

RSU #63

- a. NEPN/NSBA Code: IMBB
- b. Title: Exemption from Required Instruction
- c. Author:
- d. Replaces Policy:
- e. Date Approved: ~~10/25/2021~~ RSU #63
- f. Previously Approved: ~~10/25/2021~~ 04/27/2015
- g. Policy Expiration: Review as Needed
- h. Responsible for Review: Policy Committee
- i. Date Reviewed: 11/07/2022 ~~10/06/2021~~ Policy Committee
- j. References: 20-A MRSA § 6209
LD 1536, Chap. 51 Resolves
Ch. 127 § 3.07 (Me. Dept. of Ed. Rules)
Ch. 131 (Me. Dept. of Ed. Rules)
- Cross Reference: Policy ADF – School District Commitment to Learning Results
IJJ – Instructional and Library Material Selection
IMB – Teaching About Controversial/Sensitive Issues
~~IMB-R, IMC, IMDC, and related MRSA~~
sample policies
- k. Narrative:

RSU #63's (the District's) curriculum is designed to reflect the learning expectations for all students in all content areas of the Maine Learning Results, **as well as** other statutory and regulatory requirements, and content areas specified by the RSU #63 Board of Directors (the Board).

The Board acknowledges that, from time to time, individual students may be exposed to some ideas and materials with which they or their parent(s)/**legal** guardians disagree. Students and their parent(s)/**legal** guardian cannot be required to adopt ideas with which they disagree, but such disagreement alone is not a sufficient basis to exempt a student from the **required prescribed** curriculum. Exemptions from the required curriculum should be minimized because they **can** detract from the overall instruction provided to the class as a whole and the educational objectives sought to be achieved by the curriculum.

- I. The Board recognizes, **however, that** there could be topics in the curriculum ~~that~~ **which** may be objectionable to individual students and/or parent(s)/**legal** guardian based on their particular sincerely held religious, moral, or philosophical beliefs. Exemption from instruction ~~that~~ **which** infringes on such beliefs may be requested by the parent(s)/**legal** guardian.
- II. Requests for exemption from instruction must be made in writing **to the building Principal** and are subject to **the** approval ~~by of~~ the ~~building~~ Principal. The Principal will notify the Superintendent as soon as practicable of any request for exemption from instruction and/or **of** their decision. If the Principal denies an exemption request, the parent(s)/**legal** guardian may appeal to the Superintendent. ~~If the parent is still not satisfied, the parent may appeal to the Board, whose decision will be final.~~

- III.** In considering requests for exemption, factors **that** the Principal should consider **may** include:
- A.** The alignment of the curriculum with the Maine Learning Results,
 - B.** Whether the course or content area is required by state law or Board policy,
 - C.** The educational importance of the material or instruction from which exemption is requested,
 - D.** Evidence regarding the sincerity of the belief on which the request is based,
 - E.** Whether the school has a legal obligation to accommodate the exemption request,
 - F.** The effect of exemption or accommodation on the validity of the local assessment system, and
 - G.** Other factors that bear upon the particular request.
- IV.** Exemption from required instruction does not excuse the student from meeting the requirements of the Maine Learning Results.
- V.** When the Principal determines that the curriculum that has been aligned with the system of Maine Learning Results conflicts with sincerely held religious beliefs of a student or their parent(s)/legal guardian, reasonable accommodation in the curriculum will be made for the student, within the scope of existing resources. Alternative instruction may be provided by the school or through approved independent study. Any alternative instruction will be approved in advance by the Principal in consultation with appropriate instructional staff and will meet the standards and objectives of the part of the curriculum that is being replaced. When requests for exemption from required curriculum are made for religious reasons, a parent/legal guardian who is dissatisfied with the Principal's decision may appeal to the Superintendent. If the accommodation in the curriculum that is requested is so great that the validity of the local assessment system is compromised, the Superintendent will determine how to address the situation, subject to the approval of the Commissioner.
- VI.** When a student is exempted from any portion of the regular curriculum for other than religious reasons (exemption based on sincere philosophical or moral beliefs), the staff will make reasonable efforts, within the scope of existing resources, to accommodate alternative instruction for the student. Alternative instruction may be provided by the school or through approved independent study. Any alternative instruction will be approved in advance by the Principal in consultation with the classroom teacher, and will meet the standards and objectives of the part of the curriculum that is being replaced. When requests for exemption are made for philosophical or moral reasons, a parent/legal guardian who is dissatisfied with the Principal's decision may appeal to the Superintendent, whose decision is final.

