join-the-military-basic-eligibility.html>

² Price, Jay. "The Trump Administration Wants A Bigger Army, Putting Pressure on Military Recruiters." Jan. 25 2018. <https://americanhomefront.wunc.org/post/trump-administration-wants-bigger-army-putting-pressure-military-recruiters>

³ Myers, Meghann. "Most American Youth First Meet a Recruiter at 17, but the Army Wants to Start Younger." *Army Times*, Army Times, 27 Mar. 2019, www.armytimes.com/news/your-army/2019/03/27/most-american-youth-first-meet-a-recruiter-at-17-but-the-army-wants-to-start-younger/.



Year and the 2016-2017 School Year, which were compiled into the second and third edition respectively.

The most striking observations from schools' responses to our requests has been the lack of basic records kept regarding the presence of military recruiters. We often had to send several formal requests before schools gave complete responses about what records they possess. In addition, responses and direct records of recruiter presence were often incomplete and/or illegible.

This year, we received more responses than ever before. Today, we present the fourth edition of *Military Recruitment in Western Massachusetts*. This report reflects information from the 2017-2018 school year for public high schools across Western Massachusetts. In this latest report, our previous observations remain true: there is a consistent lack of oversight for military recruiters in our high schools. While we understand public schools are not operating with an abundance of resources, public school officials have the best opportunity to protect our children from predatory recruiting practices.

The intention of this report is two-fold: first to encourage school officials to keep a careful record of recruiter involvement, and additionally to build power in our community to keep recruiters out of high schools. We hope this report will inspire students, teachers, parents, and community members to take action. Together, we have the power to protect our students and keep recruiters out of Western Massachusetts high schools.

Review of Current Literature

Overview

Since the “No Child Left Behind” (NCLB) Act of 2001, every public high school in the United States that receives federal funding is subject to being an active or potential site for military enlistment. Section 9528 of NCLB mandates public schools to release private student information to the Department of Defense every year for recruiting purposes.⁴ While parents and students of age are able to “opt-out” of the release of their information to the Department of Defense, families are largely unaware of this fact. Additionally under NCLB, military recruiters are entitled to the same access to students as college recruiters. If schools fail to give recruiters this access, they may receive penalties.⁵

Military recruiters are tasked with contracting 190,000 young people annually.⁶ In 2017, The Department of Defense spent a total of \$1.5 billion on advertising, administering exams, and recruiting.⁷ Records obtained from the Albany Recruiting Battalion reveal a “School Year Plan”

⁴ No Child Left Behind, U.S. Department of Education. Web: <http://www.2.ed.gov/policy/elsec/leg/esea02/pg112.html#sec9528>

⁵ Operation Order 15-XX, Patriots Pride Battalion School Recruiting Plan (SRP) FY16.

⁶ Friesen, Matthew. “Framing Symbols and Space: Counterrecruitment and Resistance to the US Military in Public Education.” *Sociological Forum*. March 2014.

⁷ “FY 2017: Defense Budget Overview.” Department of Defense. Feb. 9, 2016. https://comptroller.defense.gov/Portals/45/Documents/defbudget/fy2017/FY2017_Budget_Request_Overview_Book.pdf



for 2016 and 2017 encouraging recruiters to establish a “dominant Army presence” in their assigned school district. The Army acknowledges that their “long term success” depends on relationships with high school officials.⁸ Recent research shows Junior Reserves Officers’ Training Corps (JROTC) programs, Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) test, and increased presence of recruiters “reflects the growing influence of a military-mindset in U.S. public schools.”⁹ In this review, current literature and recently obtained military documents reveal: the hidden realities of military service, deceptive advertising strategies, deceptive youth recruitment strategies, and strategies targeting vulnerable youth.

What Recruiters Don’t Share: The Realities of Military Service

The American Public Health Association has long called for the cessation of recruiters in public schools as young students are undergoing “a vulnerable stage of brain development.” The Association reports that “given their limitations in judging risk at this stage in life, they are also unable to fully evaluate the consequences of making a choice to enter the military.”¹⁰ School recruiters, often under immense pressure to meet quotas, do not provide a balanced view of the risks involved with enlistment.

While the Department of Defense has the largest portion of the discretionary budget in the U.S., safe equipment and protocols for training is less of a priority than recruiting and advertising. In 2017, statistics showed military training as 4 times deadlier than actual combat.¹¹ In addition to accidental deaths, suicide rates for active-duty military personnel were at an all time high in 2018.¹² Suicide and suicide attempts have been caused by stress on the job, mental health issues, chronic pain, and sexual trauma. The Department of Defense announced a 10% increase in sexual assaults for the 2017 fiscal year, with 6,769 reported cases. The Department’s statistics reveal only 1 in every 3 cases are reported, implying 20,307 additional victims carry the weight of military sexual trauma.¹³

Challenges for military personnel only continue after their service. Veterans are among the most vulnerable and neglected in U.S. society. Those who served in the military are more likely to experience job insecurity, homelessness, and mental health issues than any other population.¹⁴ According to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, 38,000 veterans experienced homelessness on any night in January 2018. Over 23,000 of these veterans were unsheltered completely. 45% of all homeless veterans are African American or Hispanic,

⁸ Operation Order 15-XX, Patriots Pride Battalion School Recruiting Plan (SRP) FY16

⁹ Friesen, Matthew. “Framing Symbols and Space: Counterrecruitment and Resistance to the US Military in Public Education.” *Sociological Forum*. March 2014.

¹⁰ “Cessation of Military Recruiting in Public Elementary and Secondary Schools.” *American Public Health Association*, 30 Oct. 2012, www.apha.org/policies-and-advocacy/public-health-policy-statements/policy-database/2014/07/23/11/19/cessation-of-military-recruiting-in-public-elementary-and-secondary-schools.

¹¹ Annenberg, Miriam Finder. “U.S. Military Training Nearly Four Times Deadlier Than Combat.” *OZY*, 24 June 2018, www.ozy.com/acumen/us-military-training-nearly-four-times-deadlier-than-combat/87491.

¹² Kime, Patricia. “Active-Duty Military Suicides at Record Highs in 2018.” *Military.com*, 30 Jan. 2019, www.military.com/daily-news/2019/01/30/active-duty-military-suicides-near-record-highs-2018.html.

¹³ Ferdinando, Lisa. “DoD Releases Annual Report on Sexual Assault in Military.” *U.S. Department of Defense*, 1 May 2018, dod.defense.gov/News/Article/Article/1508127/dod-releases-annual-report-on-sexual-assault-in-military/.

¹⁴ “FAQ About Homeless Veterans .” National Coalition for Homeless Veterans, 2016, nchv.org/index.php/news/media/background_and_statistics.



despite only accounting for 10.4% and 3.4% of the U.S. veteran population, respectively.¹⁵ Every person experiencing homelessness is burdened with navigating a system without affordable housing, healthcare, and a livable income; in addition to these challenges, many at-risk veterans live with “lingering effects” of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), substance abuse, and addiction.¹⁶ 70% of homeless veterans have substance abuse problems, while 51% have physical disabilities and 50% have a serious mental illness. The Department of Veteran Affairs estimates that 20% of Iraq veterans and 11% of Afghanistan veterans suffer from PTSD, while plenty more veterans go undiagnosed.

Young veterans are particularly at risk. The unemployment rate among veterans between ages 18-24 is 6.3%. Despite what the military advertises, many military occupations are not transferable to the civilian workforce, putting veterans at a disadvantage when seeking employment in an already competitive workforce. In 2018, the Department of Defense reported a suicide rate increase of 10% for veterans between 18 and 34 years of age.¹⁷ The American Public Health Association further reports:

Although adults in the active military service are reported to experience increased mental health risks, including stress, substance abuse, and suicide, the youngest soldiers consistently show the worst health effects, suggesting that military service is associated with disproportionately poor health for this population. A study of mental disorders in the US military showed the highest rates of all disorders, including alcohol abuse, anxiety syndromes, depression, and posttraumatic stress disorder, among the youngest cohort, those aged 17 through 24 years.¹⁸

These dangers, on record with the Department of Defense themselves, are not explained to students by their high school recruiter. Nothing in a recruiter’s manual addresses this reality.¹⁹

Deceptive Strategies Targeting Youth: Advertising

Out of the \$1.5 billion the Department of Defense spends on advertising, recruiting, and examining for military forces, over a third is spent on advertising alone. These millions fund “mixed media” advertisements for television, radio, magazine, newspaper, websites, banners, direct mail campaigns, and recruiting booklets.²⁰ Moreover, a 2019 *New York Times* article outlines more theatrical advertisements:

This time, the Army plans to focus on blue cities with traveling interactive exhibits that showcase Army careers in health care, engineering and computing. Its sky-diving team and its touring rock band will work to draw crowds, and top brass will speak at events promoting leadership and

¹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶ Ibid.

¹⁷ Ill, Leo Shane. “VA: Suicide Rate for Younger Veterans Increased by More than 10 Percent.” *Military Times*, Military Times, 2 Oct. 2018, www.militarytimes.com/news/pentagon-congress/2018/09/26/suicide-rate-spikes-among-younger-veterans/.

¹⁸ “Cessation of Military Recruiting in Public Elementary and Secondary Schools.” *American Public Health Association*, 30 Oct. 2012, www.apha.org/policies-and-advocacy/public-health-policy-statements/policy-database/2014/07/23/11/19/cessation-of-military-recruiting-in-public-elementary-and-secondary-schools.

¹⁹ Ibid.

²⁰ “FY 2017: Defense Budget Overview.” Department of Defense. Feb. 9, 2016.

https://comptroller.defense.gov/Portals/45/Documents/defbudget/fy2017/FY2017_Budget_Request_Overview_Book.pdf



patriotism. The Army is also putting hundreds of additional recruiters in the field and increasing enlistment bonuses.²¹

Official Army documents received through Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests reveal recruiting vehicles, shooting exhibits, and parachute teams, all designed to glamorize opportunities the Army offers students. Their Tandem Jumping Program aims “to create excitement about the Army by providing tandem parachute jumps in support of Army public relations...while generating quality leads for local recruiters.” Their Mobile Exhibit Vehicle offers a “mobile multimedia package that plays music, video games and your choice of DVDs to attract members of the public;” and their Natural Science Center Van is designed as a “mobile classroom for middle school audiences which emphasizes the importance of math and science [while] promot[ing] Army awareness.”²²

Exaggeration in advertising is nearly always a given, but when the stakes are as high as they are with the U.S. military, this exaggeration and glamorization becomes immoral, especially when young students are the target audience. In fact, records show military recruiters will not only conceal the truth, but blatantly lie to students in order to meet their quotas. The National Network Opposing the Militarization of Youth reports the following:

According [to] the New York Times, nearly one of five United States Army recruiters was under investigation in 2004 for offenses varying from “threats and coercion to false promises that applicants would not be sent to Iraq.” One veteran recruiter told a reporter for the Albany Times Union, “I’ve been recruiting for years, and I don’t know one recruiter who wasn’t dishonest about it. I did it myself.”²³

Recruiting

Military recruiters are aware of the vulnerability of high school age children, and they exploit the financial and social insecurities of teenagers in order to enlist more soldiers. In the high school years, adolescents are constantly being bombarded with possible paths after graduation. In our current economic climate, students in our high schools are faced with the possibility of student debt if they enroll in a 4-year college. Conversely, if they choose to enter the workforce, then they are tasked with the ever-increasing challenge of earning a living wage without a degree. Military recruit are keenly aware of this dilemma. They aim to offer a third way, one in which service to the United States is combined with travel and free education, all while training students to be soldiers in the world’s largest military. Of course, these promises of benefits often leave out the physical, emotional, and sexual trauma experienced by thousands of soldiers every year.

Military recruiters visit specific schools and areas more than others. The New England School Recruiting Plan from the 2015-2016 school year speaks in economic terms of “company

²¹ Philipps, Dave. “The Army, in Need of Recruits, Turns Focus to Liberal-Leaning Cities.” *The New York Times*, The New York Times, 2 Jan. 2019, www.nytimes.com/2019/01/02/us/army-recruiting-tech-industry-seattle.html.

²² “U.S. Army Accessions Support Brigade: U.S. Army Accessions Support Brigade: Overview Brief.” U.S. Army. July 23, 2012.

