

Mr. Danny Espino, Board Member

**SUBJECT: ENHANCING STUDENT AWARENESS OF MILITARY CAREER AND
 EDUCATIONAL PATHWAYS THROUGH STRUCTURED
 PRESENTATIONS**

COMMITTEE: PERSONNEL, STUDENT, SCHOOL & COMMUNITY SUPPORT

**LINK TO STRATEGIC
PLAN: INFORMED, ENGAGED, & EMPOWERED STAKEHOLDERS**

Miami-Dade County Public Schools serves a diverse student population with a wide range of post-secondary goals. As part of the District’s commitment to college and career readiness, students should have access to comprehensive, factual information about multiple career pathways, including those available through military service.

Military recruiting efforts in Miami-Dade County have faced challenges in recent years, particularly following the transition of Homestead Air Reserve Base from an active-duty installation. While existing outreach activities—such as JROTC and Civil Air Patrol programming and optional on-campus events—remain valuable, they do not consistently reach the broader population of juniors and seniors making critical post-secondary decisions. Providing structured, school-based exposure to military career options aligns with the District’s mission to support informed decision-making, civic education, and career exploration.

Military service represents one of several post-secondary pathways available to students and offers educational, technical, and professional opportunities, including, but not limited to, tuition assistance, career training, healthcare benefits, housing support, and experience in high-demand fields such as cybersecurity, aviation, engineering, healthcare, and public service. Delivering concise, neutral, and factual information directly to students supports student choice while reinforcing the District’s college and career readiness goals.

This item proposes a structured, equitable framework that would allow active-duty military recruiters to conduct annual informational presentations for high school students. These presentations would provide an overview of military service as one of several post-secondary options, without mandating participation or enlistment. The proposed model would organize the District’s nine voting districts into three rotating cohorts to ensure balanced military representation, with each participating high school hosting at least one annual school-based presentation that supplements existing outreach and expands equitable student access.

This Board item requests that the Superintendent conduct a feasibility study and present the findings to the Personnel, Student, School, and Community Support Committee no later than April 15, 2026. The study should assess operational, instructional, legal, and logistical considerations for allowing annual informational school-site presentations by active-duty military recruiters. If deemed feasible, the Superintendent shall develop proposed administrative guidelines that ensure legal compliance, maintain neutrality and student choice through opt-out procedures, provide balanced representation across military branches, and establish coordination protocols with school leadership and instructional departments. Upon Board approval, implementation would begin in the upcoming school year.

This item has been reviewed and approved by the Office of the General Counsel as to form and legal sufficiency.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
MR. DANNY ESPINO:**

That the School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, requests that the Superintendent of Schools:

1. Conduct a feasibility study assessing the operational, instructional, legal, and logistical considerations associated with allowing active-duty military recruiters to conduct annual, informational school-site presentations to high school students; and
2. Present the feasibility findings to the School Board no later than the at the April 15, 2026; and
3. If deemed feasible, develop and present administrative guidelines establishing a standardized and equitable framework that ensures compliance with all applicable federal and state laws, maintains neutrality and student choice through appropriate opt-out procedures, provides a rotating and balanced representation of military branches across the nine voting districts, and outlines coordination protocols with secondary school principals, region, and district staff; and
4. Present to the Board the plan for administrative guidelines for presentations and a timeline for an annual rotational schedule, allowing active-duty military recruiters to visit all M-DCPS high schools, starting in the fall of the 2026-2027 school year.