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## **Status of the JROTC Program in South Carolina**

Proviso 117.174 of the 2024-2025 Appropriations Bill

February 3, 2025

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## **Proviso: 117.174 (GP: JROTC Program)**

PROVISO: 117.174 (GP: JROTC Program) By February 1, 2025, the Department of Education, in collaboration with the Department of Veterans' Affairs, the Adjutant General, and the Education Oversight Committee, shall submit a report to the General Assembly, the Governor, and the State Board of Education on the status of JROTC program offerings in South Carolina public schools. The report shall include recommendations for expanding JROTC program offerings to more South Carolina students.

### **Participating Agencies in the Report**

The SC Education Oversight Committee, in collaboration with the SC Department of Veterans Affairs and the SC Department of Education provides the following information. The Adjutant General's office reported that they are not involved in programming, or any aspect of the JROTC program. The Adjutant's General Office did provide suggestions on how to increase participation.

### **What is JROTC?**

The U.S. Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC) is a character development, leadership, and citizenship program for students enrolled in secondary schools. The National Defense Act of 1916 established organized JROTC programs at public and private educational institutions. From 1916 until the 1960s, only the Army sponsored JROTC units.

In 1964, Congress expanded the program to all military services and changed from active duty to shared support from the services and schools. As congressionally mandated by Title 10 U.S.C. § 2031, each military service must have a JROTC program to "instill in students in United States secondary educational institutions the values of citizenship, service to the United States, and personal responsibility and a sense of accomplishment." JROTC's mission is "To Motivate Young People to be Better Citizens."

The Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and Coast Guard each operate their own versions of the program for high school students. According to a Congressional Research Service report, 552,990 students were active in 3,432 units across the U.S. and Department of Defense schools overseas in fiscal year 2020.

JROTC units are administered cooperatively by the services and the participating high schools. Specifically, the military service provides the instructors' salaries, the cost of uniforms, equipment, curricular materials; and some travel costs associated in co-curricular activities like drill competitions.

Students who participate in JROTC programs are not required to join the military after high school. Recruitment is not stated as a program objective.

Coursework includes history and customs – which is typically branch-specific – and students are required to wear a uniform that mirrors the uniform that military personnel

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wear in their respective branches. Students also participate in physical fitness training, drill instruction, academic competitions, and other activities.

### **Access to JROTC in South Carolina**

173 schools in 66 school districts offered JROTC programs in 2023-2024.

For a district to have a JROTC program, the high school must submit a request to the military branch for a JROTC Unit. An application is then sent to the high school with specific requirements that must be met. Funding is provided by the federal government.

Title 10, U.S.C. § 2031 prescribes that no unit may be established or maintained at an institution unless 10% of the students enrolled in the institution who are in grades 9-12 or 100 students, whichever is less, are enrolled in the JROTC Program as Cadets.

Often, schools lack student interest or they lack the number of students attending the school to meet the federal requirements to establish a JROTC Unit.

### **Suggestions to increase participation in JROTC**

- 1) Amend federal school enrollment requirements. Relaxing requirements would help small, rural schools. Any amendments to these requirements require Congressional action.
- 2) Collaborate with the South Carolina National Guard (via the Adjutant General's Office) to assist with JROTC activities. There are National Guard Units in most counties in South Carolina. Consideration should be given to including the South Carolina State Guard.
- 3) Promote the use of the Skillbridge Military program for identifying JROTC Instructors - [DOD SkillBridge Program - Program Overview Page \(osd.mil\)](https://www.osd.mil/skillbridge/).
- 4) Prioritize hiring of retired National Guard Readiness NCOs who have ties to the local communities, knowledge of the availability of local and military resources, and connections to the National Guard.

## **References**

### **Federal Statute for the JROTC Program:**

10 U.S.C. § 2031 - U.S. Code - Unannotated Title 10. Armed Forces § 2031. Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps

(a)(1) The Secretary of each military department shall establish and maintain a Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps, organized into units, at public and private secondary educational institutions which apply for a unit and meet the standards and criteria prescribed pursuant to this section. The President shall promulgate regulations prescribing the standards and criteria to be followed by the military departments in selecting the institutions at which units are to be established and maintained and shall provide for the fair and equitable distribution of such units throughout the Nation, except that more than one such unit may be established and maintained at any military institute.