²³ “Truth in Recruiting.” National Network Opposed to the Militarization of Youth. Oct. 15, 2018. <https://nnomy.org/en/truth-in-recruiting.html>



targeted schools”²⁴, that are of particular interest to military investors because of “market potential”, as well as any other effects that would increase their influence and enlistment in the community. High school students are already a very easily targeted group for recruitment, but the military is still keenly aware of which schools have more low-income students likely to enlist. By making it seem as if enlistment is the only possible option, the military very effectively recruits high school students from low-income areas.

The military also actively suppress opposition to recruitment in high schools. The detailed plan for school recruitment in the Albany region described recruiters’ policy towards dissenting opinions: “Military recruiters seek to identify those community activists who may initially be opposed to our operations [...] and debunk the common myths about Army recruiting which are broadly circulated as fact”²⁵. While this may seem open-minded at first, the wording is ambiguous at best. It is stated many times throughout the report that the main goal of recruitment is to increase enlistment as much as possible, while also establishing a “persistent presence” of the military in company targeted schools²⁶.

Military recruitment has become normalized in high schools. Additionally the U.S. military’s recruitment efforts extend far beyond schools to all “Centers of Influence”, or “COI’s” as they are called in the Albany and New England School Recruiting Plans. COI’s can be the household, local businesses, parks, and other gathering spots for young people. As the Albany School Plan states, military recruiters identify community hubs in order to make their presence even more ubiquitous:

Beyond the campus community are other actors who have contact with students, parents, and faculty. This line of effort seeks to create centers of influence in that group. Businesses which cater to students (dress shops, flower shops, limousine rental locations, men’s wear rental stores, etc.), student ‘hang outs’ such as fast food restaurants, arcades, local entertainment locations, and businesses which employ high school or college students as part time or summer help are all potential community COI’s, (centers of influence).²⁷

The “Poverty Draft”: Targeting Vulnerable Communities

In 1973, when the U.S.’s all-volunteer force began, the military’s tactics changed. As upper and middle class white people were less compelled to enlist, military strategy worked to target minority and low-income students. The Army’s “Hispanic H2 Tour” and the “Takin’ it to the Streets Tour” in the early 2000s proved effective as the proportion of Black and low-income individuals enlisting has grown substantially.²⁸ ²⁹ Enlistment of Indigeous students also grew

²⁴ Operation Order 15-XX, Patriots Pride Battalion School Recruiting Plan (SRP) FY16.

²⁵ OPORD 15-002, Albany Recruiting Battalion SY16 School Recruiting Plan.

²⁶ Ibid.

²⁷ Ibid.

²⁸ Lavariega Monforti, Jessica L. “The Poverty Draft? Exploring the Role of Socioeconomic Status in U.S. Military Recruitment of Hispanic Students.” *University of Texas- Pan American*, 2 Sept. 2010, https://www.researchgate.net/publication/228212120_The_Poverty_Draft_Exploring_the_Role_of_Socioeconomic_Status_in_US_Military_Recruitment_of_Hispanic_Students.

²⁹ Ibid.



disproportionately high as the military “assigned special recruiters to focus solely on [reservations]”-- locations with rampant poverty and little opportunity for jobs. This reality is reflected through the 22,000 Indigeous people in all the services in 2007, “a proportion corresponding to roughly twice their share of the population.”³⁰

A 2011 study from the Pew Research Center found that Black women are enlisting in the military at a much higher rate than white women. Rand Corporation researcher Beth J. Asch was asked about this discrepancy by a *New York Times* reporter, and they stated that the military targets high school graduates looking for job training, good benefits and help with college tuition, and a “high percentage of black women fit that bill.”³¹ Furthermore, the Pew Hispanic Center found Hispanics are overrepresented in the ranks of service members who “directly handle weapons,” implying that “they are overrepresented among those enlisted soldiers who are most often in harm’s way.”³²

Recruiting data revealed that “low and middle-income families are supplying far more Army recruits than families with incomes of more than \$60,000 a year.”³³ Research from the American Journal of Public Health supports the notion that military recruiters are more active in low-income schools:

Sustaining a war with an all-volunteer army is difficult, and military recruiters fell behind. If you're a military recruiter, where do you go to find prospects? Where do you find the most likely to enlist young people—those who may have limited incomes and are worried about affording college? In Seattle, recruiters head to the cafeterias at the lower-income central and south-end high schools (where young people on free and reduced lunch go to get a meal).³⁴

Documents received from FOIA requests reveal a military recruiter appeared in Springfield high schools every other day, on average, while recruiters made no appearances at Lenox High School. While students at Springfield high schools are predominantly low-income students of color, students at Lenox High School are predominantly middle-upper class and white.³⁵ The possibility of scholarships and job experience resonates with low-income students who may feel their options after graduation are limited. Popularly called the “poverty draft,” the tactics notoriously target already economically disadvantaged students.

Our Question

How militarized are Western Massachusetts high schools? The dangers of military service and the lack of accountability for recruiters leave us with questions about students’ safety,

³⁰ Bender, Bryan. “In tribes, tug of enlistment.” *The Boston Globe*, 1 Oct. 2007.

http://archive.boston.com/news/nation/articles/2007/10/01/in_tribes_tug_of_enlistment/

³¹ Dao, James. “Black Women Enlisting at Higher Rates in U.S. Military.” *The New York Times*, 27 Dec. 2011, www.nytimes.com/.

³² Lavariega Monforti, Jessica L. “The Poverty Draft? Exploring the Role of Socioeconomic Status in U.S. Military Recruitment of Hispanic Students.” *University of Texas- Pan American*, 2 September 2010.

³³ Wyant, Carissa. “Who’s Joining the US Military? Poor, Women and Minorities Targeted.” *MintPress News*, 1 Jan. 2013, www.mintpressnews.com/whos-joining-the-us-military-poor-women-and-minorities-targeted/43418/.

³⁴ Barker, Kathy and Amy Hagopian. “Should We End Military Recruitment in High Schools as of Child Protection?” *American Journal of Public Health*. Jan. 2011, <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC300735/>.

³⁵ U.S. Army. “School Activity and Event.” 11 Mar. 2015.



particularly low-income and minority students. While we know the military is involved in our schools, we do not necessarily know in what capacity. This report seeks to uncover the degree of militarism in high schools across Western Massachusetts, and concurrently to inspire action to demilitarize schools. We believe children and teenagers deserve a learning environment free of violence and war.

Methodology

Public Records Requests

In order to obtain documents related to military involvement in public high schools, we submitted public records requests to nearly all public high schools across Western Massachusetts. This comprised 54 high schools in Berkshire, Franklin, Hampden, and Hampshire county. The record requests were addressed to the Record Access Officer and sent via certified USPS mail to each high school. The request called upon school officials to share documents related to 6 aspects of militarism in schools:³⁶

1. The school's opt-out form³⁷ regarding the release of student information to branches of the armed forces that was distributed to students in the 2017-2018 school year, and any and all documents related to the distribution, responses, and collection of that opt-out form including all documents with instructions to students, parents, or guardians regarding this form.
2. Any and all documents received from the Department of Defense regarding requests for student information during the 2017-2018 school year.
3. For the 2017-2018 school year, any and all documents referencing or recording visitation by branches of the military to the high school, including but not limited to, protocol for visits, sign in sheets for visits, recordation of date(s) of visits, duration of visits, locations of visits, materials available to students during the visit, and document reflecting which staff member supervised visits.
4. All documents disclosing recruiter involvement with the daily life of the school during the 2017-2018 school year including but not limited to involvement in the classroom, extracurricular activities, and Parent Teacher Association (PTA) meetings.
5. Any records related to the administration of the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB)³⁸ test during the 2017-2018 school year, including but not limited to records related to the option for recruiter contact chosen, the number of students who took the test, the grades of the students who took the test, and the distribution of test results.
6. Any and all documents related to the Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps (JROTC)³⁹, including but not limited to applications, handbooks, and contracts for the establishment of the

³⁶ Email contact@theresistancecenter for a copy of the full request.

³⁷ **Opt-out forms** are forms that parents or students of age are offered to disallow the military from obtaining the personal information of the student.

³⁸ **The Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB)** is a standardized test distributed by the military to those who decide to take it. In order to take the test, students are required to sign a privacy agreement releasing both their results and personal information to the military (even if they are underage), negating the opt-out form. The exam is marketed as a career inventory test-- by the military and by schools-- however, the US Army Recruiting Command School Recruiting Program has stated the test is used for recruiting purposes, and its ability for determining civilian job skills has not been proven.

³⁹ **The Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC)** is a curriculum of classes offered to high school students by schools who invite the armed services to teach the program. The Department of Defense outlines how JROTC can be used as a recruitment tool. Memorandum 50 states JROTC officials should "facilitate recruiter access to cadets in JROTC program and to the entire student body." In addition, it states [that] employees should "work closely with high school guidance counselors to sell the Army story. Encourage them to display RPIs [Recruiting Publicity Items] and



program, as well as the supervision and meeting times of the program during the 2017-2018 school year.

The initial request was sent on October 18, 2018. Per Massachusetts Public Record Law, school officials had 10 business days to respond to our request.⁴⁰ After 10 business days, we received documents from 19 high schools. After 15 business days, we received documents from 25 high schools-- about 46%. A “failure to respond” notice was sent to the remaining 29 high schools on November 29, 2018. This notice yielded 16 more responses within a month’s time, for a total of 41 responses, or 76%. We sent one more “failure to respond” notice, with the previous requests attached, to the following 13 schools on June 6, 2019. Five of these schools responded, leaving eight schools as nonresponders of a legally binding record request. Nonetheless, our requests yielded an 89% response rate, with participation from 48 schools: the best response TRC has gotten since the first edition of the report.

We kept an electronic copy of all responses received, and filed the original documents. A spreadsheet was created to record what date the request was delivered according to USPS and what date TRC received an initial response. We also recorded if a follow-up with the school was required because of an unclear/incomplete response, as well as if a school failed to respond to the initial request; these two questions were marked with a “yes” or “no” answer. Most importantly, we recorded each item of the record request. The responses to each item were recorded with the following distinctions:

- On record: the record exists and has been provided to TRC
- No record: the school informed TRC the record does not exist
- No record provided: the record may or may not exist, but it has not been provided to TRC and a follow-up is required
- N/A: the school informed us that the item does not apply to the school (i.e., does not host a JROTC program)

Grading

In order to properly evaluate the schools, we focused on three different aspects related to the presence of militarism in school life: school policy, student environment, and responsiveness and transparency. School policy and student environment were given more weight in the grading process due to the fact that Responsiveness and Transparency is less directly related to militarism in schools. Each category was scored with either a “✓”, “✓-”, or “✓+”, with the score corresponding to different quality of responses we received in relation to the items on our record request.

advertising material.” JROTC is also criticized for militarizing young members of society, influencing their understanding of history, and shaping their thoughts in a manner benefiting the US government.

⁴⁰ Galvin, William Frances. “A Guide to the Massachusetts Public Records Law.” Massachusetts Secretary of the Commonwealth: <http://www.sec.state.ma.us/pre/prepdf/guide.pdf>



School Policy:

✓, ✓-, ✓+

Were opt-out forms made available to students and families?

Schools are legally required to provide their students and families with a form allowing them to opt-out of having student information sent to the Department of Defense and different branches of the military. While most public schools have some sort of opt-out option, it is important for those forms to be readily available and easily understood.

Does the school have record of recruiter visits?

While military visits are often part of the presence of militarism in public schools, it is very important that schools keep records of these visits and the personnel involved in them. As data shows, unsupervised visits sometimes lead students being manipulated by military personnel. This is the only way to accurately measure the extent to which the military is present in the school.

Does the school report any other recruiter involvement (besides scheduled military visits)?

Military recruiters will often get involved in more informal, unofficial aspects of student life, such as PTA meetings, cafeteria hang-outs, and involvement in sports teams. All this and more contributes to the increase of military presence in public high schools.

Student Environment:

✓, ✓-, ✓+

Does the school have record of Department of Defense requests for information?

Certain schools received more record requests from the Department of Defense than others, and others received no record requests at all. While schools are legally mandated to turn over information to the Department of Defense if requested, keeping detailed records of these requests is necessary to maintain an accurate depiction of military presence within the school and ensure that students' privacy is being protected had their family opted out of sharing their information.

Does the school administer the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) test?

As a military career placement test, the ASVAB test contributes to a presence of militarism within a school. Schools are not obligated to administer the ASVAB, and doing so adds a new dynamic of military involvement in the school.

Does the school have a Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps (JROTC) program?

Often seen by the military as a funnel into service, JROTC programs offer high school children an opportunity to earn future credit towards an officer position in the military while instilling military values. Like the ASVAB, schools are under no obligation to host such a program.

