



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

PO Box 500

TRENTON, NJ 08625-0500

December 5, 2011

CHRIS CHRISTIE
Governor

KIM GUADAGNO
Lt. Governor

CHRISTOPHER D. CERF
Acting Commissioner

To All Superintendents:

The Christie Administration has begun a month-long "Season of Service" to give back to the greater New Jersey community. In support of this effort, the New Jersey Department of Education is partnering with the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs to extend holiday greetings to our U.S. service members.

We invite you to take part in this "Season of Service" by having students write letters and make holiday cards for our U.S. service members. We are hoping to collect as many cards and letters as we can by Friday, Dec. 16th.

These letters are incredibly meaningful around the holidays for service members stationed overseas, and they provide an opportunity for all of us to express our appreciation for their service to our country. Children may describe what they are doing in school, describe their favorite holiday activity or tradition and may include pictures and drawings. No food or candy may be attached to cards and no glitter or bulky items may be glued to cards or letters. Cards and letters should not be placed in envelopes, as they will be screened for security purposes. Please have your school principals bundle the letters into one large manila envelope and mail them by Dec. 14th to:

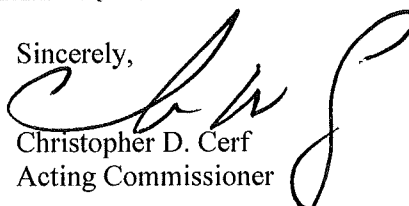
Brian K. Scully
Lieutenant Colonel
Executive Officer
Office of the Adjutant General
101 Eggerts Crossing Road
Lawrenceville, NJ 08648

So that we can track our contribution as a state to this initiative, I would ask you to please notify your Executive County Superintendent of how many letters that you have submitted so that we can celebrate your collective effort.

The "Season of Service" was inspired by 8-year old Aidan McManus, an NJ Hero who has been devoting his time and hard-earned money to feed the homeless and those in need in Burlington County. Nearly 1.5 million New Jerseyans are already positively influencing communities across the state by volunteering their service through local groups, houses of worship and civic organizations. We hope that you will encourage your students to join us in showing appreciation for our U.S. Military men and women.

If you have any additional questions, please contact Allison Kobus in the NJDOE Communications Office at 609-292-1126, or at allison.kobus@doe.state.nj.us.

Sincerely,



Christopher D. Cerf
Acting Commissioner

CDC:æk

www.nj.gov/education