



STATE OF ALABAMA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



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

November 8, 2023

MEMORANDUM

TO: City and County Superintendents of Education

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

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

The Alabama Legislature enacted, and the Governor signed into law, [Act 2010-691](#), urging the State Superintendent of Education to develop and implement a program to grant high school diplomas to qualifying Alabama residents who are World War II, Korean War, or 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 high school to search through that school’s 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, the veteran must produce adequate documentation that 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. (Contact information for veterans’ service officers can be located at <https://va.alabama.gov/serviceofficer/>.)

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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 (see attachment). 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 August 1, 2024.
- 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 share information about this program throughout your community. If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Blake Busbin, Social Studies Education Specialist, by telephone at (334) 694-4768 or by email at blake.busbin@alsde.edu.

EGM:BB:PK

Attachment(s)

cc: Mrs. Angela Martin
Dr. Melissa Shields
Mr. Sean J. Stevens
Dr. Carolyn Jones
Dr. Monica Mack
Mrs. Cathy Lankford
Dr. Blake Busbin

FY24-2009

(Superintendent's Letterhead)

(Date)

Accounting Division
Alabama Department of Veterans' Affairs
Post Office Box 1509
Montgomery, AL 36104

RE: Act 2010-691, *Code of Alabama*, "The State Superintendent of Education may award a standard high school diploma to any honorably discharged veteran who served in the United States Armed Forces at any time between December 7, 1941, and January 31, 1946, between June 27, 1950, and January 31, 1955, or between November 15, 1961, and March 28, 1973 . . . whose entry into the United States Armed Forces interrupted high school attendance and prevented graduation."

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

District	# Diplomas Issued	Cost 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 _____, 2024.

(Notary Public Signature)

(Superintendent Letterhead or Name/Address Information)

School District: _____ Contact Name: _____ Contact Phone #: _____

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 2010-691, *Code of Alabama*.

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

Act 2010-691, *Code of Alabama*, states in part: "The State Superintendent of Education may award a standard high school diploma to any honorably discharged veteran who served in the United States Armed Forces at any time between December 7, 1941, and January 31, 1946, between June 27, 1950, and January 31, 1955, or between November 15, 1961, and March 28, 1973. . . whose entry into the United States Armed Forces interrupted high school attendance and prevented graduation.