Responsiveness and Transparency:

✓, ✓-, ✓+

Is a follow-up required with the school for more accurate or complete information?

Many schools required multiple follow-up notices for not addressing each item of our record request. If a school addressed each item in their initial response, they received full credit. If their answer was incomplete, they received no credit.

Did the school fail to respond to the initial record request?

Schools that answered the initial record request within 10-15 days received credit. If a school failed to respond to the record request sent in October 2018, they received no credit.

Schools that received a ✓+ in all three categories were awarded an A grade. Schools that received a combination of ✓s and ✓+s received a B. Schools that scored mostly ✓s in all three



categories received a C, while schools with more incomplete or undocumented responses received a D or F, as well as a ✓- in most categories. A qualitative write-up accompanies each school evaluation to further explain why certain grades were assigned. Each high school had a unique set of data. We understand public schools are not operating with an abundance of resources. We used our discretion to evaluate each school as fairly and as accurately as possible.

Assumptions

In this report we are operating under several assumptions in regard to the information presented. First, we assume that all information provided to us by the schools is true and accurate to the best of their ability. We assume that the response of “N/A” meant that the item did not apply to the school.

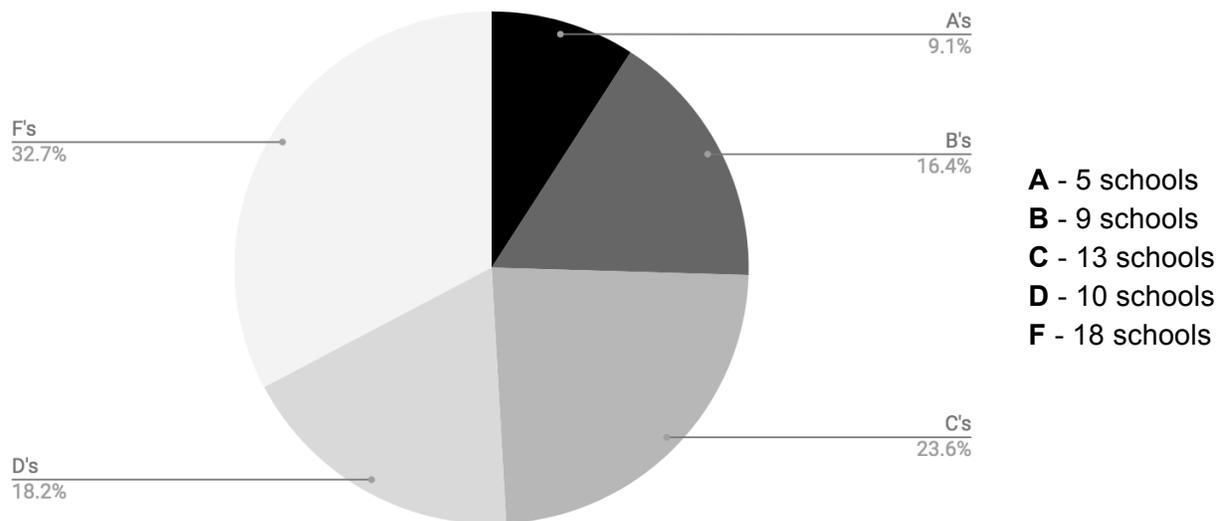
Results

Overview

The grade given to each school is a reflection of the climate of militarism in that school caused by military recruiters more than anything else. While it is important that schools keep careful records of recruiter involvement, it is more important that the military stops recruiting kids. This said, school officials do bear the responsibility of ensuring military recruiters are properly monitored when engaging with their students. 18 out of the 54 schools received a failing grade, while only 5 schools achieved an A.

Overview of Score Distribution:

Breakdown of Letter Grades



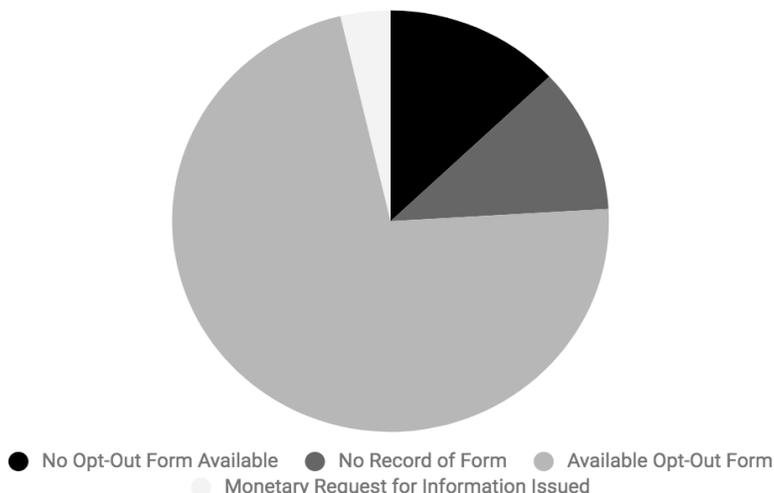
The primary



reasons schools received anything less than an A included not keeping proper documentation of military involvement in school, actively promoting militarism through the ASVAB test, JROTC programming, or any other recruiter involvement, and/or failing to provide us with complete information in a timely manner per Massachusetts public record laws.

School Policy

Availability of Opt-Out Form



Did the school provide a form for students and parents to opt-out of military recruitment efforts, preventing their information from being sent to the Department of Defense?

- Available opt-out form: 39
- Inaccessible opt-out form: 7
- No record of opt-out form provided: 6
- Monetary request for information regarding the opt-out form: 2

Opt-out form: Giving students and families the option to opt-out of having their personal information sent to the Department of Defense is a legal requirement for all schools. The nature of this opt-out varied widely in each school district. While the majority of schools had concrete opt-out forms, a handful of schools provided forms that appeared somewhat inaccessible. For example, Berkshire Arts & Technical School⁴¹ provided an incredibly transparent form with a legal explanation of *No Child Left Behind* (NCLB), and even stated schools risk losing federal funding for noncompliance. While this form is in English, there is a footnote providing an avenue to receive the form in Spanish (a total of 10 schools all offered their opt-out form in Spanish and English). Contrarily, East Longmeadow High School⁴² has their opt-out form tucked away in the student handbook under a “public directory notice,” but this notice mentions nothing about the military and leaves it up to the student’s family to draft their own letter to opt-out of their

⁴¹ See Appendix A for Berkshire Arts & Technical School’s opt-out form.

⁴² See Appendix B East Longmeadow High School’s opt-out form.



information being shared. Overall, 7 schools definitively do not have an accessible opt-out form, while another 6 schools failed to provide us with any record either way.

Recruiter visits: A third of the schools surveyed admitted they did not keep any concrete record of recruiter visits during the 2017-2018 school year. 3 schools reported no recruiter visits during the 2017-2018 school year, while 24 schools had these visits on record in some capacity. Among the high schools that kept no record was Agawam High School, who reports the following:

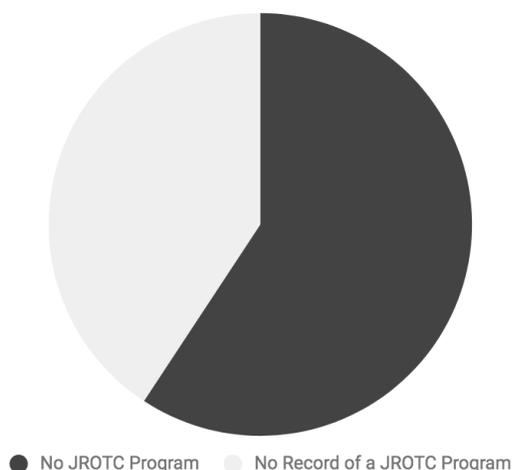
While various branches may request a list of student demographic information, we do not maintain copies of the requests once they are responded to... We do not maintain a listing of those dates, nor do we inventory the materials that offered. While all visitors sign in/out of the building, they do not all necessarily identify they are here are military business, so it would be extremely difficult to obtain an accurate listing.

Out of the schools that did provide record of recruiter visits, we found schools like Lee Middle & High School reporting just 1 visit and Chicopee Comprehensive High School reporting as many as 17 visits. Visits were sometimes reported to take place at career fairs or in the guidance office, but many reported were “lunch room” visits.

Other recruiter involvement: By in large, most schools reported no other recruiter involvement beyond recruiter visits; however, we argue that “lunch room” visits are “other recruiter involvement” as the same opportunity is not offered to or pursued by college and other post-graduate program representatives. Counting these visits, 20% of schools had other recruiter involvement on record, while an additional 35% either admitted they had no record or provided no record.

Student Environment

Records of JROTC Program



Does the school have a JROTC program? If so, do they have documentation regarding that program?

Schools that definitively do not have a JROTC program: **32**

Schools that provided us no record of a JROTC program, or did not deny the existence of one in their school: **22**



JROTC: Of the 54 schools surveyed, 32 denied the existence of an active JROTC program, while 22 did not supply us with any records regarding a JROTC program of any kind. Not a single school surveyed responded affirmatively regarding the existence of a JROTC program. Our independent research reveals the existence of multiple JROTC programs, in Chicopee, Springfield, and Westfield, at the least. These programs are mentioned directly on school websites, or referred to in student handbooks. Despite this, not a single school provided us with records from a JROTC program.

ASVAB: While 17 schools actively do not administer the ASVAB test, 18 schools most certainly do. While some of these schools only had 1 or 2 students sign up, Hoosac Valley Regional had 15 students take the exam and Smith Academy had 22. At some schools, the test is blatantly encouraged. Pioneer Valley Regional High School personnel pitched the military's exam as "an excellent way for students to learn more about potential future career interests." Smith Academy personnel also encouraged the exam:

When students take the ASVAB, their scores are only used to help them identify their strengths, areas of potential growth and information on future planning (i.e., college majors, career paths). None of this information is shared with the military...I highly recommend students take this opportunity, they gain a lot of useful information that can help them with their college selection process and picking a potential major.

Although some schools explicitly noted that they choose not to send the scores to the Armed Forces, Hoosac Valley and Smith Academy were not among them. We can speculate that the scores were perhaps sent, which would negate any opt-out form signed by the family at the beginning of the school year.

Department of Defense requests: 17 schools provided us with documents related to various Department of Defense requests for student information and 30 schools either did not provide us with records or actively admitted they did not keep these records. A handful of schools directly reported that while they received requests from the Department of Defense, the requests were discarded upon completion. 4 schools reported they did not receive any requests from the Department of Defense at all.

One request received by Dean Technical High School from the Air Force opened by thanking the school for "the outstanding support you have provided our recruiting representative," and presented the option of a "personal briefing" for the school's PTA members, as to learn about "educational opportunities for their children." Another request offered a fully funded "vacation" for educators on Parris Island in addition to job fairs, scholarship days, music auditions, physical fitness tests, and anti-drug lectures for students. At the bottom of one request, a barely legible hand-written note suggests the school was asked specifically about "female recruits."

Similarly, the Marine Corps extended an invitation to faculty to a fully funded Educator's Workshop on Parris Island for Amherst-Pelham Regional High School Staff, and Navy personnel sent a letter to Franklin County Tech explaining opportunities for a deeper

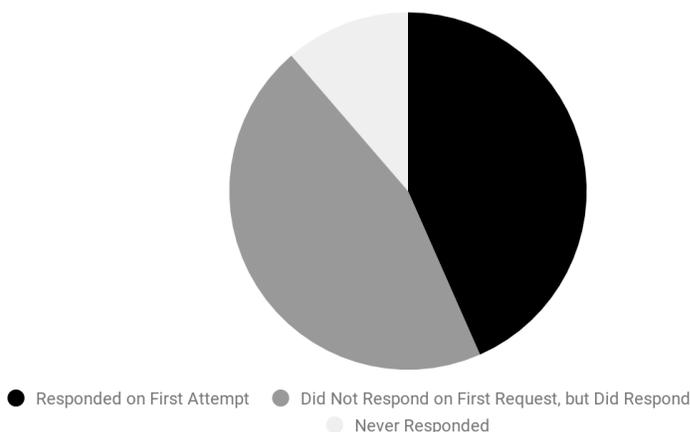


partnership, including Navy ROTC programs which offer students up to \$180,000 in scholarships for college and Navy Teacher Orientations trips.

We do not have documents to confirm school participation in the opportunities the military presented to them.

School Responsiveness & Transparency

School Responsiveness



Schools that responded to our initial record request: 23

Schools that responded after multiple notices: 24

Schools that never responded: 6

Franklin County Technical School is not included in responsiveness & transparency results due to a miscommunication.

