

PATRIOTIC EXERCISES

Maine state law requires display of and instruction about the American flag in the classrooms of our schools.

To foster appreciation and respect for our nation and its symbol, the Board requires that on each morning and at assemblies and other appropriate occasions in every school, the Pledge of Allegiance is to be given by all pupils and staff. It is the responsibility of the Superintendent to ensure that this policy is followed, but the Principal may determine the manner in which it will be done, such as through an intercom or by the individual classroom teacher.

Pupils who object to participating in the flag salute as a matter of conscience shall be excused from doing so upon submission of a request in writing and signed by a parent/guardian which provides evidence of sincere conviction. Such excuses shall not intimidate or embarrass the student. An excused student may stand or remain seated. Arrangements can be made so that they may leave the room during the Pledge. When in the presence of staff and students conducting a salute, an excused student will show the appropriate respect for the others' participation.

A teacher may also be excused from participating in the flag salute, but a teacher is not released from the responsibility of regular supervisory duty of covering a classroom of students during that time. No teacher is excused from appropriate participation in teaching the special observances in the curriculum as is required by law.

Legal Reference: 20-A MRSA §§ 1055, 4805

DATE ADOPTED: JULY 1, 2003

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