

CEREMONIES AND OBSERVANCES**A. Purpose and Scope**

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.

B. General

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.

Each school shall conduct patriotic exercises daily. The Pledge of Allegiance to the flag will fulfill this requirement. (Education Code 52720).

Individuals may choose not to participate in the flag salute for personal reasons.

C. Forms and References

None

D. Procedures**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.

Holidays:

District schools shall be closed in observance of the following holidays:

New Year's Day – January 1

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – Third Monday in January or the Monday or Friday of the week in which January 15 occurs.

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Lincoln Day – The Monday or Friday of the week in which February 12 occurs

Washington Day – Third Monday in February

Labor Day – First Monday in September

Veterans Day – November 11

Thanksgiving Day – That Thursday in November designated by the President

Christmas Day – December 25

Holidays which fall on a Sunday shall be observed the following Monday. Holidays which fall on a Saturday shall be observed the preceding Friday. If any of the above holidays occurs under federal law on a date different from that indicated above, the Board may close the schools on the date recognized by federal law instead of on the date above. (Education Code 37220)

Commemorative Exercises:

District schools shall be encouraged to hold exercises to commemorate the following special days:

U.S. Constitution Day – On or near September 17

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day – The Friday before the day schools are closed for this holiday.

Lincoln's Birthday – The school day before the day schools are closed for this holiday

Susan B. Anthony Day – February 15

George Washington's Birthday – The Friday preceding the third Monday in February

Black American Day – March 5

Conservation, Bird and Arbor Day – March 7

Cinco De Mayo – May 5

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Classified Employee Week – Third Week in May

Cesar Chavez Day – March 31

California Poppy Day – April 6

John Muir Day – April 21

Day of the Teacher – Second Wednesday in May

Display of Flag

The flag of the United States and the flag of California shall be displayed during school days at the entrance or on the grounds of every school. At all times, the national flag shall be placed in the position of first honor. (Government Code 431, 436; 36 U.S.C. 174)

Upon order of the President, the national flag shall be flown at half-mast upon the death of principal figures of the United States government and the Governor of the state, as a mark of respect to their memory. When so flown, the flag shall be hoisted to the top of the staff for an instant before being lowered to half-mast. It should be hoisted to the peak again before being lowered for the night. (36 U.S.C. 175)

The national flag shall fly at half mast: (36 U.S.C. 175)

1. For 30 days from the death of the President or a former President.
2. For ten days from the death of the Vice President, the Chief Justice or a retired Chief Justice, or the Speaker of the House of Representatives.
3. From the day of death until burial of an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, a former Vice President, a member of the Cabinet, a Secretary of the Army, Navy or Air Force, and the Governor of the state.
4. On the day of death and the following day for a Member of Congress.
5. At the designation of the district office to honor individuals.

CEREMONIES AND OBSERVANCES (Continued)

E. Reports Required

None

F. Record Retention

None

G. Responsible Administrative Unit

Educational Services

H. Approved By

Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services