RSU #63

- a. **NEPN/NSBA Code:** **IMB-R**
b. **Title:** **Teaching About Controversial/Sensitive Issues**
c. **Author:**
d. **Replaces Policy:**
e. **Date Approved:** **11/29/2021** ~~RSU #63~~
f. **Previously Approved:** **11/29/2021** ~~04/27/2015~~
g. **Policy Expiration:** **Review as Needed**
h. **Responsible for Review:** **Policy Committee**
i. **Date Reviewed:** **11/07/2022** ~~11/08/2021~~ **Policy Committee**
j. **References:** **Policies IMC – Controversial Speakers-Programs; Policy IMD – School Ceremonies and Observances; Policy IMDC – Religious Observances and Displays; Policy IA – Instructional Goals and Objectives; Policy IGA – Curriculum Development and Adoption**
k. **Narrative:**

Teaching about controversial/sensitive issues is impossible, or at least severely hampered, if the community does not respect the principles of freedom. ~~and recognize that dissent does not necessarily mean disloyalty. However, one form of dissent, which is incompatible with freedom, is that which attempts to end freedom. Irrational fears do this, and thereby may block the RSU #63 District (the District) in its efforts to handle controversial issues in an atmosphere of freedom and thoroughness.~~

- I. Sensitive or controversial issues will be handled as they arise in the classroom. ~~and will not be avoided in order to restrict or restrain the academic freedom of either the teacher or the student. Neither teachers nor students in district classrooms will avoid an issue simply because it is of a sensitive or controversial nature.~~ If a teacher is unsure about ways to address a sensitive or controversial topic, they should consult the Principal.
- II. Parents will be notified prior to the introduction of a sensitive issue in class in order to have the opportunity to choose not to have their student participate.
- III. It is the responsibility of the schools to make provision for the study of controversial issues. Every effort should be made to see that materials and references presenting all sides of a sensitive or controversial issue are available **presented** to students. ~~in the school library and that these materials are age appropriate.~~
- A. The policy on controversial issues should be defined in terms of the rights of students rather than in terms of the rights of teachers.
- B. The study should be appropriate to the level of maturity of the students and their ability to reason and to comprehend the various perspectives of the subject matter

being presented.

- C. The study should be objective and scholarly with a minimum emphasis on opinion and a maximum emphasis on facts. The teacher will not suppress a student's view of the issue as long as the expression of that view is not derogatory, malicious, or abusive toward other students' views. Additionally, one student will not be permitted to dominate the discussion. In handling sensitive or controversial subjects in the classroom, teachers and students will be encouraged to keep an open mind and will be encouraged to come to their own conclusions regarding a particular problem after independent inquiry.

IV. In the study of controversial issues, the students have the following rights:

- A. The right to study any controversial issue which has political, economic, or social significance; ~~and concerning which (at the appropriate level) they should begin to have an opinion;~~
- B. The right to have free access to all relevant information;
- C. The right to form and express opinions on controversial issues without thereby jeopardizing relations with the teacher or the school; and
- D. The right to study under competent instruction in an atmosphere free from bias and prejudice.

