

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT **JROTC** IN THE JEFFERSON COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Twelve JCPS high schools offer Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) programs. **Some things to know before considering JROTC:**

- **JROTC is a recruiting tool** for the Armed Services, not career training. JCPS data shows that cadets are 15 times more likely to enlist in the military than non-cadets.
- **For most cadets, JROTC only “trains” them to be privates** – exactly what they would be if they had never joined JROTC and had just walked into a recruiter’s office after graduation.
- **JROTC targets low-income youth and students of color**, effectively creating a “poverty draft.” (ACLU 2008)
- A national study concludes that **the JROTC curriculum fails to meet accepted academic standards** and serves primarily to promote military enlistment. (AFSC 1995)
- Analysis of JCPS data shows that **JCPS cadets had no significant improvement in academic achievement** compared with non-cadets. (Gainous 2013)
- **JROTC promotes authoritarian values and emphasizes rote learning over critical thinking.** It teaches subjects (such as drill, military history, command structure, etc.) that have little or no impact on college or career preparedness. (AFSC 1995)
- Five hours per week of **JROTC reduces the time available for arts, music and foreign languages** – subjects proven to improve academic achievement and social/emotional development (Smith, Edutopia 2014)
- **JROTC does not offer help to students who persistently underperform academically or who have persistent behavioral issues.** JCPS data from 2011-12 show that more than 60% of JROTC students drop out or are removed from the program for poor academic performance and other reasons.
- **Marksmanship training** required as part of JROTC undermines JCPS’ policy of zero tolerance for weapons in the schools.

*Former Defense Secretary William Cohen
described JROTC as
“one of the best recruitment programs we could have.”*



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