

JROTC REQUIREMENTS

Currently JROTC requirements under our policy required all instructors to be licensed in this State. JROTC personnel are subject to the same policies and procedures as other education professional such as ILP or the BT program (Ch. 6 pg 17).

In addition to the approval letter from the applicant's branch of service stating that they have been approved as an instructor, DPI requires that applicants complete 6 semester hours or equivalent in professional training appropriate to teaching in the following:

- ◆ Educational Psychology or Adolescent Psychology (3 semester hrs)
- ◆ Teaching Methods and Materials (3 semester hrs).

Until recently, we have interpreted this procedure to mean that the applicant must complete the above 6 semester hours in a college or university setting. When we take a closer look at the policy it appears to indicate that in lieu of the 6 semester hours an applicant can complete the equivalent in professional training and still meet DPI's requirements.

In 2001, the "No Child Left Behind" Act established a new definition of "Highly Qualified Teachers" which caused the Department of Defense and Legislators to redefine JROTC instructors and their roles in education. Under Section 539 of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), with input from the Services, each JROTC instructor must complete five (5) distant learning course blocks or modules to include:

- ◆ Education Psychology and
- ◆ Secondary Methods

The distant learning courses have a testing requirement for each block or module and it must be passed in order to proceed to the next area. A certificate for each block or module is issued. After a review of the summary of the courses required by the SBE, the distant learning courses required by the military appear to be equivalent if not identical to courses offered by colleges or universities. This meets the military's requirement that they be Nationally Accredited.

Therefore after a review of the documentation submitted by the Armed Forces, the requirements set by the Department of Defense are equivalent to our current policy requiring applicants to take the 6 semester hours in a college or university and the certificates should be accepted in lieu of the college courses. We will accept a copy of the approval letter from the appropriate branch of service along with copies of the completion certificate for Secondary Methods and Education Psychology. (No other certificates can be substituted to meet the SBE requirements.) Those that can not produce the appropriate completion documentation must complete the distant learning classes or take six semester hours in a college or university setting.

For information as to what the certificates look like, please see the attached examples.