V. The teacher employs the same methods in handling controversial issues as characterize the best teaching at any time.

- A. The teacher, in selecting both the content and the method of instruction, is mindful of the maturity level of the students and alignment with approved curriculum.
- B. The teacher made assurances that the controversial subject to be discussed belongs within the framework of the curriculum to be covered, that the subject is significant as well as meaningful for the students, and that through the discussion, students will have the opportunity to grow.
- C. The teacher handles the classroom presentation in ways that will ensure a wide range of information and interpretation for the students' consideration and strives to present a balance among many points of view.
- D. The teacher does not use the classroom as a personal forum, rather, the teacher serves as a facilitator to ensure points of view are presented in a civil manner. ~~They do not employ the techniques of the demagogue or the protagonist for attention, for control, or simply for color.~~

- E.** The teacher emphasizes keeping an open mind, basing one's judgment on known facts, looking closely at facts to evaluate them in terms of the subject under discussion, and being ready to change one's opinion should new facts come into light.
 - F.** The emphasis of student learning always is on the method of forming an opinion rather than on the opinion formed.
- VI.** Any resident of the appropriate district wishing to lodge a complaint about the use of sensitive or controversial subject matter or methods of teaching controversial subjects should direct such concerns to the Principal of the school involved. Complaints from anyone other than a district resident will be limited to the Principal and the complainant. The procedures outlined below should be followed in responding to such a complaint:
 - A.** The Principal will inform the teacher(s) involved of the nature of the complaint, and meet with the complainant to discuss the issue and to explain the review procedure.
 - B.** If the issue is not resolved with the initial discussion, the complainant will be requested to state the objection in writing, citing specific teaching methods and/or subject matter to which they object. The written objection will be submitted to the building Principal for their review.
 - C.** The building Principal will meet with the teacher(s) involved to review the teaching approach and/or subject matter as to purpose, appropriateness, and content. The findings and recommendations of the Principal will be submitted, in writing, to the Superintendent or their designee. Additionally, the Principal will inform the complainant and the teacher(s) involved.
- VII.** If the complainant and teacher(s) involved are satisfied with the decision of the building Principal, the process is complete. If the complainant or teacher(s) involved are not satisfied with the decision, the process continues.
 - A.** After receiving a formal written indication of dissatisfaction from the complainant or teacher(s) involved, the Principal will direct the appeal to the District Review Committee.
 - B.** The Committee will consist of:
 - 1.** One classroom teacher from the appropriate grade level.
 - 2.** One building administrator from the appropriate level other than the Building Principal.
 - 3.** One member from the RSU #63 Board of Directors (the Board).

4. One representative selected by the complainant.
5. One representative selected by the teacher(s).
6. A Chairperson will be selected from the Committee members listed above.

- VIII.** The District Review Committee will review the issues within 30 school days. The Committee will meet with both the complainant and the teacher(s) involved to review the teaching methods and/or subject matter for purpose, appropriateness, and content. The Committee should utilize the findings of the Building Principal, but is not bound by them and may conduct its own independent inquiry.
- IX.** Upon completion of the review, the Chairperson will present the written findings and recommendations to the Superintendent for action by the Board. This information will also be provided to both the complainant and teacher(s) involved. The complainant and teacher(s) involved will be notified by the Superintendent or their designee as to the specific date and time that the Board will consider the findings and recommendations of the District Review Committee. The Superintendent will inform, in writing, the complainant and teacher(s) involved of the final decision of the Board.
- X.** Either party is afforded continued due process by direct appeal of the Board decision to the Commissioner of Education.

