



## Austin Independent School District

Office of the General Counsel

DATE:

August 16, 2005

TO:

All High School Principals

THROUGH: Rosalinda Hernandez, Ph.D., Associate Superintendent

FROM:

Mel Waxler, General Counsel

SUBJECT:

Information About Non-Military and Military Options

It is recommended that campuses that display or provide access to information about military service also display or provide access to information about non-military options in a manner and location similar to that for military options.

There is currently no law or court decision that would require public schools in Texas to provide students with access to information about non-military, as well as military, options. However, the First and Fourteenth Amendments require that the District not discriminate against speech on the basis of viewpoint. An appellate court in another part of the country found that when schools create a forum for the military or its proponents, they must also provide equal access to those with opposing, non-military points of view. If such a case were to come before a court with jurisdiction over Texas, it is possible that a similar decision would be reached.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me directly.

pmc

cc:

Pascal D. Forgione Jr., Ph.D., Superintendent

Karen Sperry, Chief of Staff

Mariann Hill, Administrative Assistant

1111 West Sixth Street	Austin, Texas 78703-5399	
Mel Waxler, General Counsel	(512) 414-6425 (F) 414-8080	
Dr. David Duty, Director, Intergovernmental Relations	(512) 414-3960 (F) 414-8080	
Ylise Janssen, Senior School Law Attorney	(512) 414-9812 (F) 414-9878	
Priscilla Casall, Legal Assistant	(512) 414-9813 (F) 414-9878	

(512) 414-3974 (F) 414-8080