

**Lower Merion School District**

Policy No.: 807  
Section: OPERATIONS  
Title: OPENING EXERCISES  
Date Adopted: 9/65  
Date Last Revised: 4/20/2020; 6/20/05; 5/16/88

**807 OPENING EXERCISES**

The Board adopts this Policy to ensure that procedures are maintained to uphold individual rights and state and federal laws concerning opening exercises and flag salutes.

For purposes of this Policy, **opening exercises** refer to the period of time, at the start of the school day, during which students recite the Pledge of Allegiance and/or participate in a brief moment of individual prayer or meditation with other students in their classroom. Opening exercises shall not be conducted as a religious service or exercise.

The District shall offer opening exercises that include a salute to the flag and/or recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance or the National Anthem. Students shall not be compelled to participate in opening exercises. Students may decline to stand for and/or recite the Pledge of Allegiance or National Anthem and to salute the flag on the basis of personal belief or religious conviction. Students who choose to refrain from such participation shall respect the right and interests of classmates who do participate and maintain a non-disruptive demeanor throughout the ceremony. Opening exercises also may include a moment of silent meditation.

A United States flag shall be displayed as required by law or other applicable federal guidelines or as determined by the Superintendent or designee. A Pennsylvania flag may also be displayed at each school building or as determined by the Superintendent or designee. Students shall receive instruction in respect for the flags.

**Legal Citations:**

24 P.S. §7-771  
22 Pa.Code §12.10  
24 P.S. §15-1516.1