



STATE OF ALABAMA  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION




Eric G. Mackey, Ed.D.  
State Superintendent of Education

April 22, 2020

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** City and County Superintendents of Education

**FROM:** Eric G. Mackey   
State Superintendent of Education

**RE:** High School Diplomas for World War II, Korean War, and Vietnam War Veterans

The Alabama Legislature enacted legislation urging the State Superintendent of Education to develop and implement a program to grant high school diplomas to qualifying World War II, Korean War, and Vietnam War veterans.

These guidelines are suggested to ensure compliance with this legislation.

In response to a request by a qualified veteran or the family of a veteran:

- The local superintendent should designate a person at each school to search through the high school archives to verify that the person for whom the request is being made was a student who left school before completing graduation to join the military during World War II, the Korean War, or the Vietnam War. Should the information not be available in some form of school records, adequate documentation could include a report card, a newspaper clipping, or notarized documentation from two verifiable sources that can confirm school attendance. The key factor is that the designated school official has evidence that satisfactorily verifies the veteran's attendance at the high school.
- Upon the verification of school records of attendance, the veteran must provide the appropriate military discharge documentation that indicates an honorable discharge. For deceased veterans killed in action, the veteran's next of kin must supply verification of death. Should the veteran not have the appropriate discharge documentation, he or she should contact the county veterans' service officer for information about how to obtain the necessary papers. (The veterans' service officer can be located in the telephone directory in the yellow pages or at the local county courthouse.)

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- The Alabama Department of Veteran Affairs will pay the current costs for one diploma with the appropriate graduating date being the same as the next graduating class. Upon final presentations each year by each high school in all school districts, the local principals shall submit an invoice to the local superintendent of education. The superintendent shall invoice the Department of Veteran Affairs for payment. The Department of Veterans Affairs has requested that the invoice be printed on the school system's letterhead, a list that includes each veteran's name, his or her service number, and the diploma costs as identified in the enclosed outline. The cut-off date to submit an invoice for reimbursement is **November 6, 2020**.
- According to the wishes of the recipient, the diploma may be presented at a scheduled graduation ceremony, a private ceremony, or mailed.

I encourage you to help disseminate information about this program in effective ways in your community. There is enormous potential for good public relations and good will to worthy citizens. If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Carolyn A. Jones by telephone at (334) 694-4768 or via email at [cajones@alsde.edu](mailto:cajones@alsde.edu).

EGM:CAJ:DSS

Attachments

**FY20-2058**

ACT No. 2010 - 691

1 HB74  
2 117394-3  
3 By Representative Page  
4 RFD: Education Policy  
5 First Read: 12-JAN-10  
6 RFD: 01/06/2010



1  
2 ENROLLED, An Act,

3 To amend Section 16-1-37, Code of Alabama 1975,  
4 relating to public education, to provide further for the  
5 issuance of high school diplomas to certain honorably  
6 discharged veterans.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

8 Section 1. Section 16-1-37, Code of Alabama 1975, is  
9 amended to read as follows:

10 "§16-1-37.

11 "The State Superintendent of Education may award a  
12 standard high school diploma to any honorably discharged  
13 veteran who served in the United States Armed Forces at  
14 anytime between December 7, 1941, and January 31, 1946, and  
15 between June 27, 1950, and January 31, 1955, and or between  
16 November 15, 1961, and March 28, 1973; was a resident of  
17 Alabama prior to entry into the United States Armed Forces;  
18 and whose entry into the United States Armed Forces  
19 interrupted high school attendance and prevented graduation.  
20 Upon the recommendation of the State Superintendent of  
21 Education, the State Board of Education shall develop criteria  
22 and guidelines necessary for the implementation of this  
23 section."

HB74

1           Section 2. This act shall become effective on the  
2 first day of the third month following its passage and  
3 approval by the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.

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*[Handwritten Signature]*

Speaker of the House of Representatives

*[Handwritten Signature]*

President and Presiding Officer of the Senate

House of Representatives

I hereby certify that the within Act originated in  
and was passed by the House 17-FEB-10, as amended.

Greg Pappas  
Clerk

*[Handwritten Signature]*

Senate

21-APR-10

Passed

APPROVED *April 29, 2010*  
TIME *9:07 am*  
*Bob Riley*  
GOVERNOR

Alabama Secretary Of State

Act Num...: 2010-591  
Bill Num...: H-74

Recv'd 04/29/10 02:39pmJJB

(School Letterhead and Address Information)

School District: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Request is hereby made for reimbursement of expenses as indicated for the following names of veterans presented diplomas by this institution under the provision of Act 01-345, *Code of Alabama*.

Veteran's Name	Present Address	City, St, Zip	Serial Number	Branch of Service	Service Dates Verified by DD214	High School	Date Presented

Act 01-345, *Code of Alabama*, states in part . . . "The State Superintendent of Education may award a standard high school diploma to any honorably discharged veteran who began high school between 1937 and 1946, was scheduled to graduate between 1941 and 1950, and was inducted into the United States Armed Forces between September 16, 1940, and December 31, 1946, before completing the necessary high school graduation requirements."



(Superintendent's Letterhead)

(Date)

State of Alabama  
Department of Veterans' Affairs  
P. O. Box 1509  
Montgomery, AL 36102-1509

RE: Act 01-345, *Code of Alabama*, "The State Superintendent of Education may award a standard high school diploma to any honorably discharged veteran who began high school between 1937 and 1946, was scheduled to graduate between 1941 and 1950, and was inducted into the United States Armed Forces between September 16, 1940, and December 31, 1946, before completing the necessary high school graduation requirement."

In accordance with this Act, the following invoice with supporting documents(s) is/are submitted for payment as follows:

School District	Number of Diplomas Issued	Cost of Each	Extended Amount

Total Invoice Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby certify that this invoice is correct and just, and that payment therefore has not been received.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature)

Sworn to and subscribed before me this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 201 \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Notary Public Signature)