Responsiveness: With at least some documentation from 48 out of 54 schools, TRC experienced the best response in the 4 years of constructing this report. Thirty-nine schools responded to our initial request, and while many of these schools did not provide us with complete or clear information, we were more often than not about to follow-up with school officials and find missing information. 6 schools never responded to the request, nor to our follow-up letters, e-mails, and phone calls.

Transparency: Many schools did not initially address every item in our record request. For instance, if a school provided no information on a JROTC program, we did not assume they did not host a program; rather, we followed up and asked them to specifically address the item, even if just to tell us the item did not apply to their high school. Largely, our follow-up questions were successful in getting the information needed. Although, some schools posed special challenges.



Southwick-Tolland-Granville High School personnel refused to answer any questions we asked; rather, in accordance with Massachusetts public records law, they would only provide documents. School personnel refused to indicate whether or not they hosted a JROTC program, administered the ASVAB, or had any other recruiter involvement.

Mohawk Trail Regional High School, Mount Greylock Regional High School, and Smith Academy all required a monetary fee ranging from \$80.00 to \$120.00 in order to fulfill our request because of the time and resources it would take to locate the documents. We sent an appeal to these fees and received documents from Smith Academy. While it is in a school's legal right to request money to fulfill a public record request, it is worth noting these 3 schools stated it would take 1.5-2 hours to find documents related to each item requested.

TRC received a uniform response for 6 Springfield public high schools after sending a “failure to respond” notice. Springfield, which has a school system with a large population of students of color, reported that “personnel in the School Department have advised that there are no records that are responsive to your request” for the last 4 items of our request: military visits, other recruiter involvement, the administration of the ASVAB test, and JROTC programming. We found this highly unlikely, and are still trying to get more information from Springfield public schools.

Analysis & Discussion

Our results reiterate findings of past years: there is a serious lack of accountability and documentation regarding military recruitment in Western Massachusetts high schools. In particular, the physical presence of recruiters in schools was not well-recorded. Active duty recruiters often had almost unbridled access to students, according to much of the data we received regarding the everyday presence of soldiers in schools. With only 5 schools achieving an “A,” the average high school in Western Massachusetts is woefully unaware of the implications of recruiting high school children for the military, and their power to prevent recruitment in their school.

We understand militarism in public schools is a systemic issue, and cannot be ended by a single high school's actions. We also understand that military recruitment is not often discussed when issues of equitable education and social agendas are addressed in our public schools. However, we believe that raising awareness and conducting research regarding military recruitment in Western Massachusetts will lead to better informed school administrators, teachers, and families. Military recruitment in public high schools is a far-reaching and contemporary American issue—one that is too often overlooked.

A Broader Impact

The problem of military recruitment in Western Massachusetts is emblematic of a larger problem of militarism in our nation's public schools. FOIA⁴³ requests revealed detailed school-year plans from military recruiters in both New England and Upstate New York, discussing their methods

⁴³ Freedom of Information Act, Passed July 5th 1967



for establishing a “persistent presence” and performing “routine engagements”⁴⁴ in schools. These reports also detail how recruiters seek to influence life outside of high school as well, specifically targeting places where teens gather, and extending their recruitment efforts to both middle school and 4-year colleges. The New England report also speaks of “focused prospecting”, in which certain students and schools are targeted more aggressively than others. The plans stress the importance of establishing a presence within a community’s most influential spaces (schools, businesses, with principals, superintendents, etc).

Advantages, Limitations, and Future Research

The 4th edition of this report is by far the most extensive and the most detailed. TRC changed the nature of the record request to align more closely with Massachusetts public records law. In past years, school personnel received a survey-style sheet to fill out. While the survey sheet was useful in its own right, schools were not legally obligated to answer our questions. We partially attribute our high response rate for the legal nature of our request. In addition to this change in the record request, TRC had more staff dedicated to the report than in previous years. The staffing increase allowed for us to follow up with schools more closely to get the most accurate information possible. That said, there is still room for improvement.

In the 5th edition of the report, we plan to send record requests to the direct address of the record access officer, rather than to the school’s address. We also plan to follow up with schools about any missing records and information as soon as we receive their response, rather than months later. We attempted following up with some schools in June and July 2019, and reasonably found that schools are much harder to communicate with over summer vacation as much of the staff is away.

Most importantly, TRC aims to build lasting relationships with schools in the Western Massachusetts community, creating trust and better informing students about peaceful post-graduation options. This report is not intended to be a rebuke to the high schools evaluated, as we recognize that those schools are often simply abiding by federal law, and are part of a much larger culture of militarism surrounding youth and public school. It is the US military that is unjustly targeting adolescents for recruitment, not high school administrations. However, it is up to individual schools to change their policies and set an example for a peaceful and well-informed learning environment free from military influence.

Recommendations

Until federal law changes, schools cannot legally force military recruiters out of our high schools; however, they can make it much more difficult for them to target our students. Teachers, guidance counselors, principals, superintendents, and school committee members can advocate for and create protocols that will limit recruiter involvement with students. Everyone in the school system can play a part in protecting students’ privacy and keeping recruiters out.

⁴⁴ Operation Order 15-XX, Patriots Pride Battalion School Recruiting Plan (SRP) FY16.



Teachers & Guidance Counselors

While guidance counselors and teachers cannot change school policy by themselves, they can use their role to better inform students and families about their rights and the risk of military service. If a student's family signs an "opt-out" form at the beginning of the school year, the Department of Defense is forbidden from soliciting that student. Guidance counselors and teachers have an opportunity to spread awareness about the opt-out form and ensure students know their options beyond the military, but as we discovered the form is rarely well-advertised to students and families. Accordingly, here are our recommendations for counselors and teachers:

1. Fully inform students of their right to opt-out of sharing their personal contact information with military recruiters, ensure students have opt-out forms readily available, and ensure the school protects the privacy of students who submitted the form.
2. Make certain that opt-out forms need to be clear for *all* to understand, and be accommodating to families where English is a second language.
3. Educate students and families on the risks of enlistment and share alternatives to military service with students who are considering enlistment, or seek out alternative viewpoints (organizations articulating opposition to military services for graduating high school students).
4. Advocate for school policies that will ensure recruiter involvement is both monitored and limited in your high school.

Principals, Superintendents & School Committee Members

Principals, superintendents, and school committee members have significant influence when it comes to school policy. School committees have the power to put policies in place that both monitor and limit military recruiter involvement in the high school. Here are our asks for them:

1. Ensure schools maintain a written policy regarding recruiter visits that is sent home to students and families.
2. Ensure schools keep a careful record of the frequency and duration of recruiter visits and require staff supervision during each of these visits.
3. Establish policies that prohibit JROTC program at your high school.
4. Establish policies that prohibit the administration of the ASVAB test. Until the ASVAB is prohibited, schools that administer the test ought to inform students that taking the ASVAB can negate the opt-out form and advise students taking the ASVAB to select Option 8 in regard to the ASVAB; this bars all data collected from the test to be sent from the military, and makes it only accessible to the administration.

The Resistance Center is eager to help eliminate military presence in Western Massachusetts schools. In addition to these recommendations, we are publishing a tool-kit for opposing military recruitment in high schools, which features information included in this report as well as other more general policy and activism methods. Work to end military recruitment truly begins in schools, as they are a center of recruitment for all branches of the military. This is all part of an effort to reduce the normalized and ubiquitous presence of war and militarism in our everyday lives, especially in the lives of our children.



Appendices

A. Berkshire Arts and Technology School's opt-out form.



Dear Parent,

Each school district is required to notify parents and students of the following information:

When Congress passed the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) in 2001, they included a provision that requires high schools to release students' private information to military recruiters or risk losing federal funding. **Under NCLB, public high schools must give military recruiters students' information unless parents "opt out" in writing.** Recruiters use this information, which includes names, addresses, and phone numbers to individually recruit students through phone calls and in-person visits.

You may opt out by checking the appropriate box below and returning it to:

BART Charter Public School
One Commercial Place
PO Box 267
Adams, MA 01220

____ As a parent, I request that you do not turn over the name, address, telephone listing and school records to the Armed Services, Military Recruiters, or Military Schools of the following student.

____ As a student (18 years or older), I request my own name, address, telephone number and school records not be released to the Armed Forces, Military Recruiters, or Military Schools.

Student Name: _____

Parent Signature (or student 18 years of age or older):

Date _____

Atención: Si usted necesita una traducción al Español de este o cualquier otro documento, por favor póngase en contacto con Erin Halloway. Teléfono: 413-743-7311, ext. 712

B. East Longmeadow High School's opt-out clause in their student handbook.

Public Notice - Public Directory Notice

The East Longmeadow Public Schools may release the following information without prior consent: "a student's name, address, telephone listing, date and place of birth, major field of study, dates of attendance, weight and height of members of athletic teams, class, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, degrees, honors, and awards, and post-high school plans."



Grades

School	Grade
Agawam High School	D
Amherst-Pelham Regional High School	B
Belchertown High School	B
Berkshire Arts & Tech Charter Public School	A
Chicopee Comprehensive High School	F
Chicopee High School	F
Dean Technical High School	F
Drury High School	D
Easthampton High School	A
East Longmeadow High School	D
Four Rivers Charter Public School	A
Franklin County Technical School	B
Frontier Regional School	B
Gateway Regional High School	C
Granby Jr/Sr High School	C
Greenfield High School	D
Hampshire Regional High School	C
Holyoke High School	B



Hoosac Valley High School	C
Hopkins Academy	A
Lee Middle and High School	C
Longmeadow High School	B
Ludlow High School	C
McCann Technical School	B
Minnechaug Regional High School	F
Mohawk Trail Regional High School	D
Monson High School	F
Monument Mountain Regional High School	D
Mount Everett Regional School	F
Mount Greylock Regional School	D
Northampton High School	B
Palmer High School	C
Pioneer Valley Regional School	C
Pittsfield High School	F
Pioneer Valley Performing Arts Charter Public School	A
Putnam Vocational Technical School	F
Ralph C. Mahar Regional School	C
Smith Academy	D



Smith Vocational and Agricultural School	C
South Hadley High School	C
Southwick-Tolland-Granville Regional School	D
Springfield Central High School	F
Springfield High School of Commerce	F
Springfield Conservatory of the Arts School	F
Springfield Public Day High School	F
Springfield Renaissance School	F
Springfield High School of Science and Technology	F
Taconic High School	F
Turners Falls High School	C
Wahconah Regional High School	F
Ware Junior/Senior High School	F
West Springfield High School	D
Westfield High School	C
Westfield Technical Academy	F



Agawam High School

Hampden County
760 Cooper St, Agawam MA

Grade: D

School Policy	✓-
Were opt-out forms made available to students and families?	Yes
Does the school keep record of recruiter visits?	No
Does the school report any other recruiter involvement?	Yes
Student Environment	✓
Does the school administer the ASVAB test?	No
Does the school have a JROTC program?	No
Does the school keep record of Department of Defense requests?	No
Responsiveness and Transparency	✓+
Did the school fail to respond to our initial record request?	No
Is a follow-up required for more information?	No

While Agawam High School responded to TRC’s 1st record request, their response raises some red flags. The opt-out form is provided to students through both the student handbook and the student agenda, although it is unclear how aware students and families are of the form. School personnel admitted most records related to military involvement are not kept. “Various branches” of the military request student information, yet they “do not maintain copies of the requests once they are responded to.” Their practice with recruiter visits are similar. The school further claimed “various recruiters” come into the school during lunch periods, but they “do not maintain a listing of those dates, nor do we inventory the materials that are offered.” More alarmingly, “[recruiters] do not all necessarily identify that they are here on military business” when signing in and out of the school.



Amherst-Pelham Regional High School
Hampshire County
21 Mattoon Street, Amherst MA

Grade: B

School Policy	✓+
Were opt-out forms made available to students and families?	Yes
Does the school keep record of recruiter visits?	Yes
Does the school report any other recruiter involvement?	No
Student Environment	✓
Does the school administer the ASVAB test?	Yes
Does the school have a JROTC program?	No
Does the school keep record of Department of Defense requests?	Yes
Responsiveness and Transparency	✓+
Did the school fail to respond to our initial record request?	No
Is a follow-up required for more information?	No

Amherst-Pelham Regional High School responded to our 1st request. Their records show an opt-out form is distributed to families before the academic year begins with clear instructions for parents in both Spanish and English. They kept record of Department of Defense requests for student information from the Army and the Marine Corps. Both of these branches asked for the full names, addresses, and telephone numbers of 11th and 12th grade students. While the Army specified that this information should not include students who have opted out, the Marine Corps did not make this distinction. In addition, the Marine Corps invited faculty to a fully funded Educator’s Workshop on Parris Island. The school reported 1 recruiter visit from the Army and 1 recruiter visit from the National Guard. School personnel stated they “believe” the ASVAB had been administered to 4 students during the 2017-2018 school year, although they do not keep a record of the test.



