

SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS' PARTICIPATION IN THE JUNIOR RESERVE OFFICERS' TRAINING CORPS (JROTC)

The Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corp (JROTC) is a federal program. Under federal law, each military branch – the Army, Marines, Air Force, Navy and Coast Guard – is required to establish and maintain a JROTC program with units at public and private high schools throughout the United States. Participation by schools is voluntary, but schools must meet certain standards and criteria to participate in the program, such as a threshold number of interested students who meet academic standards and physical fitness requirements. San Francisco Unified School District participates in JROTC, offering Army and Navy JROTC programs at seven schools.

On November 14, 2006, the San Francisco Board of Education ("School Board") passed a resolution beginning a two-year phase-out of all JROTC programs in San Francisco public schools. The resolution requires the San Francisco Unified School District to stop offering JROTC after the 2007-08 school year and initiate no new JROTC programs. The resolution also calls for a special task force to develop alternative, creative, career driven programs with the elements of the existing JROTC program that students have indicated are important to them.

The School Board extended the JROTC phase-out in San Francisco public schools for an additional year on December 11, 2007 to allow sufficient time to develop and implement alternative programs. As a result, JROTC classes will be offered through the 2008-09 school year and the JROTC program will end in San Francisco public schools after that school year.

This measure would make it City policy that students in San Francisco public high schools should continue to be able to choose to participate in the schools' JROTC program.

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