RSU #63

- a. NEPN/NSBA Code:** JFCK
- b. Title:** Student Use of Personal Electronic Devices at School
- c. Author:** Technology
- d. Replaces Policy:**
- e. Date Approved:** 09/26/2022 RSU #63
- f. Previously Approved:** 09/26/2022 04/25/2022
- g. Policy Expiration:** Review as Needed
- h. Responsible for Review:** Policy Committee
- i. Date Reviewed:** 11/07/2022 09/12/2022 Policy Committee
- j. References:** IJNDB/IJNDB-R - Student Use of School-Issued Computers/Devices and the Internet
JIH – Questioning and Searches of Students
JIC – System-wide Student Code of Conduct
JICIA – Weapons, Violence and School Safety
JICK – Bullying and Cyberbullying in Schools
- k. Narrative:**

The RSU #63 Board of Directors (the Board) recognizes that many students possess cellular telephones and other electronic devices. These devices may not be used at school or during school activities in any manner that disrupts the educational process or violates Board policies or school rules. The district is not responsible for damage, loss or theft of such devices. The Superintendent is authorized to develop, with input from administrators, any school rules necessary to implement this policy.

- ~~I. Students are prohibited from using personal electronic devices, including but not limited to cell phones, smartphones, tablets, MP3 players, and electronic games during classes and school activities, including study halls, field trips, and co-curricular/extracurricular activities.~~
- ~~II. Students may use personal electronic devices while traveling for school activities to the extent allowed by bus drivers or employees chaperoning trips.~~
- ~~III. During the school day, all such devices (including cell phones) must be turned off and stowed away. Exceptions to this rule are:
 - ~~A. When a teacher specifically authorizes students to use personal electronic devices for a specific purpose (such as entering an assignment in a device).~~
 - ~~B. When a staff member gives permission to a student to use their cell phone to call a parent/guardian.~~~~

- IV.** The use of cameras or the camera/video function on any device is strictly prohibited in locker rooms, restrooms and classrooms. In other school locations, students are required to obtain permission (from a staff member and from the individual(s) being photographed or videoed) before photographing or taking videos of any individual. Students are also required to obtain prior permission before posting any photos or videos of the individuals taken at school on social media or elsewhere.
- V.** Any use of personal electronic devices that violates any Board policy, administrative procedure, or school rule is strictly prohibited. In addition, accessing, viewing, submitting, forwarding, downloading or displaying any materials that are defamatory, abusive, obscene, vulgar, sexually explicit, sexually suggestive, threatening, discriminatory, harassing, bullying, and/or illegal is prohibited.
- VI.** With parent/guardian consent, student cell phones and other electronic devices may be subject to search if there is reasonable suspicion that a student is violating Board policies, procedures or school rules, state or federal law, or engaging in other misconduct.
- VII.** Students violating these rules will be subject to discipline, which may include:
 - A.** Loss of the device for the remainder of the school day.
 - B.** Exclusion of the device from school for an extended period;
 - C.** Sanctions ranging from detention to expulsion from school, depending upon the nature of the offense and the student's disciplinary record

RSU #63

- a. **NEPN/NSBA Code:** JICA
- b. **Title:** Student Dress Code
- c. **Author:** Superintendent/Principals
- d. **Replaces Policy:**
- e. **Date Approved:** 10/26/2015 RSU 63
- f. **Date Previously Approved:** **10/26/2015** ~~12/06/2004~~ RSU #63
- g. **Policy Expiration:** Review as Needed
- h. **Responsible for Review:** Superintendent/Policy Committee
- i. **Date Reviewed:** **11/07/2022** ~~10/01/2015~~ Superintendent
11/07/2022 ~~10/05/2015~~ Policy Committee

j. **References:**

**Cross Referenced Policies: JI – Student Rights & Responsibilities
JIC – Student Code of Conduct**

k. **Narrative:**

The RSU #63 Board of Directors (the Board) recognize that the responsibility for the dress and appearance of students rests with individual students and their parent(s)/legal guardian(s). The Board will not interfere with this right unless the personal choices of students create a disruptive influence on the school program or affect the health or safety of others.