Belchertown High School
Hampshire County
142 Springfield Road, Belchertown MA

Grade: B

School Policy	✓+
Were opt-out forms made available to students and families?	Yes
Does the school keep record of recruiter visits?	Yes
Does the school report any other recruiter involvement?	No
Student Environment	✓
Does the school administer the ASVAB test?	Yes
Does the school have a JROTC program?	No
Does the school keep record of Department of Defense requests?	N/A
Responsiveness and Transparency	✓
Did the school fail to respond to our initial record request?	Yes
Is a follow-up required for more information?	No

Belchertown High School responded to our 3rd notice sent to school officials. Their opt-out form is distributed to upperclassmen in the “11th and 12th grade packets” distributed at the beginning of the school year. School personnel implied that because recruiters only ask for 11th and 12th grade information (names, addresses, phone numbers, and school emails), only these students receive the opt-out form. Contrarily, school personnel also reported that the school has never received a request for student information from the Department of Defense. Records show 2 visits from the Marine Corps, 1 visit from the Army, and 1 visit from the Navy. These visits are “never behind closed doors,” and rather scheduled in common spaces “within earshot of multiple BHS Guidance Office staff members.” While the school administered the ASVAB test twice, school personnel states the test results are not distributed to anyone.



Berkshire Arts & Technical Charter School
 Berkshire County
 1 Commercial Street, Adams MA

Grade: A

School Policy	✓+
Were opt-out forms made available to students and families?	Yes
Does the school keep record of recruiter visits?	N/A
Does the school report any other recruiter involvement?	No
Student Environment	✓
Does the school administer the ASVAB test?	No
Does the school have a JROTC program?	No
Does the school keep record of Department of Defense requests?	No
Responsiveness and Transparency	✓+
Did the school fail to respond to our initial record request?	No
Is a follow-up required for more information?	No

Berkshire Arts & Technological Charter High School (BART) responded soon after TRC's initial request was sent. Their opt-out form is incredibly transparent with an explanation of *No Child Left Behind* (NCLB), explaining that schools risk losing federal funding for noncompliance. While this form is provided in English, there is a footnote providing a contact person to receive the form in Spanish. The school appears to receive requests from the Department of Defense, but they admitted that they do not keep these requests on file after the information is sent. During the 2017-2018 school year, BART had no recruiter visits; however, they have a strict policy for all college and recruiter visits which includes close staff supervision.



Chicopee Comprehensive High School
Hampden County
617 Montgomery Street, Chicopee MA

Grade: F

School Policy	✓
Were opt-out forms made available to students and families?	Yes
Does the school keep record of recruiter visits?	Yes
Does the school report any other recruiter involvement?	No record provided
Student Environment	✓
Does the school administer the ASVAB test?	Yes
Does the school have a JROTC program?	No record provided
Does the school keep record of Department of Defense requests?	No record provided
Responsiveness and Transparency	✓
Did the school fail to respond to our initial record request?	No
Is a follow-up required for more information?	Yes

Refer to Chicopee High School report on the following page.



Chicopee High School
Hampden County
820 Front Street, Chicopee MA

Grade: F

School Policy	✓-
Were opt-out forms made available to students and families?	Yes
Does the school keep record of recruiter visits?	Yes
Does the school report any other recruiter involvement?	No record provided
Student Environment	✓-
Does the school administer the ASVAB test?	Yes
Does the school have a JROTC program?	No record provided
Does the school keep record of Department of Defense requests?	No record provided
Responsiveness and Transparency	✓-
Did the school fail to respond to our initial record request?	No
Is a follow-up required for more information?	Yes

The superintendent of Chicopee Public Schools issued a response for both high schools in the district after TRC's second notice was sent. There was no distinction provided for documents related to Chicopee Comprehensive High School vs. Chicopee High School. In an attempt to follow up about missing information in January 2019 and again in June 2019, TRC heard no response. Their opt-out form is included in a small blurb alongside other signatures needed by families at the beginning of the school year. A handwritten note included in their response claimed 661 student names from grades 11 and 12 were submitted to military personnel. Documents further reveal a total of 17 recruiter visits during student lunches in the 2017-2018 year: 7 Navy visits, 6 Army visits, 2 Marine Corps visits, and 2 Air Force visits. School documents also record administration of the ASVAB test twice in the 2017-2018 school year. While school district personnel did not provide TRC with information about a JROTC program, a simple Google search reveals both high schools do indeed host a program. It is worth noting that our initial record request sent to Chicopee High School was not delivered and returned to TRC; however, a phone conversation with school district personnel clarified the request pertained to both public high schools in Chicopee.



Dean Technical High School
 Hampden County
 1045 Main St, Holyoke MA

Grade: F

School Policy	✓-
Were opt-out forms made available to students and families?	No
Does the school keep record of recruiter visits?	No
Does the school report any other recruiter involvement?	No
Student Environment	✓-
Does the school administer the ASVAB test?	No Record Provided
Does the school have a JROTC program?	No Record Provided
Does the school keep record of Department of Defense requests?	Yes
Responsiveness and Transparency	✓-
Did the school fail to respond to our initial record request?	Yes
Is a follow-up required for more information?	Yes

Dean Technical High School responded to TRC’s second notice, but school personnel only provided documents pertaining to the Department of Defense requests. The school received 3 requests from the Air Force. One request opened by thanking the school for “the outstanding support you have provided our recruiting representative,” and presented the option of a “personal briefing” for the school’s PTA members, as to learn about “educational opportunities for their children.” Another request offered a fully funded “vacation” for educators on Parris Island in addition to job fairs, scholarship days, music auditions, physical fitness tests, and anti-drug lectures for students. At the bottom of one request, a barely legible hand-written note suggests the school was asked specifically about “female recruits.” TRC attempted to follow up with the school 3 times to obtain more information and received no response. While the school provided no record of a JROTC program, the school’s website indicates they do host such a program.



Drury High School
 Berkshire County
 1130 Church Street, North Adams MA

Grade: D

School Policy	✓
Were opt-out forms made available to students and families?	Yes
Does the school keep record of recruiter visits?	No
Does the school report any other recruiter involvement?	No
Student Environment	✓-
Does the school administer the ASVAB test?	Yes
Does the school have a JROTC program?	No
Does the school keep record of Department of Defense requests?	No
Responsiveness and Transparency	✓-
Did the school fail to respond to our initial record request?	No
Is a follow-up required for more information?	Yes

Drury High School responded to TRC’s second notice. The only actual documentation provided to us was a form detailing the scheduling of the ASVAB test. They addressed each item, but the responses were not thorough, and did not include school documents. School personnel admitted that many records are not kept. For the opt-out form, they directed us to the documents they submitted to TRC last year as it had not changed.



East Longmeadow High School
Hampden County
180 Maple Street, East Longmeadow MA

Grade: D

School Policy	✓-
Were opt-out forms made available to students and families?	No
Does the school keep record of recruiter visits?	No
Does the school report any other recruiter involvement?	Yes
Student Environment	✓
Does the school administer the ASVAB test?	Yes
Does the school have a JROTC program?	No
Does the school keep record of Department of Defense requests?	No
Responsiveness and Transparency	✓-
Did the school fail to respond to our initial record request?	Yes
Is a follow-up required for more information?	Yes

East Longmeadow High School personnel responded in July of 2019 about a month after receiving a 3rd notice from TRC. School personnel claimed that the opt-out form is provided in the student handbook under a “public directory notice,” but this notice mentions nothing about the military and leaves it up to the student’s family to draft their own letter to opt-out of their information being shared. The school provided one request for information from the Marine Corps, although the request itself is not dated. The context implies it is a much older request as it mentions the “recent” Solomon Amendment passed in 1996⁴⁵ and includes a section stating the school has until May 21, 2002 “to comply with the requirement.” While the school reports military visits and other military involvement, they have no record of this. The superintendent reported that the school invites recruiters to the college fair, allows recruiters to set up tables in the fall and spring outside of the lunch room, and administers the ASVAB test twice a year to students in 10th, 11th, and 12th grade.

⁴⁵ “Solomon Amendment & FERPA.” Southern Methodist University.
[https://www.smu.edu/LegalDisclosures/FERPA/Solomon.](https://www.smu.edu/LegalDisclosures/FERPA/Solomon)



Easthampton High School
Hampshire County
70 Williston Avenue, Easthampton MA

Grade: A

School Policy	✓+
Were opt-out forms made available to students and families?	Yes
Does the school have records of recruiter visits?	Yes
Does the school report any other recruiter involvement?	No
Student Environment	✓+
Does the school administer the ASVAB test?	No
Does the school have a JROTC program?	No
Does the school keep record of Department of Defense requests?	N/A
Responsiveness and Transparency	✓
Did the school fail to respond to our initial record request?	No
Is a follow-up required for more information?	Yes

Easthampton High School responded to our initial request. They provided documentation of 5 lunch time recruiter visits during the 2017-2018 school year: 2 from the Army, 1 from the Navy, 1 from the Airforce, and 1 from the Marines. Their opt-out form explains why the school is obligated to release students' information upon request from the Department of Defense. A follow-up was required, because Easthampton High School did not originally answer 4 of our questions. Upon following up, we learned that Easthampton High School did not consider those questions to be applicable. The school stated they did not receive any information requests from the Department of Defense, and they do not allow recruiter involvement outside scheduled lunch time visits. Additionally, they did not administer an ASVAB test and they do not have a JROTC program.



Four Rivers Charter School
Franklin County
248 Colrain Road, Greenfield MA

Grade: A

School Policy	✓+
Were opt-out forms made available to students and families?	Yes
Does the school have records of recruiter visits?	N/A
Does the school report any other recruiter involvement?	No
Student Environment	✓+
Does the school administer the ASVAB test?	No
Does the school have a JROTC program?	No
Does the school keep record of Department of Defense requests?	N/A
Responsiveness and Transparency	✓+
Did the school fail to respond to our initial record request?	No
Is a follow-up required for more information?	No

Four Rivers Charter School responded to TRC’s first request with all requested information. School personnel reported no Department of Defense requests for student info, no military visits, no administration of the ASVAB, and no JROTC program. Four Rivers is a great example of a school without a persistent military presence in student life, although their opt-out form could be made more accessible to families.



Franklin County Technical High School
Franklin County
82 Industrial Boulevard, Turners Falls MA

Grade: B

School Policy	✓
Were opt-out forms made available to students and families?	Yes
Does the school have records of recruiter visits?	Yes
Does the school report any other recruiter involvement?	No
Student Environment	✓
Does the school administer the ASVAB test?	No
Does the school have a JROTC program?	No
Does the school keep record of Department of Defense requests?	Yes
Responsiveness and Transparency	N/A
Did the school fail to respond to our initial record request?	N/A
Is a follow-up required for more information?	N/A

Franklin County Technical School provides a thorough opt-out form to families reviewing NCLB legislation. The school provided 4 Department of Defense requests for student information: 1 from the Army, 1 from the Air Force, and 2 from the Navy. Navy personnel sent an additional letter to the school explaining opportunities for a deeper partnership, including Navy ROTC programs which offer students up to \$180,000 in scholarships for college and Navy Teacher Orientations trips. The school reported visits from the Army, the MA National Guard, and the Navy for a total of 3 recruiter visits. Unfortunately there was a miscommunication during the processing of Franklin County’s results, the cause of which is still unknown. In order to reflect this miscommunication, TRC has voided the “Responsiveness and Transparency” section of the report.



Frontier Regional High School
Franklin County
113 North Main Street, South Deerfield MA

Grade: B

School Policy	✓+
Were opt-out forms made available to students and families?	Yes
Does the school have records of recruiter visits?	Yes
Does the school report any other recruiter involvement?	No
Student Environment	✓
Does the school administer the ASVAB test?	Yes
Does the school have a JROTC program?	No
Does the school keep record of Department of Defense requests?	No
Responsiveness and Transparency	✓+
Did the school fail to respond to our initial record request?	No
Is a follow-up required for more information?	No

Frontier Regional High School sent a thorough response after TRC’s initial request. The school received 4 requests for student information from the Department of Defense, but they do not keep a record of the requests. School personnel reported a visit from the Army National Guard and 2 visits from the Navy. While the school administered the ASVAB, only 1 student partook in the 2017-2018 school year.