(2) It is a purpose of the Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps to instill in students in United States secondary educational institutions the values of citizenship, service to the United States, and personal responsibility and a sense of accomplishment.

(b) No unit may be established or maintained at an institution unless--

(1) the number of physically fit students in such unit who are in a grade above the 8th grade and are citizens or nationals of the United States, or aliens lawfully admitted to the United States for permanent residence, is not less than (A) 10 percent of the number of students enrolled in the institution who are in a grade above the 8th grade, or (B) 100, whichever is less;

(2) the institution has adequate facilities for classroom instruction, storage of arms and other equipment which may be furnished in support of the unit, and adequate drill areas at or in the immediate vicinity of the institution, as determined by the Secretary of the military department concerned;

(3) the institution provides a course of military instruction of not less than three academic years' duration, as prescribed by the Secretary of the military department concerned;

(4) the institution agrees to limit membership in the unit to students who maintain acceptable standards of academic achievement and conduct, as prescribed by the Secretary of the military department concerned; and

(5) the unit meets such other requirements as may be established by the Secretary of the military department concerned.

(c) The Secretary of the military department concerned shall, to support the Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps program--

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(1) detail officers and noncommissioned officers of an armed force under his jurisdiction to institutions having units of the Corps as administrators and instructors;

(2) provide necessary text materials, equipment, and uniforms and, to the extent considered appropriate by the Secretary concerned, such additional resources (including transportation and billeting) as may be available to support activities of the program; and

(3) establish minimum acceptable standards for performance and achievement for qualified units.

(d) Instead of, or in addition to, detailing officers and noncommissioned officers on active duty under subsection (c)(1), the Secretary of the military department concerned may authorize qualified institutions to employ, as administrators and instructors in the program, retired officers and noncommissioned officers who are in receipt of retired pay, and members of the Fleet Reserve and Fleet Marine Corps Reserve, whose qualifications are approved by the Secretary and the institution concerned and who request such employment, subject to the following:

(1) A retired member so employed is entitled to receive the member's retired or retainer pay without reduction by reason of any additional amount paid to the member by the institution concerned. In the case of payment of any such additional amount by the institution concerned, the Secretary of the military department concerned shall pay to that institution the amount equal to one-half of the amount paid to the retired member by the institution for any period, up to a maximum of one-half of the difference between the member's retired or retainer pay for that period and the active duty pay and allowances which the member would have received for that period if on active duty. Notwithstanding the limitation in the preceding sentence, the Secretary concerned may pay to the institution more than one-half of the additional amount paid to the retired member by the institution if (as determined by the Secretary) the institution is in an educationally and economically deprived area and the Secretary determines that such action is in the national interest. Payments by the Secretary concerned under this paragraph shall be made from funds appropriated for that purpose.

(2) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, such a retired member is not, while so employed, considered to be on active duty or inactive duty training for any purpose.

(e) Instead of, or in addition to, detailing officers and noncommissioned officers on active duty under subsection (c)(1) and authorizing the employment of retired officers and noncommissioned officers who are in receipt of retired pay and members of the Fleet Reserve and Fleet Marine Corps Reserve under subsection (d), the Secretary of the military department concerned may authorize qualified institutions to employ as administrators and instructors in the program officers and noncommissioned officers who are under 60 years of age and who, but for age, would be eligible for retired pay for non-regular service

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under [section 12731](#) of this title and whose qualifications are approved by the Secretary and the institution concerned and who request such employment, subject to the following:

(1) The Secretary concerned shall pay to the institution an amount equal to one-half of the amount paid to the member by the institution for any period, up to a maximum of one-half of the difference between--

(A) the retired or retainer pay for an active duty officer or noncommissioned officer of the same grade and years of service for such period; and

(B) the active duty pay and allowances which the member would have received for that period if on active duty.

