

Instruction

Ceremonies and Observances

A. Holidays

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

- |     |                                |  |
|-----|--------------------------------|--|
| 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.  | Independence Day               | July 4   |
| 7.  | Labor Day                      | First Monday in September  |
| 8.  | Veterans Day                   | November 11  |
| 9.  | Thanksgiving Day               | The Thursday in November designated by the President                                   |
| 10. | Christmas Day                  | December 25  |

In addition, schools shall be closed on any day designated by the Governor or President for a holiday, any special or limited holiday on which the Governor provides that the schools shall close, and any other day designated as a holiday by the Governing Board and/or negotiated with employee organizations. (Education Code 37220)

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.

B. Commemorative Exercises

District schools shall hold exercises in accordance with law to commemorate the

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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 37222-37222.20 and 51009, as well as various legislative resolutions, have designated other days of special significance on which schools are encouraged, but not required, to conduct appropriate commemorative exercises, including, but not limited to:

1. School Board Recognition Month in January
2. Ed Roberts Day on January 23
3. Fred Korematsu Day of Civil Liberties and the Constitution on January 30
4. Lunar New Year on the date corresponding with the second new moon following the winter solstice, or the third new moon following the winter solstice if an intercalary month intervenes
5. National African American History Month in February

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6. National School Counseling Week – five days starting with the first Sunday in February
7. Ronald Reagan Day on February 6
8. National Parent Teacher Association Founders Day on February 17
9. California Agriculture Day on the first day of spring each year
10. National Women’s History Month in March
11. Read Across America Day on March 2 (Dr. Seuss’ Birthday)
12. California Agriculture Day on the first day of spring each year
13. Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day on March 30
14. Cesar Chavez Day on March 31
15. National Bilingual/Multilingual Learner Advocacy Month in April
16. California Poppy Day on April 6
17. Dolores Huerta Day on April 10
18. Public Schools Volunteer Week the third week in April
19. Administrative Professionals Day the Wednesday of the last full week in April
20. John Muir Day on April 21
21. Earth Day on April 22
22. Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month in May
23. Labor History Month in May
24. National Mental Health Month in May
25. School Principals Day on May 1
26. Law Day, U.S.A. on May 1
27. School Nutrition Employee Week the second week in May
28. California Day of the Teacher on the second Wednesday in May
29. National School Nurse Day on May 11
30. Harvey Milk Day on May 22
31. California Admission Day on September 9
32. Patriots Day on September 11
33. Native American Day on the fourth Friday in September
34. National Hispanic Heritage Month September 15 – October 15
35. Filipino American History Month in October
36. Week of the School Administrator on the second full week of October (Ed Code 44015.1)
37. Red Ribbon Week the last week of October
38. Larry Itliong Day on October 25
39. National Native American Heritage Month in November
40. Election Day the first Tuesday after November 1<sup>st</sup>
41. National Special Education Day on December 2
42. Bill of Rights Day on December 15

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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)

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.

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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

(Formerly AR 6180)