

PATRIOTIC EXERCISES

Constitution and Citizenship Day.

In accordance with federal law, the District shall offer an education program(s) each year on Constitution Day and Citizenship Day to commemorate the September 17, 1787 signing of the United States Constitution and recognize all who, by coming of age or by naturalization, have become citizens. The Superintendent or his/her designee shall establish administrative guidelines ensuring that the District observes Constitution Day and Citizenship Day properly and, in a manner, befitting the importance of the event.

During the weeks of Memorial Day and Veterans Day, the District will devote time for exercises of a patriotic nature, including a discussion of the words, meaning, and history of the Pledge of Allegiance and the Star Spangled Banner. These exercises may include speakers, instruction, presentations, and other events as appropriate. Federal Constitution exercises may include recognition of the New Hampshire constitution as well as exercises related to rights and responsibilities as citizens.

Display of Flags of the United States and State Flags.

Each schoolhouse of the District shall have and display prominently outside the school, at least one state and American flag, each being no less than 5 feet in length. If possible, the two flags will be displayed on separate staffs of the same height. If the two flags are displayed on the same staff, the American flag will be displayed above the New Hampshire flag. Additionally, the principal assembly room of each schoolhouse shall likewise have the two flags conspicuously displayed. The flags will be lowered to half-mast whenever the Governor orders the lowering of flags on state property. Flags shall be replaced whenever they become torn or unduly worn.

The Board authorizes the Superintendent and each Building Principal to accept the donation of the United States and the New Hampshire flags and display apparatus from State agencies, private groups, or individual citizens, and to determine the location of the flags in the classrooms or on school property. Upon receipt of an American flag or a New Hampshire state flag, priority for display shall be in any classroom where none is already displayed.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Every school shall establish a period of time during each school day for the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance. Pupil participation shall be voluntary. Pupils who do not participate in the recitation may sit or stand as they choose, but shall respect the rights of those pupils electing to participate.

General John Stark Day.

New Hampshire observes General John Stark day on the second Monday in April. Schools in the District shall commemorate the day with appropriate educational activities.

Legal References:

RSA 189:17 Flags and Regulations

RSA 4:13-I, General John Stark Day

RSA 189:18, Patriotic Exercises

RSA 194:15-c, New Hampshire School Patriot Act

36 U.S.C. § 106, Constitution Day and Citizenship Day

Section 111 of Division J of Public Law 108-447 (2004)

Legal References Disclaimer: These references are not intended to be considered part of this policy, nor should they be taken as a comprehensive statement of the legal basis for the Board to enact this policy, nor as a complete recitation of related legal authority. Instead, they are provided as additional resources for those interested in the subject matter of the policy.

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