



STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

MOLLY M. SPEARMAN
STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION

MEMORANDUM

TO: District Superintendents
Principals
Districts PIOs
School Counselors

FROM: Molly M. Spearman
State Superintendent of Education

DATE: May 1, 2020

RE: Military Honor Cords and Recognition Ceremony

Red, white, and blue honor cords will soon be arriving at district offices as part of the state's annual military bound student recognition program. These cords should be distributed, to the extent possible, to those high school seniors who have chosen to serve our country by enlisting in the U.S. Armed Forces or attending one of our distinguished military service academies. We know that school and district leaders are exploring innovative graduation ceremonies in light of COVID-19 school facility closures and social distancing requirements. We hope you will consider the inclusion of these cords and the recognition of these military bound students in those ceremonies.

Due to the restrictions placed on Fort Jackson and social distancing requirements, we will not hold the in-person ceremony in Columbia originally scheduled for May 15, 2020. Instead, we are asking for students to submit names, photos, and enlisted branch of service through [this form](#) as part of an online recognition ceremony that will be aired on South Carolina Department of Education social media channels on **Thursday, May 28, 2020**. We ask that this information be submitted by each student by **Monday, May 11, 2020**, and hope that you can help us make students and parents aware of this recognition opportunity.

Although we are currently facing unprecedented challenges, it does not diminish the tremendous accomplishments of our students. We appreciate your assistance in helping us recognize those that have chosen to protect our freedom by serving in the armed services. If you have any questions about this program or should you need any additional honor cords, please contact us at events@ed.sc.gov.