

History of JROTC in Area High Schools

Developing students since 1919

The history of Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps (JROTC) units in area schools is as old as JROTC itself. After the passage of the National Defense Act of 1916, Memphis City Schools was approved to host units in January 1919. As the city schools system grew the number of units grew. During this time the instructors were active duty personnel assigned to the US Army Instructor Group (Junior ROTC), Memphis City Schools. Because there was a limit on the number of JROTC units funded by the Army, Memphis City Schools funded the establishment of National Defense Cadet Corps (NDCC) units at the district's black high schools in 1959. The ROTC Vitalization Act of 1964, caused the greatest time of growth. The NDCC units were converted to JROTC in 1966 and additional units were established in 1967, 1969 and 1970. At its peak there were 28 Army units with over 6,000 cadets enrolled. The 1964 Act also authorized the Air Force, Navy and Marine Corps to establish JROTC programs. The programs were opened to female enrollment in 1975. Currently there are one Air Force and twenty three Army JROTC units in the school district. The dates of establishment of the JROTC units past and present are as follows:

(Current schools in bold print)

<u>School</u>	<u>Years with a program</u>
Memphis Central High School	1919-1993, 2006-present
Memphis Technical High School	1919-1961
South Side High School	1925-2007
Humes High School	1926-1967
Messick High School	1930-1981
Treadwell High School	1940- 2008
East High School	1948-1991, 1996-present
B. T. Washington High School	NDCC 1959-1965, JROTC 1966-present
Carver High School	NDCC 1959-1965, JROTC 1966-present
Douglass High School	NDCC 1959-1965, JROTC 1966-1981, 2008-
Germantown High School	NDCC 2018-19
Hamilton High School	NDCC 1959-1965, JROTC 1966-present
Lester High School	NDCC 1959-1965, JROTC 1966-1972
Manassas High School	NDCC 1959-1965, JROTC 1966-present
Melrose High School	NDCC 1959-1965, JROTC 1966-present
Frayser High School	1961-2014
Northside High School	1967-present
Kingsburg High School	1967-present
Oakhaven High School	1967-2000, 2003-present
Overton High School	1967-present
Sheffield High School	1967-present
Trezevant High School	1967-present
Westside High School	1967-2007
White Station High School	1967-present
Wooddale High School	1967-present
Geeter High School	1969-1973
Mitchell High School	1969-present
Westwood High School	1969-present
Fairley High School	1970-2014
Hillcrest High School	1970-present
Whitehaven High School	1970-present
*Millington Central High School	1970-2014 (Navy JROTC)
Ridgeway High School	1971-1996

Craigmont High School	1973-present
Raleigh-Egypt High School	1976-present (Air Force JROTC)
Kirby High School	2006-present
Cordova High School	2010-present

* Now part of the Millington Municipal School district

NDCC= National Defense Cadet Corps (a JROTC program that is funded entirely by the school system.)