

## **INSTRUCTION**

### **Diplomas**

All diplomas will be granted according to the general policies adopted by the board of education relative to required attendance and credits.

The board of education will issue a diploma to a student who has attended an Okemos school as a resident of the district, under the state's School of Choice program, or as an approved non-resident student and who has met the Okemos High School graduation requirements.

A high school diploma shall be awarded, upon request and completion of the required application form, to any WWII or Korean War veteran who left Okemos High School for immediate military service and did not subsequently receive a high school degree. The applicable dates of leaving school are between December 16, 1940 and December 31, 1946 for WWII veterans and between June 27, 1950 and January 31, 1955 for Korean War veterans. Family members may apply on behalf of a living or deceased veteran.

Legal Reference:           Public Act 181 of 2001  
See Also Board Policy: 6156: Graduation Requirements  
5118: Attendance: Non-Resident Students

Policy  
Adopted:     01-12-76  
Amended:    01-22-07  
Reviewed:

**Regulations - Diplomas**

Public Act 181 of 2001, as amended, authorizes Michigan school districts to award high school diplomas to WWII and Korean veterans.

1. Interested WWII or Korean veterans who meet the following requirements may submit a formal application for an Okemos High School diploma:
  - a. must be at least 65 years of age or, if deceased, was age 65 by the date of death;
  - b. before graduation from high school, enlisted in or was drafted into the armed forces of the United States between December 16, 1940 and December 31, 1946 (WWII) or between June 27, 1950 and January 31, 1955 (Korean conflict).
  - c. at the time of enlistment or draft, was enrolled at Okemos High School.
  - d. subsequently did not graduate from high school.
  - e. served under honorable conditions during WWII or the Korean conflict.
- 1.1 Application may be submitted on behalf of a living or deceased veteran by a spouse, brother or sister, child or grandchild.
- 1.2 The school district may verify the dates of the veteran's school enrollment from its records.
2. Application forms are available from the principal's office of Okemos High School, 2800 Jolly Road, Okemos, Michigan [telephone: 517-351-7900] or from the Office of the Superintendent of Schools, 4406 North Okemos Road, Okemos, Michigan [telephone: 517-349-9460].
3. Completed applications must be submitted to the principal's office of Okemos High School.
  - 3.1 If approved, the applicant will be contacted by the principal's office to receive the diploma in person or via U.S. Mail.
  - 3.2 If not approved, the applicant will receive a letter of explanation or be contacted for further information.

Regulations: 10-22-07

**HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA AWARD TO MILITARY VETERAN**  
**Act 181 of 2001**, as amended

AN ACT to authorize the board of a school district to award high school diplomas to World War II veterans and Korean conflict veterans under certain circumstances; and to prescribe duties and responsibilities of certain state officers and officials.

The People of the State of Michigan enact:

**35.341 High school diploma to qualified military veteran; "qualified military veteran" defined.**

Sec. 1. (1) The board of a school district may award a high school diploma to a qualified military veteran.

(2) As used in this act, "qualified military veteran" means an individual who meets all of the following requirements:

(a) The military veteran is at least 65 years of age, if living, or had attained at least 65 years of age, if deceased.

(b) Before graduation from a high school, the military veteran enlisted in or was drafted into the armed forces of the United States during World War II between December 16, 1940 and December 31, 1946 or during the Korean conflict between June 27, 1950 and January 31, 1955.

(c) At the time he or she was drafted into or enlisted in the armed forces of the United States, the military veteran was enrolled in a high school in the school district to which the application is made.

(d) The military veteran did not graduate from high school.

(e) The military veteran served under honorable conditions during World War II or the Korean conflict.

**35.342 Application; form; completion.**

Sec. 2. (1) The application form shall be prescribed by the veterans affairs directorate of the department of veterans and military affairs.

(2) The application may be completed by the veteran or the veteran's spouse, brother or sister, children, or grandchildren.

**35.343 Notification to school district boards.**

Sec. 3. The department of military and veterans affairs shall notify the board of each school district of this act and take steps to encourage each school district to meet the objective of this act.



## **Introduction**

To provide special recognition for the service of military veterans of WWII and the Korean Conflict, Public Act 181 of 2001, as amended, authorizes the board of a Michigan school district to award high school diplomas to WWII and Korean veterans. The State of Michigan recognizes the important contribution and sacrifice these generations of men and women made in our nation's defense. On behalf of the State of Michigan, the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs encourages school districts to present these diplomas to WWII and Korean veterans or their families.

## **Procedure**

*The veteran must meet all the following requirements:*

1. the veteran must be at least 65 years of age or, if deceased, have reached the age of 65 by the date of death.
2. before graduation from high school, the veteran enlisted in or was drafted into the armed forces of the United States between December 16, 1940 and December 31, 1946 (WWII) or between June 27, 1950 and January 31, 1955 (Korean conflict).
3. at the time of enlistment or draft, the veteran was enrolled in a high school of the district to which this application is made.
4. the veteran did not subsequently graduate from high school.
5. the veteran served under honorable conditions during WWII or the Korean conflict.

The application form may be completed by the veteran or on his behalf by a spouse, brother or sister, child or grandchild.

The application requires a copy of the veteran's discharge from military service indicating honorable service between the dates of December 16, 1940 and December 31, 1946 (WWII) or between June 27, 1950 and January 31, 1955 (Korean conflict). The applicant's signature certifies the remaining information.

The school district may verify the dates of the veteran's school enrollment from their own records.

## **Replacement of a Discharge from Military Service**

A veteran or next of kin may request a copy of the veteran's discharge from military service from the National Records Center, Military Personnel Records, 9700 Page Blvd, St. Louis, MO 63132-5100. The National Records Center recommends submitting the request using Standard Form 180 "Request Pertaining to Military Records." You may print the form at <http://www.nara.gov/regional/mpr.html>.

An electronic request may be submitted at [www.vetreco.archives.gov](http://www.vetreco.archives.gov).

Requests require the signature of the veteran or next of kin, if the veteran is deceased. Please include the veteran's full name, date of birth, branch of military service, service number and approximate dates of military service. The workload of the National Records Center may not permit a prompt response to a request.

A veteran who received Michigan's WWII bonus (Public Act 12 of 1947, MCL 35.921) or Korean bonus (Public Act 8 of 1955, MCL 35.972) may request by letter a copy of the discharge from military service from the Veterans Affairs Directorate, 7109 W. Saginaw, Lansing, MI 48913. Please note, delayed applications for the WW II and/or Korean bonuses cannot be accepted. Requests require the signature of the veteran or next of kin, if the veteran is deceased. The next of kin must include a copy of the veteran's death certificate. Please include the veteran's full name, date of birth, branch of military service, service number and approximate dates of military service.

## **Authority & additional information**

Public Act 181 of 2001, as amended, authorizes individual school boards to award these diplomas. A school board will satisfy itself the intent of the law has been met.

You may review Public Act 181 on the internet at <http://michiganlegislature.org>.

The Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, Veterans Affairs Directorate, 7109 W. Saginaw, Lansing, MI 48913 (517/335-6523) is the agency of the State of Michigan responsible for publicity and information concerning the program.