Policy 6115: Ceremonies And Observances

Status: ADOPTED

Original Adopted Date: 10/01/1994 | **Last Revised Date:** 03/01/2024 | **Last Reviewed Date:** 03/01/2024

The Governing Board recognizes the importance of having students observe holidays, celebrate events of cultural, historical, or present day significance, and acknowledge the contributions of outstanding individuals in society. On days designated by the Board, and as required by law, staff shall provide students with appropriate commemorative exercises and educational experiences so that they may acquire the knowledge, skills, and principles essential for informed, responsible citizenship in a democratic society.

District schools shall be closed on the holidays specified in Education Code 37220 and on any other day designated as a holiday by the Board. The Board may, by adoption of a resolution, revise the date upon which schools close in observance of any holiday except Veterans Day, which shall be celebrated on its actual date. (Education Code 37220)

In addition, the Board may, through the adoption of a resolution, authorize the display of symbolic flags or banners in support of specific awareness months.

Policy Reference Disclaimer:
These references are not intended to be part of the policy itself, nor do they indicate the basis or authority for the board to enact this policy. Instead, they are provided as additional resources for those interested in the subject matter of the policy.

State	Description
Ed. Code 37220-37222.21	Holidays and commemorative events
Ed. Code 44015.1	Week of the School Administrator
Ed. Code 45203	Paid holidays
Ed. Code 45460	Classified School Employee Week
Ed. Code 49110.5	Workplace Readiness Week
Ed. Code 52720-52730	Patriotic exercises and instruction
Gov. Code 3540-3549.3	Public education employer-employee relations
Gov. Code 430-439	Display of flags

Federal	Description
36 USC 106	Constitution Day and Citizenship Day
4 USC 6	Time and occasion for display of flag
4 USC 7	Position and manner of display of flag

Management Resources	Description
Court Decision	Newdow v. Rio Linda Union School District (9th Cir. 2010) 597 F.3d 1007
Court Decision	West Virginia State Board of Education et al. v. Barnette et al. (1943) 319 U.S. 624
Website	CSBA District and County Office of Education Legal Services
Website	California Department of Education, History/Social Science Instructional Materials
Website	CSBA

Cross References

Code	Description
1330	Use Of School Facilities
1330	Use Of School Facilities
4156.2	Awards And Recognition
4256.2	Awards And Recognition
4356.2	Awards And Recognition
5113.2	Work Permits
5113.2	Work Permits
6111	School Calendar
6117	Year-Round Schedules
6141.2	Recognition Of Religious Beliefs And Customs
6141.2	Recognition Of Religious Beliefs And Customs
6142.3	Civic Education
6142.4	Service Learning/Community Service Classes
6142.94	History-Social Science Instruction
6143	Courses Of Study
6143	Courses Of Study
6144	Controversial Issues
6145.8	Assemblies And Special Events
6175	Migrant Education Program
6175	Migrant Education Program
6178.1	Work-Based Learning
6178.1	Work-Based Learning

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Original Adopted Date: 11/01/1999 | **Last Revised Date:** 03/01/2024 | **Last Reviewed Date:** 03/01/2024

Holidays

District schools shall be closed on the following holidays: (Education Code 37220)

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

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

Washington Day - Third Monday in February

Memorial Day - Last Monday in May

Juneteenth National Independence Day - June 19

Independence Day - July 4

Labor Day - First Monday in September

Veterans Day - November 11

Thanksgiving Day - The Thursday in November designated by the President

Christmas Day - December 25

In addition, schools shall be closed on: (Education Code 37220)

1. Any day appointed by the Governor as a holiday or as a special or limited holiday on which the Governor provides that schools shall close

2. Any day appointed by the President as a holiday, including by executive order or by signing into law legislation that creates a nationwide federal holiday

3. Any other day designated as a holiday by the Governing Board and/or negotiated with employee organizations

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 occur 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 hold exercises in accordance with law to commemorate the following special days: (Education Code 37220, 37221, 45460, 49110.5)

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

Abraham 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
Workplace Readiness Week - The week that includes April 28

Classified Employee Week - Third week in May

U.S. Constitution and Citizenship Day - On or near September 17

Commemorative exercises shall be integrated into the regular educational program as required by law.

Patriotic Exercises

Each school shall conduct patriotic exercises daily, which may include the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States and/or instruction that promotes understanding of 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. (Education Code 52720, 52730)

At elementary schools, such exercises shall be conducted at the beginning of each school day. (Education Code 52720)

At secondary schools, such exercises shall be conducted during the homeroom period.

A student may choose not to participate in the flag salute or Pledge of Allegiance for personal reasons.

Display of Flag

The flag of the United States and the flag of California shall be displayed during business hours at the entrance or on the grounds of every district school and on or near the district office. At all times, the national flag shall be placed in the position of first honor. (Government Code 431, 436; 4 USC 6)

When displayed on a building or on a flagstaff in the open, the national flag shall be displayed only from sunrise to sunset unless properly illuminated during the hours of darkness. The flag should not

be displayed during inclement weather unless an all-weather flag is used. (4 USC 6)

The national flag shall fly at half-staff on the following occasions: (4 USC 7)

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 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 a state
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, a member of the Armed Forces from the state who has died while serving on active duty, or the death of a first responder working in the state who dies while serving in the line of duty
8. On other occasions by order of the President and in accordance with presidential instructions or orders

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