- I. Students are encouraged to use sound judgment and reflect respect for themselves and others in dress and grooming. In keeping with the goals of RSU #63 (the District) to provide a safe, healthy, and non-discriminatory environment for educating students for maximum academic and social development, the following restrictions on dress will be enforced.
 - A. Articles of clothing that promote the use of tobacco, alcohol or other drugs may not be worn on school grounds (when school is in session) or at school functions.
 - B. Clothing, footwear, insignia, or accessories that are intended to identify the wearer as a member of a particular gang are prohibited.
 - C. Articles of clothing with displays that are sexual, vulgar, lewd or indecent or include insulting words (e.g., racial/ethnic slurs) are impermissible.
 - D. Clothing that is destructive of school property (e.g., cleats, pants with metal inserts that scratch furniture) is not permitted.
- II. School administrators or teachers may require special clothing for health and safety reasons for students participating in physical education, certain extracurricular activities, work with or around machines or other activities. However, no particular brand may be required.
- III. The Superintendent is responsible for the development of any administrative procedures necessary to implement this policy.
- IV. ~~During school days and all school functions students should be appropriately dressed according to the day's weather condition. Dress should not be physically distracting. Clothing is to cover the student's midriff. Items that advertise, display, or represent~~

~~alcoholic beverages, drugs, tobacco, obscenities, or sex are inappropriate.~~

~~In addition to the following, students' dress attire must meet requirements stated in the appropriate student handbook.~~

- ~~V. Hats and other types of headwear intended for outside use should not be worn inside the building. Sunglasses are for outside unless prescribed by a doctor and cleared through the nurse's office.~~
- ~~VI. In addition to normal school dress (pants, slacks, dresses, skirts, etc.), appropriate dress may include loose fitting shorts, such as walking shorts and long denim shorts. Tank tops, see through clothing, and any clothing with revealing holes are also inappropriate. Sleeveless clothing must have appropriate armholes. Blouses and shirts are to be buttoned with appropriate necklines.~~
- ~~VII. Should a question arise as to whether a student is dressed appropriately, the principal will make the final decision. If a student arrives at school dressed inappropriately, the parent will be called and asked to bring the student a change of clothing. All Students at Holbrook Middle School will **may** be required to change clothing for physical education.~~
- ~~VIII. It is the responsibility of all students, staff, teachers, and administrators to maintain a climate conducive to learning and not one of vacation leisure. Students, teachers, parents, and employees must work cooperatively with the school in order to assure the success of the dress code.~~

RSU #63

- a. NEPN/NSBA Code:** **IMC**
- b. Title:** **Controversial Speakers/Programs**
- c. Author:**
- d. Replaces Policy:**
- e. Date Approved:** **09/27/2021** ~~RSU #63~~
- f. Previously Approved:** **09/27/2021** ~~04/27/2015~~
- g. Policy Expiration:** **Review as Needed**
- h. Responsible for Review:** **Policy Committee**
- i. Date Reviewed:** **11/07/2022** ~~08/25/2021~~ **Policy Committee**
- j. References:** **Policy IMB-R – Teaching Controversial and Sensitive Issues; Policy IMDC – Religious Observances and Displays; Policy IMD – School Ceremonies and Observances**
- k. Narrative:**

A goal of education is to prepare our students to participate in a democratic, pluralistic society, a society that holds many differing opinions and espouses differing causes. It is important students develop an understanding of ideas and people who may seem alien to them. It is also important students develop judgment, a capacity to discern the difference between fact and opinion, and to weigh arguments, slogans, and appeals. Books, films, and other media are valuable for giving students exposure to many different ideas; but for effective learning, it is also useful to invite appropriate persons not on the educational staff to speak or meet with groups of students as part of the educational process.

The RSU #63 Board of Directors (the Board) believe it is important for students to have access to information; to appreciate the knowledge, experience, and accomplishments of others; to be exposed to issues upon which there may be disagreement; to learn to discriminate between facts and opinion; and to analyze and discuss different points of view and draw their own conclusions.