(2) Notwithstanding the limitation in paragraph (1), the Secretary concerned may pay to the institution more than one-half of the amount paid to the member by the institution if (as determined by the Secretary)--

(A) the institution is in an educationally and economically deprived area; and

(B) the Secretary determines that such action is in the national interest.

(3) Payments by the Secretary concerned under this subsection shall be made from funds appropriated for that purpose.

(4) Amounts may be paid under this subsection with respect to a member after the member reaches the age of 60.

(5) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a member employed by a qualified institution pursuant to an authorization under this subsection is not, while so employed, considered to be on active duty or inactive duty training for any purpose.

(f)(1) When determined by the Secretary of the military department concerned to be in the national interest and agreed upon by the institution concerned, the institution may reimburse a Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps instructor for moving expenses incurred by the instructor to accept employment at the institution in a position that the Secretary concerned determines is hard-to-fill for geographic or economic reasons.

(2) As a condition on providing reimbursement under paragraph (1), the institution shall require the instructor to execute a written agreement to serve a minimum of two years of employment at the institution in the hard-to-fill position.

(3) Any reimbursement provided to an instructor under paragraph (1) is in addition to the minimum instructor pay otherwise payable to the instructor.

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(4) The Secretary concerned shall reimburse an institution providing reimbursement to an instructor under paragraph (1) in an amount equal to the amount of the reimbursement paid by the institution under that paragraph. Any reimbursement provided by the Secretary concerned shall be provided from funds appropriated for that purpose.

(5) The provision of reimbursement under paragraph (1) or (4) shall be subject to regulations prescribed by the Secretary of Defense for purposes of this subsection.

**High schools with JROTC Enrollment 2023-24**

<b>District</b>	<b>School</b>
Aiken 01	Aiken High
Aiken 01	Midland Valley High
Aiken 01	North Augusta High
Aiken 01	Silver Bluff High
Aiken 01	South Aiken High
Aiken 01	Wagener-Salley High
Allendale 01	Allendale Fairfax High
Anderson 01	Palmetto High
Anderson 01	Powdersville High
Anderson 01	Wren High
Anderson 02	Belton Honea Path High
Anderson 04	Pendleton High
Anderson 05	T L Hanna High
Anderson 05	Westside High
Bamberg 03	Bamberg-Ehrhardt High
Bamberg 03	Denmark Olar High
Barnwell 45	Barnwell High
Beaufort 01	Battery Creek High
Beaufort 01	Beaufort High
Beaufort 01	Bluffton High
Beaufort 01	Hilton Head Is. High
Beaufort 01	May River High
Beaufort 01	Whale Branch Early College Hig
Berkeley 01	Berkeley High
Berkeley 01	Cane Bay High
Berkeley 01	Cross High
Berkeley 01	Goose Creek High
Berkeley 01	Hanahan High



Berkeley 01	Philip Simmons High
Berkeley 01	Stratford High
Berkeley 01	Timberland High
Calhoun 01	Calhoun County High
Charleston 01	Baptist Hill High
Charleston 01	Burke High
Charleston 01	James Island Charter High
Charleston 01	Lucy Garrett Beckham High
Charleston 01	Military Magnet Academy
Charleston 01	N Charleston High
Charleston 01	R B Stall High
Charleston 01	St Johns High
Charleston 01	Wando High
Charleston 01	West Ashley High
Cherokee 01	Gaffney High
Chester 01	Chester Sr High
Chester 01	Great Falls High
Chester 01	Lewisville High
Chesterfield 01	Central High
Chesterfield 01	Cheraw High
Clarendon 06	Manning High
Clarendon 06	Scott's Branch High
Colleton 01	Colleton County High
Darlington 01	Darlington High
Darlington 01	Hartsville High
Darlington 01	Lamar High
Dept Of Juvenile Jun12	Evaluation & Detention Ctr
Dillon 04	Dillon High School
Dorchester 02	Ashley Ridge High
Dorchester 02	Fort Dorchester High
Dorchester 02	Summerville High
Dorchester 04	Woodland High
Edgefield 01	Strom Thurmond High
Fairfield 01	Fairfield Central High
Florence 01	South Florence High
Florence 01	West Florence High
Florence 01	Wilson High
Florence 02	Hannah Pamplico High

