



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT**  
*STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION*



**TO:** Superintendents of Schools

**FROM:** Charlene M. Russell-Tucker, Commissioner of Education

**DATE:** December 12, 2024

**SUBJECT:** Connecticut National Guard - Recruiter Access to Schools and Educational Opportunities

The Department has received a request from Major General Francis J. Evon, Jr., the Adjutant General of the Connecticut National Guard (CTNG), to encourage districts to allow for access by CTNG recruiters into their schools. Recruiting qualified individuals into the CTNG is a persistent challenge for "Connecticut's Home Team." The CTNG offers a wide array of occupational specialties through which its members serve their local community, state, and nation. The CTNG is always ready, and always there, to support our state when called upon. In turn, we ask that you support their recruiting efforts within your respective school districts.

As such, the Department encourages districts to collaborate and develop an important strategic partnership with the CTNG. By permitting CTNG recruiters access to students within appropriate schedules during and after school hours, your students will receive quality information regarding job training, educational opportunities, and benefits of service in the CTNG – an example of the *Universe of Opportunities* before them. In addition to recruitment benefits, CTNG offers districts and students a pathway to citizenship, a pathway to West Point, fitness challenge testing, anti-bullying campaigns, a STEM trailer, teacher recruitment, staff teambuilding, buildings for events, Star Base for 5th graders, and much more!

Service in the CTNG is unique relative to the other branches of the military in that it serves both the state and nation. While its members may be called upon to serve throughout the world, they primarily live and serve within the state, thereby contributing to the retention of diverse, skilled and marketable employees within Connecticut.

Additionally, service in the CTNG comes with substantial individual benefits. Most importantly, it provides a pathway to higher education at Connecticut's public colleges and universities through a tuition waiver at those institutions, as well as expansive career pathways that provide training and certifications for today's in-demand employment sectors including manufacturing, medical, aviation, and skilled-trades.

Welcoming CTNG recruiters to meet with your students will afford them the opportunity to learn more about the many benefits of serving in the CTNG and assist our state in adding new qualified members to Connecticut's Home Team.