

Instruction

Ceremonies and Observances

A. Holidays

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

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| 1. | New Year's Day | January 1 |
| 2. | Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day | Third Monday in January or the Monday or Friday of the week in which January 15 occurs |
| 3. | Lincoln Day | The Monday or Friday of the week in which February 12 occurs |
| 4. | Washington Day | Third Monday in February |
| 5. | Memorial Day | Last Monday in May |
| 6. | Juneteenth National Independence Day | June 19 |
| 7. | Independence Day | July 4 |
| 8. | Labor Day | First Monday in September |
| 9. | Veterans Day | November 11 |
| 10. | Thanksgiving Day | The Thursday in November designated by the President |
| 11. | 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 Board of Education and/or negotiated with employee organizations.

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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 occurs 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)

B. Commemorative Exercises

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

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| 1. | U.S. Constitution and Citizenship Day | On or near September 17 |
| 2. | Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day | The Friday before the day schools are closed for this holiday |
| 3. | Abraham Lincoln's Birthday | The school day before the day schools are closed for this holiday |
| 4. | Susan B. Anthony Day | February 15 |
| 5. | George Washington's Birthday | The Friday preceding the third Monday in February |
| 6. | Black American Day | March 5 |
| 7. | Conservation, Bird, and Arbor Day | March 7 |
| 8. | Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day | April 24 |
| 9. | Teacher Appreciation Week | First week in May |
| 10. | Classified Employee Week | Third week in May |

Commemorative exercises shall be integrated into the regular educational program to the extent feasible.

In addition to commemorative exercises that are required by law, Education Code 37220.7, as amended by AB 1801, and 51109, as well as various legislative resolutions, including

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Board of Education resolutions and/or observances that promote equity, access and inclusion within the local school community, have designated other days of special significance on which schools are encouraged, but not required, to conduct appropriate commemorative exercises.

C. Patriotic Exercises

Each school shall conduct patriotic exercises daily. These patriotic exercises shall consist of the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance and may also include 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.

D. 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)

Only the flag of the United States and flag of California shall be displayed on the flagstaff at District facilities and schools. If the school receives recognition from the U.S. Department of Education (ex. National Blue Ribbon School) or California Department of Education (ex. California Distinguished School) a flag in recognition of that honor may be flown underneath the flag of California.

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

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

Rules Approved: 02/1959

Rules Revised: 08/1966; 02/1970; 07/02/1985; 11/17/1998; 10/01/2002; 11/16/2010;
11/01/2016; 10/05/2018; 07/17/2020; 11/04/2022; 05/19/2023

(Formerly AR 6180)