

Recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance

1. Not less frequently than at the beginning of each instructional week the building principal, classroom teacher, or a group of students shall lead in an oral recitation of the pledge of allegiance to the flag of the United States ("the pledge"). The building principal will determine who shall lead the recitation and how frequently.
2. At special functions, including, but not limited to, assemblies or other school programs, the teacher, principal, or other school official supervising or leading the function may, at his or her discretion, lead the assemblage in an oral recitation of the pledge.
3. A pupil who because of religious, political, or other personal convictions wishes not to participate in the oral recitation of the pledge shall be excused from doing so. A pupil also shall be excused from participation if his or her parent or guardian has filed a written objection to the pupil's participation with the principal. The intimidation of any pupil by other pupils or staff aimed at coercing participation is prohibited.
4. A staff member who because of religious, political, or other personal convictions wishes not to participate in the oral recitation of the pledge shall be excused from doing so provided he or she has submitted to the building principal at least one day before the first instructional day of the school year a written statement to that effect. If the staff member elects during the school year to discontinue his or her participation in the recitation of the pledge, he or she shall file the written statement as soon as possible.
5. In the event that a staff member is excused from participating in the oral recitation of the pledge, the principal shall appoint a student or other alternative leader to lead that staff member's class in the recitation of the pledge.
6. Any person not participating in the oral recitation of the pledge shall remain in the classroom and conduct himself/herself so as not to disrupt others in their recitation of the pledge.
7. As a part of regular classroom studies, teachers are encouraged to discuss what the words of the pledge mean, the constitutional rights of persons to refrain from recitation, and the importance of respect for differing points of view.
8. Each building may elect to provide for a moment of silence each school day for prayer, reflection, or meditation upon a moral, philosophical, or patriotic theme; provided, however, that no pupil shall be required to participate in such moment of silence.
9. The right of a pupil, during meal or other non-instructional periods when pupils are free to associate, to engage in the free, individual, and voluntary exercise or expression of the pupil's religious beliefs is recognized and affirmed.

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