Gateway Regional High School
Hampshire County
12 Littleville Road, Huntington MA

Grade: C

School Policy	✓
Were opt-out forms made available to students and families?	Yes
Does the school have records of recruiter visits?	Yes
Does the school report any other recruiter involvement?	No
Student Environment	✓
Does the school administer the ASVAB test?	Yes
Does the school have a JROTC program?	No
Does the school keep record of Department of Defense requests?	No
Responsiveness and Transparency	✓
Did the school fail to respond to our initial record request?	Yes
Is a follow-up required for more information?	Yes

Gateway Regional High School has a great example of an informative and simple opt-out form. They also have a protocol for visitors at the school, including military recruiters. They recorded 8 recruiter visits to their cafeteria throughout the school year, which is a substantial amount. The school keeps no record of Department of Defense requests, although they acknowledge in their opt-out form that they receive requests for student information.



Granby Jr/Senior High School
Hampshire County
385 East State Street, Granby MA

Grade: C

School Policy	✓
Were opt-out forms made available to students and families?	No
Does the school have records of recruiter visits?	Yes
Does the school report any other recruiter involvement?	No
Student Environment	✓
Does the school administer the ASVAB test?	No
Does the school have a JROTC program?	No
Does the school keep record of Department of Defense requests?	No
Responsiveness and Transparency	✓
Did the school fail to respond to our initial record request?	No
Is a follow-up required for more information?	Yes

Granby Jr/Sr High School does not have a full page opt-out form; rather, they include an opt-out clause in a list of forms as their official opt-out form. Granby’s response was not very thorough, and there was some confusion as to the status of information requested from both the Department of Defense and different branches of the military. Although we sent a follow up request, our attempt at following up with the goal of receiving more information/documentation was unsuccessful.



Greenfield High School
Franklin County
1 Lenox Avenue, Greenfield MA

Grade: D

School Policy	✓-
Were opt-out forms made available to students and families?	Yes
Does the school have records of recruiter visits?	No
Does the school report any other recruiter involvement?	Yes
Student Environment	✓-
Does the school administer the ASVAB test?	No record
Does the school have a JROTC program?	No record
Does the school keep record of Department of Defense requests?	No
Responsiveness and Transparency	✓-
Did the school fail to respond to our initial record request?	Yes
Is a follow-up required for more information?	Yes

Greenfield High School responded on our second attempt of a record request. Because of a change in administration, school officials were not able to locate many of the documents requested. While they have a thorough opt-out form with clear instruction, they do not appear to keep a careful record of any other recruiter involvement. School personnel loosely reports that recruiters spend about an hour and a half visiting in the school lunch room with supervision from lunch staff and administrators.



Hampshire Regional High School
Hampshire County
19 Stage Road, Westhampton MA

Grade: C

School Policy	✓
Were opt-out forms made available to students and families?	Yes
Does the school have records of recruiter visits?	Yes
Does the school report any other recruiter involvement?	No
Student Environment	✓
Does the school administer the ASVAB test?	Yes
Does the school have a JROTC program?	No
Does the school keep record of Department of Defense requests?	Yes
Responsiveness and Transparency	✓
Did the school fail to respond to our initial record request?	No
Is a follow-up required for more information?	Yes

While the school provides an opt-out form, it is provided to students as a small clause in a lengthy document. The school administered the ASVAB test, but then chose not to send scores to the military. In addition to one Army recruiter visit, the school also included a “Military Pathways” panel during their “Life After HRHS Planning Workshops” in March of 2018. This workshop is said to explore “options within the military.” Representatives from different branches were to discuss “the benefits and challenges of being a full-time member of the military.” The Air Force is on record for requesting information of 11th and 12th graders.



Holyoke High School
Hampden County
500 Beech Street, Holyoke MA

Grade: B

School Policy	✓
Were opt-out forms made available to students and families?	Yes
Does the school have records of recruiter visits?	Yes
Does the school report any other recruiter involvement?	Yes
Student Environment	✓
Does the school administer the ASVAB test?	No
Does the school have a JROTC program?	No
Does the school keep record of Department of Defense requests?	No record
Responsiveness and Transparency	✓
Did the school fail to respond to our initial record request?	No
Is a follow-up required for more information?	Yes

While the school provided us with military recruiter contacts on file, they did not report any dates of specific visits. They provided their calendar outlining college visits, but no military visits were found. Contrarily, school personnel reports one military recruiter visit in the fall and one in the spring, in addition to a “lunch table set-up” for students. Records received indicate there are 2 campuses at Holyoke High School. While we marked Holyoke High School to have no ASVAB, the information stated “[ASVAB] does not apply to Holyoke High School North.” Holyoke High School’s opt-out form was provided in both English and Spanish, a thoughtful decision that makes the opt-out form more accessible to families.



Hoosac Valley High School
 Berkshire County
 125 Savoy Road, Cheshire MA

Grade: C

School Policy	✓
Were opt-out forms made available to students and families?	Yes
Does the school have records of recruiter visits?	Yes
Does the school report any other recruiter involvement?	Yes
Student Environment	✓
Does the school administer the ASVAB test?	Yes
Does the school have a JROTC program?	No
Does the school keep record of Department of Defense requests?	Yes
Responsiveness and Transparency	✓+
Did the school fail to respond to our initial record request?	No
Is a follow-up required for more information?	Yes

Hoosac Valley’s guidance secretary responded to TRC’s first request noting that they had recently taken on the position that had been left vacant for several months. The records provided show 4 lunch time visits from the Air Force and 1 from the Army, as well as 15 juniors and seniors signed up for the ASVAB test. They responded to our initial request and answered follow-up questions in a very timely manner, meaning that Hoosac Valley was more responsive than many of the high schools.



Hopkins Academy
Hampshire County
131 Russell Street, Hadley MA

Grade: A

School Policy	✓+
Were opt-out forms made available to students and families?	Yes
Does the school have records of recruiter visits?	Yes
Does the school report any other recruiter involvement?	No
Student Environment	✓+
Does the school administer the ASVAB test?	No
Does the school have a JROTC program?	No
Does the school keep record of Department of Defense requests?	Yes
Responsiveness and Transparency	✓+
Did the school fail to respond to our initial record request?	No
Is a follow-up required for more information?	No

Hopkins Academy is exemplary in terms of documenting the presence of militarism in their school, and resisting efforts to expand military programs such as ASVAB and JROTC into student life. They were thorough in their response and provided us with documentation and/or responses to every question asked.



Lee Middle & High School
Berkshire County
300 Greylock Street, Lee MA

Grade: C

School Policy	✓
Were opt-out forms made available to students and families?	Yes
Does the school have records of recruiter visits?	Yes
Does the school report any other recruiter involvement?	Yes
Student Environment	✓
Does the school administer the ASVAB test?	No
Does the school have a JROTC program?	No
Does the school keep record of Department of Defense requests?	No
Responsiveness and Transparency	✓
Did the school fail to respond to our initial record request?	No
Is a follow-up required for more information?	Yes

Lee Middle & High School responded to TRC's initial record request. School personnel reported the school no longer has copies of Department of Defense request for student information from the 2017-2018 school year, but know that 2 requests were made. They also reported one lunch room visit from a military recruiter.



Longmeadow High School
Hampden County
95 Grass Gutter Road, Longmeadow MA

Grade: B

School Policy	✓
Were opt-out forms made available to students and families?	No
Does the school have records of recruiter visits?	Yes
Does the school report any other recruiter involvement?	No
Student Environment	✓+
Does the school administer the ASVAB test?	No
Does the school have a JROTC program?	No
Does the school keep record of Department of Defense requests?	Yes
Responsiveness and Transparency	✓-
Did the school fail to respond to our initial record request?	Yes
Is a follow-up required for more information?	Yes

Longmeadow High School provided TRC with all of the documents we asked for, although we had to send multiple follow-up requests to get all the information requested. While Longmeadow High technically has an option for students to opt-out of having their information sent to recruiters, it is only a clause in the Longmeadow Student Handbook stating that “Unless Longmeadow receives documentation of the parent/student’s refusal by September 15th, Longmeadow will designate the aforementioned information as directory information and will release the requested information to military recruiters or institutions of higher education,” thus placing the burden of drafting an opt-out letter on families.



Ludlow Senior High School
Hampden County
500 Chapin Street, Ludlow MA

Grade: C

School Policy	✓
Were opt-out forms made available to students and families?	Yes
Does the school have records of recruiter visits?	Yes
Does the school report any other recruiter involvement?	No
Student Environment	✓
Does the school administer the ASVAB test?	Yes
Does the school have a JROTC program?	No
Does the school keep record of Department of Defense requests?	Yes
Responsiveness and Transparency	✓
Did the school fail to respond to our initial record request?	No
Is a follow-up required for more information?	Yes

Ludlow High School responded to our initial record request. Although there is an option for parents to opt-out of having their child's information sent to different branches of the military, there is no official form, and instead a written request must be sent to the school from a parent. Ludlow High School has records of many school visits by military recruiters, and although they do not have a JROTC program, they do administer the ASVAB test.



McCann Technical High School
 Berkshire County
 70 Hodges Cross Road, North Adams MA

Grade: B

School Policy	✓+
Were opt-out forms made available to students and families?	Yes
Does the school have records of recruiter visits?	Yes
Does the school report any other recruiter involvement?	Yes
Student Environment	✓+
Does the school administer the ASVAB test?	No
Does the school have a JROTC program?	No
Does the school keep record of Department of Defense requests?	Yes
Responsiveness and Transparency	✓
Did the school fail to respond to our initial record request?	Yes
Is a follow-up required for more information?	No

McCann Technical High School did not respond to our initial record request, but after a failure-to-respond notice was sent to them, they provided all of the documentation they had regarding military recruiters and visitation. Their opt-out form is not independent, but included in a list of parent permissions within the student handbook. Interestingly, McCann Technical High School also provided us with a document given to them by the Navy entitled “US NAVY EDUCATOR ORIENTATION TRIP,” offering an all expenses paid, four day trip to Jacksonville, FL wherein educators and guidance counselors will be shown that the “military and particularly Navy [should be considered] as a positive life experience.”



Minnechaug Regional High School
Hampden County
621 Main Street, Wilbraham MA

Grade: F (No response)

School Policy	✓-
Were opt-out forms made available to students and families?	No record provided
Does the school have records of recruiter visits?	No record provided
Does the school report any other recruiter involvement?	No record provided
Student Environment	✓-
Does the school administer the ASVAB test?	No record provided
Does the school have a JROTC program?	No record provided
Does the school keep record of Department of Defense requests?	No record provided
Responsiveness and Transparency	✓-
Did the school fail to respond to our initial record request?	Yes
Is a follow-up required for more information?	Yes

After 4 attempts to contact school personnel with no response, Minnechaug received a failing grade.



Mohawk Trail Regional High School
 Franklin County
 26 Ashfield Road, Shelburne Falls MA

Grade: D

School Policy	✓
Were opt-out forms made available to students and families?	Monetary Request
Does the school have records of recruiter visits?	Monetary Request
Does the school report any other recruiter involvement?	No
Student Environment	✓
Does the school administer the ASVAB test?	No
Does the school have a JROTC program?	No
Does the school keep record of Department of Defense requests?	Monetary Request
Responsiveness and Transparency	✓-
Did the school fail to respond to our initial record request?	No
Is a follow-up required for more information?	Yes

Mohawk Regional’s superintendent answered TRC’s initial record request in a very timely manner. While they admitted the ASVAB test, JROTC programming, and other recruiter involvement do not pertain to Mohawk Regional, they requested \$80.10 to complete the rest of our request claiming it would take 4.5 hours to find the documents. While it is in their legal right to request money, we sent an appeal to this request. After not hearing back for months, we attempted to follow-up again with no success.



Monson High School
Hampden County
55 Margaret St, Monson MA

Grade: F (No response)

School Policy	✓-
Were opt-out forms made available to students and families?	No Record Provided
Does the school have records of recruiter visits?	No Record Provided
Does the school report any other recruiter involvement?	No Record Provided
Student Environment	✓-
Does the school administer the ASVAB test?	No Record Provided
Does the school have a JROTC program?	No Record Provided
Does the school keep record of Department of Defense requests?	No Record Provided
Responsiveness and Transparency	✓-
Did the school fail to respond to our initial record request?	Yes
Is a follow-up required for more information?	Yes

Monson High School did not respond to our three separate attempts to contact them regarding this information. TRC understands the workload and seasonal staffing issues that many high schools have, but also believes that responsiveness and transparency are crucial to maintaining an open environment for students.



