

RANCHO SANTA FE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board Policy No. 6035: PATRIOTIC EXERCISES

A. Patriotic Exercises

The Governing Board affirms its commitment to the requirement set forth in Education Code section 52720 that during each day of the school year there shall be conducted appropriate patriotic exercises. In order to ensure compliance with this important requirement, the Board has determined that the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America shall be delivered to all pupils at the beginning of each school day and that the following procedures shall apply:

1. All pupils shall be requested to remove any non-religious headdress, including hats;
2. All pupils shall be requested to stand at attention facing the flag with the right hand over heart; and
3. Individuals may choose not to participate in the Pledge of Allegiance for personal reasons.

B. Promoting the Importance of Pledge of Allegiance Through Instruction

Consistent with Education Code section 52730, the Board encourages teachers to provide the opportunity for additional patriotic activities as appropriate, including providing instruction that promotes understanding the concepts of “pledge,” “allegiance,” “republic,” and “indivisible,” and understanding of the importance of the pledge as an expression of patriotism, love of country, and pride in the United States.

The Superintendent shall ensure that patriotic instruction at the District includes the following:

1. An educational program in observance of Constitution Day, September 11 National Day of Service and Remembrance (September 11), and Citizenship Day (September 17). When September 11 or 17 falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or holiday, the Superintendent shall select a date for the observance during the week preceding or following September 11 or 17;
2. Appropriate educational programs that recognize and honor the observance of Veterans Day and Memorial Day, which shall occur on dates determined by the Superintendent; and
3. Other instruction that promotes and facilitates the understanding of patriotism in pupils as set forth in Education Code section 52730.

These celebrations listed above shall include all grade levels.

C. Display of Flag

The flag of the United States and the flag of the State of California shall be displayed during school days at the entrance of the District. At all times, the flag of the United States shall be placed in the position of first honor.

The flag of the United States shall fly at half-staff on the following occasions:

1. For 30 days from the death of the President or a former President;
2. For 10 days from the death of the Vice President, the Chief Justice of the United States, or a retired Chief Justice, or the Speaker of the House of Representatives;
3. From the day of death until interment of an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, a secretary of an executive or military department, former Vice President, or the Governor of the State of California;
4. On the day of death and the following day for a Member of Congress;
5. On Memorial Day, until noon only;
6. On Peace Officers Memorial Day (May 15), unless it falls on Armed Forces Day
7. Upon a proclamation from the Governor in the event of the death of a present or former official of the state government or a member of the Armed Forces from the state who has died while serving on active duty; and
8. On other occasions by order of the President and in accordance with presidential instructions or orders.

Legal Reference: Education Code sections 52720 and 52730
Government Code sections 431 and 436
4 USC 6 and 4 USC 7

Date Policy adopted by the Board: December 9, 2022