

CEREMONIES AND OBSERVANCES

The Governing Board recognizes the importance of having students join together to celebrate events of cultural or historical significance or to acknowledge the contributions of outstanding individuals. Besides helping students to appreciate their pluralistic heritage, holidays, ceremonies and observances can enhance their sense of community, instill pride in our country, and contribute to a positive school climate.

(cf. 6141.6 - Multicultural Education)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

37220-37223 Saturdays and holidays

44015.1 Week of the school administrator

45203 Paid holidays

45460 Classified employee week

52720 Daily performance of patriotic exercises in public schools

GOVERNMENT CODE

430-439 Display of flags

3540-3549.3 Meeting and negotiating

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 4

6 Time and occasion for display of flag

7 Position and manner of display of flag

COURT DECISIONS

West Virginia State Board of Education et al v. Barnette et al, 319 U.S. 624 (1943)

Management Resources:

WEB SITES

CDE: <http://www.cde.ca.gov>

CEREMONIES AND OBSERVANCES

Holidays

District schools shall be closed in observance of the following holidays:

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
Independence Day	July 4
Labor Day	First Monday in September
Veteran's Day	November 11
Thanksgiving Day	That Thursday in November designated by the President
Christmas Day	December 25

(cf. 6141.2 - Recognition of Religious Beliefs and Customs)

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)

(cf. 6111 - School Calendar)

Commemorative Exercises

District schools shall hold exercises to commemorate the following special days:

U.S. Constitution Day	On or near September 17
Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Day	The Friday before the day schools are closed for this holiday
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
Classified Employee Week	Third Week in May

CEREMONIES AND OBSERVANCES (continued)

Patriotic Exercises

Each school shall conduct patriotic exercises daily. At elementary schools, such exercises shall be conducted at the beginning of each school day. The Pledge of Allegiance to the flag will fulfill this requirement. (Education Code 52720)

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 school days at the entrance or on the grounds of every school. At all times, the national flag shall be placed in the position of first honor. (Government Code 431, 436; 36 USC 174)

Upon order of the President, the national flag shall be flown at half-staff upon the death of principal figures of the United States government and the Governor of a state, as a mark of respect to their memory. In the event of death of other officials or foreign dignitaries, the flag shall be displayed at half-staff according to Presidential instructions or orders, or in accordance with recognized customs or practices not inconsistent with law. In the event of the death of a present or former official of the government of any state, the Governor may proclaim that the flag be flown at half-staff. (36 USC 175)

In addition, the national flag shall fly at half-staff: (36 USC 175)

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 internment of an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, a secretary of executive or military department, former Vice President, and the Governor of a state
4. On the day of death and the following day for a Member of Congress