Monument Mountain Regional High School
 Berkshire County
 600 Stockbridge Rd, Great Barrington, MA

Grade: D

School Policy	✓-
Were opt-out forms made available to students and families?	No
Does the school have records of recruiter visits?	No
Does the school report any other recruiter involvement?	Yes
Student Environment	✓-
Does the school administer the ASVAB test?	No record
Does the school have a JROTC program?	No record
Does the school keep record of Department of Defense requests?	No
Responsiveness and Transparency	✓-
Did the school fail to respond to our initial record request?	Yes
Is a follow-up required for more information?	Yes

Monument Mountain Regional responded to TRC’s 3rd notice and provided incomplete information. While school personnel informed us that they keep an opt-out form on their registration form with a box to be filled out about being contacted by the military, they did not provide us with this form. School personnel reported 6 total lunchtime, 4 from the Army and 2 from the Navy; however, these visits were for the 2018-2019 school year, rather than the 2017-2018 school year as we requested. The school reported they kept no record of Department of Defense requests, and provided no other acknowledgement or record of other items requested. It is worth noting that TRC did not follow-up with the school for missing items as we did with many other schools.



Mt. Everett Regional High School
 Berkshire County
 491 Berkshire School Rd, Sheffield MA

Grade: F

School Policy	✓-
Were opt-out forms made available to students and families?	Yes
Does the school have records of recruiter visits?	No
Does the school report any other recruiter involvement?	No record provided
Student Environment	✓-
Does the school administer the ASVAB test?	No record provided
Does the school have a JROTC program?	No record provided
Does the school keep record of Department of Defense requests?	Yes
Responsiveness and Transparency	✓-
Did the school fail to respond to our initial record request?	Yes
Is a follow-up required for more information?	Yes

Mt. Everett Regional High School provided us with the opt-out form that gets sent home with students at the beginning of the year, as well as requests for student directory information from the Air Force. In an attempt to follow-up with school personnel, we received no response.



Mt. Greylock Regional High School
 Berkshire County
 1781 Cold Spring Rd, Williamstown MA

Grade: D

School Policy	✓-
Were opt-out forms made available to students and families?	Monetary Request
Does the school have records of recruiter visits?	Monetary Request
Does the school report any other recruiter involvement?	Monetary Request
Student Environment	✓
Does the school administer the ASVAB test?	No
Does the school have a JROTC program?	No
Does the school keep record of Department of Defense requests?	Monetary Request
Responsiveness and Transparency	✓-
Did the school fail to respond to our initial record request?	No
Is a follow-up required for more information?	Yes

Mt. Greylock’s superintendent answered TRC’s initial record request in a very timely manner, although they requested \$66.78 to complete the entirety our request claiming it would take 3 hours to find the documents. They did, however, admit that the ASVAB test and JROTC programming do not pertain to the school. While it is in their legal right to request money, we sent an appeal to this request. After not hearing back for months, we attempted to follow-up again with no success.



Northampton High School
Hampshire County
380 Elm St, Northampton MA

Grade: B

School Policy	✓-
Were opt-out forms made available to students and families?	No
Does the school have records of recruiter visits?	No
Does the school report any other recruiter involvement?	No
Student Environment	✓+
Does the school administer the ASVAB test?	No
Does the school have a JROTC program?	No
Does the school keep record of Department of Defense requests?	Yes
Responsiveness and Transparency	✓
Did the school fail to respond to our initial record request?	No
Is a follow-up required for more information?	Yes

Northampton High School did not respond to our initial record request, but did respond after we reached out to them, and informed us that our initial request was sent to the wrong building. Northampton does not have an official opt-out form, although they do briefly mention in their student handbook that written permission from a parent will allow students to opt-out of having their directory information sent to the Department of Defense. Northampton High School keeps records of information requests from different branches of the military, but did not provide us with records related to official recruiter visits or recruiter involvement in student life.



Palmer High School
 Hampden County
 4105 Main St, Palmer MA

Grade: C

School Policy	✓
Were opt-out forms made available to students and families?	Yes
Does the school have records of recruiter visits?	Lost due to fire
Does the school report any other recruiter involvement?	No
Student Environment	✓+
Does the school administer the ASVAB test?	No
Does the school have a JROTC program?	No
Does the school keep record of Department of Defense requests?	Yes
Responsiveness and Transparency	✓-
Did the school fail to respond to our initial record request?	Yes
Is a follow-up required for more information?	No

Unfortunately, Palmer High School had a fire on 3/19/19 and lost documents related to military visits and recruiter involvement in student life. Palmer High School did provide us with a record of two requests for student information from the Navy, as well as their opt-out form provided to students.



Pioneer Valley Regional High School
Franklin County
97 F Sumner Turner Dr, Northfield MA

Grade: C

School Policy	✓
Were opt-out forms made available to students and families?	Yes
Does the school have records of recruiter visits?	No
Does the school report any other recruiter involvement?	No
Student Environment	✓
Does the school administer the ASVAB test?	Yes
Does the school have a JROTC program?	No
Does the school keep record of Department of Defense requests?	Yes
Responsiveness and Transparency	✓
Did the school fail to respond to our initial record request?	No
Is a follow-up required for more information?	Yes

Pioneer Valley Regional High School received requests for student information from the Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps, each of which they provided record of. They also supplied record of their opt-out form, which is informative, but not its own form; instead, it is at the bottom of a list of general permissions passed out to students at the beginning of the school year. Pioneer Valley Regional also provided us with their record of the administering of the ASVAB test, adding that 6 students in senior year and 5 students in junior year opted to take the exam, which is described as “an excellent way for students to learn more about potential future career interests” on the registration form. When TRC followed up for more information, they provided more school documents signed by representatives of the Army, Navy, and Marines stating they would abide by all nondiscrimination state and federal laws.



Pittsfield High School
 Berkshire County
 300 East St, Pittsfield MA

Grade: F (No response)

School Policy	✓-
Were opt-out forms made available to students and families?	No Record Provided
Does the school have records of recruiter visits?	No Record Provided
Does the school report any other recruiter involvement?	No Record Provided
Student Environment	✓-
Does the school administer the ASVAB test?	No Record Provided
Does the school have a JROTC program?	No Record Provided
Does the school keep record of Department of Defense requests?	No Record Provided
Responsiveness and Transparency	✓-
Did the school fail to respond to our initial record request?	Yes
Is a follow-up required for more information?	Yes

According to Pittsfield High School’s Student Counseling Center, the person tasked with keeping the requested records left her job soon after our initial requests were sent out. While we did receive a response from Pittsfield stating that they would send any records relevant to our request to The Resistance Center, we did not receive any of the documentation requested.



Pioneer Valley Performing Arts Charter Public School Grade: A
Hampshire County
15 Mulligan Dr, South Hadley MA

School Policy	✓+
Were opt-out forms made available to students and families?	No
Does the school have records of recruiter visits?	N/A
Does the school report any other recruiter involvement?	No
Student Environment	✓+
Does the school administer the ASVAB test?	No
Does the school have a JROTC program?	No
Does the school keep record of Department of Defense requests?	N/A
Responsiveness and Transparency	✓+
Did the school fail to respond to our initial record request?	Yes
Is a follow-up required for more information?	No

The PVPA Chief Financial Officer responded to our record request, stating that there were no military visits to PVPA over the last school year, nor were there requests from the Department of Defense for student information for recruiting efforts.



Putnam Vocational Technical Academy Grade: F (No response)
Hampden County
1300 State St, Springfield MA

School Policy	✓-
Were opt-out forms made available to students and families?	No Record Provided
Does the school have records of recruiter visits?	No Record Provided
Does the school report any other recruiter involvement?	No Record Provided
Student Environment	✓-
Does the school administer the ASVAB test?	No Record Provided
Does the school have a JROTC program?	No Record Provided
Does the school keep record of Department of Defense requests?	No Record Provided
Responsiveness and Transparency	✓-
Did the school fail to respond to our initial record request?	No Record Provided
Is a follow-up required for more information?	No Record Provided

Putnam Vocational Tech did not respond to our initial request, nor to our two follow-up requests sent over the course of several months. A final call to the main office was placed on Friday, July 19th, in which school officials did acknowledge the existence of a marine-ran JROTC program as well as recruiter visits and tables set up by recruiters in the cafeteria. As their guidance office is on leave during the summer, they were not able to provide us with any physical documents regarding our request.



Ralph C. Mahar Regional High School
 Franklin County
 507 S. Main St, Orange MA

Grade: C

School Policy	✓-
Were opt-out forms made available to students and families?	Yes
Does the school have records of recruiter visits?	No
Does the school report any other recruiter involvement?	Yes
Student Environment	✓
Does the school administer the ASVAB test?	Yes
Does the school have a JROTC program?	No
Does the school keep record of Department of Defense requests?	Yes
Responsiveness and Transparency	✓+
Did the school fail to respond to our initial record request?	No
Is a follow-up required for more information?	No

Ralph C. Mahar Regional High School responded completely to our initial records request, requiring no follow up. They included their opt-out form in their response. The form, which appeared to be available to parents online, included a statement that reads “Please confirm that you have completed the above form,” along with a box to check labeled “Form complete.” This addition to the opt-out form leads us to believe that parents are encouraged to read and complete the form regardless of their response. It also describes in detail the No Child Left Behind legislation, which we believe is an important component of an effective opt-out form. Ralph C. Mahar did not have records of military recruiter visits to the school. However, they did provide us with information about their protocol for military recruiter visits. They also reported that military recruiters were not involved in daily life, only lunch time visits and student-requested meetings. Ralph C. Mahar did keep documentation of Department of Defense requests for student information, which they provided to us.



Smith Academy
Hampshire County
34 School St, Hatfield MA

Grade: D

School Policy	✓
Were opt-out forms made available to students and families?	Yes
Does the school have records of recruiter visits?	Yes
Does the school report any other recruiter involvement?	No record provided
Student Environment	✓
Does the school administer the ASVAB test?	Yes
Does the school have a JROTC program?	No record provided
Does the school keep record of Department of Defense requests?	Yes
Responsiveness and Transparency	✓-
Did the school fail to respond to our initial record request?	No
Is a follow-up required for more information?	Yes

Smith Academy answered TRC’s first request in a timely manner, but requested a monetary fee of \$87.50 to fulfill the request. When TRC sent a waiver for the fee, school personnel responded. The school provided 1 Department of Defense request from the Marines. While the school had records of recruiter visits, they had a clear written protocol for the visits: “All visits by any branch of the military will happen in the cafeteria during High School lunches only unless a meeting is set up by the student with parent permission if under 18.” Most interestingly, the school had 22 students take the ASVAB test. This high number may be do to the advertisement of the test by school officials:

When students take the ASVAB, their scores are only used to help them identity their strengths, areas of potential growth and information on future planning (i.e., college majors, career paths). None of this information is shared with the military...I highly recommend students take this opportunity, they gain a lot of useful information that can help them with their college selection process and picking a potential major.



Smith Vocational & Agricultural High School
Hampshire County
80 Locust St, Northampton MA

Grade: C

School Policy	✓+
Were opt-out forms made available to students and families?	Yes
Does the school have records of recruiter visits?	Yes
Does the school report any other recruiter involvement?	No
Student Environment	✓-
Does the school administer the ASVAB test?	Yes
Does the school have a JROTC program?	No
Does the school keep record of Department of Defense requests?	No Record Provided
Responsiveness and Transparency	✓+
Did the school fail to respond to our initial record request?	No
Is a follow-up required for more information?	No

Smith Vocational & Agricultural High School sent us a detailed response after receiving TRC's initial request. They provided their opt-out form in both English and Spanish, which is a good example of an accessible opt-out form. However, they did not provide us with records regarding Department of Defense requests for student information.



