

CEREMONIES AND OBSERVANCES

The Governing Board recognizes the importance of having students join together to celebrate events of cultural or historical significance or to acknowledge the contributions of outstanding individuals. Besides helping students to appreciate their pluralistic heritage, ceremonies and observances can enhance their sense of community, instill pride in our country, and contribute to a positive school climate.

Patriotic Exercises

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, or another appropriate activity, shall be given at the start of each regularly scheduled class each day during the school year in each elementary school.

Appropriate patriotic exercises shall be conducted in each secondary school each regular school day. Recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America will satisfy this requirement, but may be replaced by other suitable exercise. Each secondary school principal is responsible to see that such appropriate patriotic exercises are carried on in the school. Individuals may not be compelled to salute the flag or to stand during the salute. (Education Code 51720 Daily performance of patriotic exercises in public schools).

Special Days and Events

Commemoration of special days and events shall be arranged to the end that the effective observation of these occasions is a definite and valuable part of the school program.

Annual Holidays when school shall be closed on the designated dated include:

- Labor Day
- New Year's Day
- Lincoln Day
- Washington Day
- Memorial Day
- Veteran's Day
- Thanksgiving Day
- Christmas Day
- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- Independence Day

CEREMONIES AND OBSERVANCES (Continued)

The Governor of California may designate any other day as a public fast, thanksgiving or holiday, but schools shall not be closed unless the proclamation specifies that they shall. If not closed, schools shall have proper exercises commemorating the day.

Declaration of holiday(s) may be made by the governing board when good reason exists. (Education Code 37222).

Legal Reference

EDUCATION CODE

37220-37223	Saturdays and holidays
45203	Paid holidays
45460	Classified employee week
52720	Daily performance of patriotic exercises in public schools
	West Virginia State Board of Education et al v. Barnette et al, 319 U.S. 624 (1943)

GOVERNMENT CODE

430-439	Display of flags
3540-3549.3	Meeting and negotiating

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 36

174	Time and occasion for display of flag
175	Position and manner of display of flag