

**Instruction**

**CEREMONIES AND OBSERVANCES**

The Board of Trustees recognizes the importance of having students observe holidays, celebrate events of cultural or historical significance, and acknowledge the contributions of outstanding individuals in society. On days designated by the Board, staff shall provide students with appropriate commemorative exercises so that they may acquire the knowledge, skills, and principals essential for informed, responsible citizenship in a democratic society.

(cf. 6111 - School Calendar)

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

(cf. 6141.6 - Multicultural Education)

(cf. 6142.3 - Civic Education)

(cf. 6142.4 - Learning Through Community Service)

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

52730 Patriotic exercises, daily instruction

**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

**UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 36**

106 Note Constitution Day and Citizenship Day

**COURT DECISIONS**

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

Management Resources:

**CSBA PUBLICATIONS**

Constitution Day: New Mandate for Districts Receiving Federal Funds, CSBA Advisory, August 2005

**FEDERAL REGISTER**

70 Fed. Reg. 29727 Constitution Day and Citizenship Day (2005)

**CEREMONIES AND OBSERVANCES (continued)**

**WEB SITES**

CSBA: <http://www.csba.org>

California Department of Education, History/Social Science Instructional Materials:

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/hs/im>

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**Instruction**

**CEREMONIES AND OBSERVANCES**

**Holidays**

District schools shall be closed in observance of the following holidays: (Education Code 37220)

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

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)

**Commemorative Exercises**

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

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

**CEREMONIES AND OBSERVANCES (continued)**

Ed Roberts Day	January 23
Fred Korematsu Day of Civil Liberties and the Constitution	January 30
Abraham 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
Harvey Milk Day	May 22

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

**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 secondary schools, such exercises shall be conducted 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 school. At all times, the national flag shall be placed

**CEREMONIES AND OBSERVANCES (continued)**

in the position of first honor. (Government Code 431, 436; 4USC 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 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
5. On Peace Officers Memorial Day (May 15), unless that day is also Armed Forces Day
6. Upon 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
7. On other occasions by order of the President and in accordance with presidential instructions or orders

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

(cf. 6111 - School Calendar)

(cf. 6142.94 - History-Social Science Instruction)

(cf. 6142.3 - Civic Education)

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