South Hadley High School
Hampshire County
150 Newton St, South Hadley MA

Grade: C

School Policy	✓
Were opt-out forms made available to students and families?	Yes
Does the school have records of recruiter visits?	Yes
Does the school report any other recruiter involvement?	No
Student Environment	✓
Does the school administer the ASVAB test?	Yes
Does the school have a JROTC program?	No
Does the school keep record of Department of Defense requests?	Yes
Responsiveness and Transparency	✓
Did the school fail to respond to our initial record request?	No
Is a follow-up required for more information?	Yes

South Hadley High School responded to TRC's initial record request. School personnel provided an in detail opt-out form. They had a record of 4 recruiter visits from the MA National Guard, US National Guard, Army, and Air Force that were reported to take place for a half hour each in guidance offices. The school also administered the ASVAB once to 2 seniors in the 2017-2018 school year.



Southwick-Tolland-Granville Regional High School
Hampden County
93 Feeding Hills Rd, Southwick MA

Grade: D

School Policy	✓
Were opt-out forms made available to students and families?	Yes
Does the school have records of recruiter visits?	Yes
Does the school report any other recruiter involvement?	No record provided
Student Environment	✓-
Does the school administer the ASVAB test?	No record provided
Does the school have a JROTC program?	No record provided
Does the school keep record of Department of Defense requests?	Yes
Responsiveness and Transparency	✓-
Did the school fail to respond to our initial record request?	No
Is a follow-up required for more information?	Yes

Southwick-Tolland-Granville Regional High School had a detailed opt-out form made available to students. They received one request from the Navy advertising STEM related opportunities for students, including a Nuclear Power Program. School personnel refused to answer any questions outside of the record request, which made it difficult for TRC to obtain accurate information on militarism in their school; however, this is their legal right under Massachusetts public records law.



Springfield Central High School
Hampden County
1840 Roosevelt Ave, Springfield MA

Grade: F

School Policy	✓-
Were opt-out forms made available to students and families?	Yes
Does the school have records of recruiter visits?	No record
Does the school report any other recruiter involvement?	No record
Student Environment	✓-
Does the school administer the ASVAB test?	No record
Does the school have a JROTC program?	No record
Does the school keep record of Department of Defense requests?	No record
Responsiveness and Transparency	✓-
Did the school fail to respond to our initial record request?	Yes
Is a follow-up required for more information?	Yes

Every Springfield public high school received an F. After TRC’s initial response went unanswered, the second notice yielded a response from school district personnel redirecting us to a [Springfield city website](#) specifically for public record requests. After re-submitting the request through the website, TRC received a uniform response for all Springfield public schools in January 2019.

In a letter from the city clerk, it was reported that “personnel in the School Department have advised that there are no records that are responsive to your request” for the last 4 items of our request: military visits, other recruiter involvement, the administration of the ASVAB test, and JROTC programming. For the opt-out form, the response provided a copy of their student handbook for Springfield public schools. While the form in the handbook is available in English and Spanish, it mentions nothing specifically about the military, rather-- simply a general form



about their child’s private information being shared. Our request for Department of Defense requests was misinterpreted, and thus not provided.

We found it unlikely that all Springfield public schools had no documents for most of our requests, especially because our independent research reveals most Springfield high schools host a JROTC program. In June 2019, TRC followed up with the city clerk and got in touch with both the city clerk and record access officer. They explained school personnel from each school reported to them that there were no records for items 3-6, and encouraged us to re-submit a request for item 2 (Department of Defense request) as we were following up late after the request was submitted, but we are still waiting on a response.

Springfield High School of Commerce
Hampden County
415 State St, Springfield MA

Grade: F

School Policy	✓-
Were opt-out forms made available to students and families?	Yes
Does the school have records of recruiter visits?	No record
Does the school report any other recruiter involvement?	No record
Student Environment	✓-
Does the school administer the ASVAB test?	No record
Does the school have a JROTC program?	No record
Does the school keep record of Department of Defense requests?	No record
Responsiveness and Transparency	✓-
Did the school fail to respond to our initial record request?	Yes
Is a follow-up required for more information?	Yes

Refer to Springfield High School of Commerce summary.



Springfield Conservatory of the Arts High School **Grade: F**
Hampden County
334 Franklin St, Springfield MA

School Policy	✓-
Were opt-out forms made available to students and families?	Yes
Does the school have records of recruiter visits?	No record
Does the school report any other recruiter involvement?	No record
Student Environment	✓-
Does the school administer the ASVAB test?	No record
Does the school have a JROTC program?	No record
Does the school keep record of Department of Defense requests?	No record
Responsiveness and Transparency	✓-
Did the school fail to respond to our initial record request?	Yes
Is a follow-up required for more information?	Yes

Refer to Springfield High School of Commerce summary.

Springfield Public Day High School **Grade: F**
Hampden County
90 Berkshire St, Indian Orchard MA

School Policy	✓-
Were opt-out forms made available to students and families?	Yes
Does the school have records of recruiter visits?	No record



Does the school report any other recruiter involvement?	No record
Student Environment	✓-
Does the school administer the ASVAB test?	No record
Does the school have a JROTC program?	No record
Does the school keep record of Department of Defense requests?	No record
Responsiveness and Transparency	✓-
Did the school fail to respond to our initial record request?	Yes
Is a follow-up required for more information?	Yes

Refer to Springfield High School of Commerce summary.

Springfield Renaissance School
Hampden County
1170 Carew St, Springfield MA

Grade: F

School Policy	✓-
Were opt-out forms made available to students and families?	Yes
Does the school have records of recruiter visits?	No record
Does the school report any other recruiter involvement?	No record
Student Environment	✓-
Does the school administer the ASVAB test?	No record
Does the school have a JROTC program?	No record
Does the school keep record of Department of Defense requests?	No record



Responsiveness and Transparency	✓-
Did the school fail to respond to our initial record request?	Yes
Is a follow-up required for more information?	Yes

Refer to Springfield High School of Commerce summary.

Springfield High School of Science and Tech.
Hampden County
1250 State St, Springfield MA

Grade: F

School Policy	✓-
Were opt-out forms made available to students and families?	Yes
Does the school have records of recruiter visits?	No record
Does the school report any other recruiter involvement?	No record
Student Environment	✓-
Does the school administer the ASVAB test?	No record
Does the school have a JROTC program?	No record
Does the school keep record of Department of Defense requests?	No record
Responsiveness and Transparency	✓-
Did the school fail to respond to our initial record request?	Yes
Is a follow-up required for more information?	Yes

Refer to Springfield High School of Commerce summary.



Taconic High School
 Berkshire County
 96 Valentine Rd, Pittsfield MA

Grade: F (No response)

School Policy	✓-
Were opt-out forms made available to students and families?	No record provided
Does the school have records of recruiter visits?	No record provided
Does the school report any other recruiter involvement?	No record provided
Student Environment	✓-
Does the school administer the ASVAB test?	No record provided
Does the school have a JROTC program?	No record provided
Does the school keep record of Department of Defense requests?	No record provided
Responsiveness and Transparency	✓-
Did the school fail to respond to our initial record request?	Yes
Is a follow-up required for more information?	N/A

Taconic High School officials reached out to TRC after receiving their second notice, and asked us to resend the request. After we resent it in December 2018, we never heard back. After multiple attempts to follow-up, the school received a failing grade.



Turners Falls High School
Franklin County
222 Turnpike Rd, Montague MA

Grade: C

School Policy	✓-
Were opt-out forms made available to students and families?	Yes
Does the school have records of recruiter visits?	No
Does the school report any other recruiter involvement?	No
Student Environment	✓
Does the school administer the ASVAB test?	No
Does the school have a JROTC program?	No
Does the school keep record of Department of Defense requests?	No
Responsiveness and Transparency	✓+
Did the school fail to respond to our initial record request?	No
Is a follow-up required for more information?	No

Turners Falls High School personnel was quick to respond to TRC’s initial response and informed us that they were extremely new to the position and not aware of many of the documents requested. They did, however, have a thorough opt-out form on file. While they did not administer the ASVAB or host a JRTOC program, they did not appear to keep any other documents. School personnel did assure TRC they would be keeping better record in the future.



Wahconah Regional High School

Berkshire County

150 Old Windsor Rd, Dalton MA

Grade: F (No response)

School Policy	✓-
Were opt-out forms made available to students and families?	No record provided
Does the school have records of recruiter visits?	No record provided
Does the school report any other recruiter involvement?	No record provided
Student Environment	✓-
Does the school administer the ASVAB test?	No record provided
Does the school have a JROTC program?	No record provided
Does the school keep record of Department of Defense requests?	No record provided
Responsiveness and Transparency	✓-
Did the school fail to respond to our initial record request?	Yes
Is a follow-up required for more information?	N/A

After 4 attempts to contact Wahconah Regional High School officials over the course of nearly a year, TRC received no response, except for an administrative assistant informing us in June 2019 that the guidance department was out until August 2019.



Ware Junior/Senior High School
Hampshire County
237 West St, Ware MA

Grade: F

School Policy	✓-
Were opt-out forms made available to students and families?	Yes
Does the school have records of recruiter visits?	No
Does the school report any other recruiter involvement?	No record
Student Environment	✓-
Does the school administer the ASVAB test?	No record
Does the school have a JROTC program?	No record
Does the school keep record of Department of Defense requests?	No
Responsiveness and Transparency	✓
Did the school fail to respond to our initial record request?	Yes
Is a follow-up required for more information?	No

Ware Public Schools’ superintendent’s office provided us with only one document after responding to TRC’s second notice. This one document was their opt-out form for students and families regarding sending student information to the Department of Defense. The administrative assistant to the superintendent stated in their email that the opt-out form is “the only document that, Ware Public Schools has on file, that falls within [The Resistance Center’s] request.”



West Springfield
Hampden County
425 Piper Rd, West Springfield MA

Grade: D

School Policy	✓-
Were opt-out forms made available to students and families?	Yes
Does the school have records of recruiter visits?	No
Does the school report any other recruiter involvement?	Yes
Student Environment	✓-
Does the school administer the ASVAB test?	Yes
Does the school have a JROTC program?	No
Does the school keep record of Department of Defense requests?	No
Responsiveness and Transparency	✓
Did the school fail to respond to our initial record request?	No
Is a follow-up required for more information?	Yes

West Springfield High School personnel responded in a timely manner, but the information provided did not include any official documentation. They reported that although they received requests for student information from different branches of the military, the information from the previous school year regarding military visits and students opting-out had already been “discarded” by the time they responded to our request. They also reported they do not keep records of the “days recruiters visit the cafeteria at lunch time,” furthermore “if the recruiter sets up a lunch table, we do not require a sign up sheet.” While school personnel admitted they administered the ASVAB test to 13 students, they reported these scores were not shared with the military unless the student requested this.



Westfield High School
Hampden County
177 Montgomery Rd, Westfield MA

Grade: C

School Policy	✓
Were opt-out forms made available to students and families?	Yes
Does the school have records of recruiter visits?	Yes
Does the school report any other recruiter involvement?	Yes
Student Environment	✓
Does the school administer the ASVAB test?	Yes
Does the school have a JROTC program?	No
Does the school keep record of Department of Defense requests?	Yes
Responsiveness and Transparency	✓
Did the school fail to respond to our initial record request?	No
Is a follow-up required for more information?	Yes

Westfield High School provided a fairly complete response to TRC revealing a fairly heavy military presence in the school. The school provides 9-12 graders with a detailed opt-out form for families. School personnel provided 1 Department of Defense request for student information from the Air Force. Documents further reveal a total of 21 military visits from the Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marines, and Navy. Most of these visits were classified as “lunch table visits” which lasted for just over an hour with school personnel present. Some visits, however, reveal further levels of recruiter involvement including mock interviews, career exploration sessions, school field days, and school projects, like painting the career center. School personnel also reported the ASVAB administered twice accompanied by 2 interruptions lead by military personnel.



Westfield Technical Academy
Hampden County
33 Smith Ave, Westfield MA

Grade: F

School Policy	✓
Were opt-out forms made available to students and families?	Yes
Does the school have records of recruiter visits?	Yes
Does the school report any other recruiter involvement?	No record provided
Student Environment	✓-
Does the school administer the ASVAB test?	No record provided
Does the school have a JROTC program?	No record provided
Does the school keep record of Department of Defense requests?	No
Responsiveness and Transparency	✓-
Did the school fail to respond to our initial record request?	No
Is a follow-up required for more information?	Yes

Westfield Technical Academy responded promptly to our initial record request, but only two documents were provided to TRC. The first document is a detailed opt-out form for families explaining NCLB. The second document is a list of recruiter visits, which outlines a shocking 16 visits from nearly every branch of the military. They did not have records of requests for student information from the Department of Defense, nor did they provide documents pertinent to the presence of JROTC or the ASVAB test. TRC made 3 attempts to follow-up with school officials with no success.