- I.** The Board, in an effort to uphold the students' freedom to learn while recognizing obligations which the exercise of freedom entails, establishes the following guidelines:
 - A.** The teacher/sponsor and the Building Principal will exercise judgment and investigate fully proposed resource persons.
 - B.** When appropriate, teachers/sponsors should encourage the use of resource persons representing various approaches or points of view on a given topic in order to afford the students a more comprehensive understanding of the topic/issue. At the same time, teachers are expected to use professional judgment in determining the appropriateness of an issue to the curriculum and/or maturity of the students. When unsure, the teacher should consult with the building Principal.
 - C.** The ideas presented and the resource persons invited to present them will have a demonstrable relation to the curricular or co-curricular activity in which the

participating students are involved.

- D. Teachers/sponsor will provide a fair and balance approach when choosing the resource person.

- II. A teacher (or staff member) who wishes to invite a speaker in relation to presentation of a controversial or sensitive subject **must:**
- A. ~~must~~ Obtain the approval of the building Principal ~~before doing so;~~
 - B. **Submit** requests for speakers ~~must be submitted~~ at least one week in advance; **and**
 - C. **Notify** parents in advance if a speaker's presentation may be controversial.

A teacher/staff member whose request has been denied may appeal to the Superintendent, whose decision will be final. ~~Teachers are encouraged to notify parents in advance if a speaker's presentation may be controversial. Community forums may be encouraged.~~

- III. Principals may invite or approve speakers for school assemblies when the experience is consistent with the objective of this policy. Special assemblies should be scheduled in a way that minimizes interruption of the instructional program. Whenever practicable, teachers/staff should be given advance notice of such assemblies at least 5 school days in advance.

- ~~IV. Prior to the appearance or participation of any resource person(s), the resource person(s) will be given in writing and will agree to abide by the following Board regulations:~~

- ~~A. A copy of the district's Core Values, which is attached and considered a component of this policy.~~
- ~~B. The teacher/staff person who invited the speaker remains responsible for the supervision of students and must be present at all times when the speaker is in the classroom or auditorium if present for a special assembly.~~
- ~~C. The teacher/sponsor responsible for inviting the resource person, or any member of the school administration, has the right and duty to interrupt or suspend any proceeding if the conduct of the resource person is judged to be in poor taste or endangering to the health and safety of students and staff.~~

RSU #63 CORE VALUES

<p style="text-align: center;">HONESTY</p> <p>AN HONEST EDUCATOR:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Tells the truth, "both positive and negative" when constructive ◆ Addresses concerns directly ◆ Admits mistakes <p>AN HONEST STUDENT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Tells the truth, "both positive and negative" when constructive ◆ Addresses concerns directly ◆ Admits mistakes <p>AN HONEST PARENT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Tells the truth, "both positive and negative" when constructive ◆ Addresses concerns directly ◆ Admits mistakes 	<p style="text-align: center;">KINDNESS</p> <p>A KIND EDUCATOR:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Treats all students fairly as individuals ◆ Is supportive ◆ Is patient <p>A KIND STUDENT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Accepts others ◆ Helps and seeks to understand others ◆ Is caring and supportive <p>A KIND PARENT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Accepts limitations ◆ Is supportive ◆ Is patient and helpful
<p style="text-align: center;">RESPECT</p> <p>A RESPECTFUL EDUCATOR:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Is a good listener to others ◆ Is a positive role model ◆ Treats personal and public property and environment with care ◆ Follows the Golden Rule <p>A RESPECTFUL STUDENT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Is a good listener to others ◆ Is a positive role model ◆ Treats personal and public property and environment with care ◆ Follows the Golden Rule <p>A RESPECTFUL PARENT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Is a good listener to others ◆ Is a positive role model ◆ Treats personal and public property and environment with care ◆ Follows the Golden Rule 	<p style="text-align: center;">COMPASSION</p> <p>A COMPASSIONATE EDUCATOR:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Takes time to listen and talk ◆ Creates a nurturing, safe environment ◆ Demonstrates that they care ◆ Is empathetic and careful with others' feelings <p>A COMPASSIONATE STUDENT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Takes time to listen and talk ◆ Takes opportunities to help others ◆ Is accepting of others' differences ◆ Is empathetic and careful with others' feelings <p>A COMPASSIONATE PARENT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Takes time to listen and talk ◆ Creates a nurturing, safe environment ◆ Is willing to compromise and be open ◆ Is empathetic and careful with others' feelings
<p style="text-align: center;">RESPONSIBILITY</p> <p>A RESPONSIBLE EDUCATOR:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Communicates clear expectations and sets reasonable goals ◆ Follows through with commitments ◆ Continues to be a lifelong learner <p>A RESPONSIBLE STUDENT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Comes to school prepared ◆ Follows through with commitments ◆ Invests time in their own learning <p>A RESPONSIBLE PARENT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Helps students learn how to be prepared ◆ Follows through with commitments ◆ Invests time in their children's education/lives 	<p style="text-align: center;">COURAGE</p> <p>A COURAGEOUS EDUCATOR:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Will act upon his/her own beliefs ◆ Encourages individual decision-making ◆ Enforces consequences <p>A COURAGEOUS STUDENT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Will act upon his/her own beliefs ◆ Will resist negative pressures ◆ Accepts consequences <p>A COURAGEOUS PARENT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Will act upon his/her own beliefs ◆ Encourages individual decision-making ◆ Enforces consequences