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Florence 03	Lake City High
Georgetown 01	Andrews High
Georgetown 01	Carvers Bay Early College and Career High
Georgetown 01	Georgetown High
Greenville 01	Blue Ridge High
Greenville 01	Carolina Academy (High)
Greenville 01	Greer High
Greenville 01	J L Mann High Academy
Greenville 01	Mauldin High
Greenville 01	Southside High
Greenville 01	Wade Hampton High
Greenville 01	Woodmont High
Greenwood 50	Emerald High
Greenwood 50	Greenwood High
Hampton	Hampton County High School
Horry 01	Aynor High
Horry 01	Carolina Forest High
Horry 01	Conway High
Horry 01	Green Sea Floyds High
Horry 01	Loris High
Horry 01	Myrtle Beach High
Horry 01	N Myrtle Beach High
Horry 01	Socastee High
Horry 01	St. James High
Jasper 01	Ridgeland Secondary Academy of Excellence
Kershaw 01	Camden High
Kershaw 01	Lugoff Elgin High
Kershaw 01	North Central High
Lancaster 01	Andrew Jackson High
Lancaster 01	Buford High
Lancaster 01	Indian Land High
Lancaster 01	Lancaster High
Laurens 55	Laurens Dist 55 High
Laurens 56	Clinton High
Lee 01	Lee Central High
Lexington 01	Lexington High
Lexington 01	Pelion High

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Lexington 01	White Knoll High
Lexington 02	Airport High
Lexington 02	Brookland-Cayce High
Lexington 03	Batesburg-Leesville High School
Lexington 04	Swansea High
Lexington 04	Swansea High Freshman Acad
Lexington 05	Chapin High
Lexington 05	Dutch Fork High
Lexington 05	Irmo High
Marion 10	Marion High
Marion 10	Mullins High
Marlboro 01	Marlboro County High
McCormick 01	McCormick High
Newberry 01	Mid Carolina High
Newberry 01	Newberry High
Oconee 01	Seneca High
Oconee 01	Walhalla High
Oconee 01	West-Oak High
Orangeburg	Bethune-Bowman Middle/High
Orangeburg	Edisto High School
Orangeburg	Lake Marion High School
Orangeburg	Orangeburg Wilkinson High School
Pickens 01	D W Daniel High
Pickens 01	Easley High
Pickens 01	Liberty High
Pickens 01	Pickens High
Richland 01	A. C. Flora High
Richland 01	C A Johnson High
Richland 01	Columbia High
Richland 01	Dreher High
Richland 01	Eau Claire High
Richland 01	Keenan High
Richland 01	Lower Richland High
Richland 02	Blythewood High
Richland 02	Richland Northeast High
Richland 02	Ridge View High
Richland 02	Spring Valley High
Richland 02	Westwood High

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Saluda 01	Saluda High
Spartanburg 01	Chapman High
Spartanburg 01	Landrum High
Spartanburg 02	Boiling Springs High
Spartanburg 02	Chesnee High
Spartanburg 03	Broome High
Spartanburg 05	James F Byrnes Freshman Acad
Spartanburg 05	James F Byrnes High
Spartanburg 06	Dorman High
Spartanburg 07	Spartanburg High
Sumter 01	Crestwood High
Sumter 01	Lakewood High
Sumter 01	Sumter High
Union 01	Union County High
Williamsburg 01	Hemingway High
Williamsburg 01	Kingstree High
York 01	York Comprehensive High
York 02	Clover High
York 03	Northwestern High
York 03	Rock Hill High
York 03	South Pointe High
York 04	Catawba Ridge High School
York 04	Ft Mill High
York 04	Nation Ford High