

## **Instruction**

### **Ceremonies and Observations**

In observing holidays, the following rules shall be observed:

1. Teachers are asked to discourage the collection of funds by pupils and/or parents for gifts to the individual teachers.
2. The use of Christmas trees may be restricted to one large tree in each building, donated, if desired, by the local PTA. If trees are used in the classroom, the tree should be small and preferably artificial. The tree must be fireproof. Any deviation of this rule must be approved by the principal.
3. Classroom decorations in connection with the Christmas holidays should be removed at the conclusion of the last day of school prior to vacation.
4. When observing any holiday of religious origin, remember to keep in mind the beliefs of all children and their families.

### **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 the intermediate school, such exercises shall be conducted at the beginning of the school day or during the homeroom period.

Individuals may choose not to participate in the flag salute 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 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

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