RSU #63

- a. **NEPN/NSBA Code:** **IMDB**
- b. **Title:** **Flag Displays**
- c. **Author:**
- d. **Replaces Policy:**
- e. **Date Approved:** **02/27/2017** RSU #63
- f. **Previously Approved:** **02/27/2017** **08/22/2005**
- g. **Policy Expiration:** **Review as Needed**
- h. **Responsible for Review:** **Superintendent & Policy Committee**
- i. **Date Reviewed:** **11/07/2022** **01/09/2017** **Superintendent**
11/07/2022 **01/09/2017** **Policy Committee**
- j. **References:** **20-A MRSA Chaps. 1055(6), 4085**

k. Narrative:

The RSU #63 Board of Directors (the Board) intends due respect be given to our national and state flags. In accordance with Maine state law, the United States and Maine flags will be displayed from RSU #63 (the District) school buildings every school day and on appropriate occasions. Further, the United States flag is to be displayed in every RSU 63 classroom for the pledge of allegiance.

- I. The Superintendent or his/her their designee is responsible for furnishing each school and facility accordingly, and to recommend to the Board an annual expenditure amount necessary to provide sufficient flags and flagstuffs. This amount is to be included in the annual Board-approved RSU #63 budget.
- II. It will be the duty of teaching personnel to educate students, by suitable references and observances:
 - A. the significance of the United States flag,
 - B. the cost, object and principles of our government, and the inestimable sacrifices made by the founders of our nation,
 - C. the important contribution made by all who have served in the armed services of our country since its inception, and
 - D. to love, honor, and respect the flag of our country.
- III. All RSU #63 support staff will demonstrate by both words and actions their support of the teaching provided students as reflected in Section II above.
- IV. The Pledge of Allegiance should be rendered by standing at attention, facing the flag, and

saluting the same when the National Anthem is played. Citizens not in uniform salute by placing their right hand over the heart and those with a head cover should remove it and hold it in the right hand over the heart.

- V.** The national flag will be flown at half-staff in mourning for designated, principal government leaders and upon presidential or gubernatorial order. The process of displaying the national flag at half-staff is as follows:
 - A.** It must be first raised to full staff and then lowered to half-staff.
 - B.** When the period of mourning is over, or at the time of taking the flag down, the flag must be raised to full staff and then lowered to be removed.
- VI.** No other flag representing a state or organization may be flown higher than the national flag.
- VII.** The flag should never touch the ground or any other object, but should be received by waiting hands and arms when taking it down.