

CEREMONIES AND OBSERVANCES**Holidays**

District schools shall be closed ~~in observance of~~ on 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~~ **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

Veterans Day - November 11

Thanksgiving Day - ~~the~~ **The** Thursday in November designated by the President

Christmas Day - December 25

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

In addition, schools shall be closed on any day designated by the Governor or President for a holiday, any special or limited holiday on which the Governor provides that the schools shall close, and any other day designated as a holiday by the Governing Board and/or negotiated with employee organizations. (Education Code 37220)

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 **Governing** 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 day: (Education Code 37220, 37221, 45460)

U.S. Constitution and Citizenship Day, - On or near September 17 ~~including exercises and instruction in the purpose, meaning, and importance of the Constitution and Bill of Rights~~

CEREMONIES AND OBSERVANCES (continued)

AR 6115 (b)

~~Each year on or near September 17, in commemoration of Constitution and Citizenship Day, the district shall hold an educational program for students in grades K-12 pertaining to the United States Constitution which shall include exercises and instruction in the purpose, meaning, and importance of the Constitution, including the Bill of Rights. (Education Code 37221; P.L. 108-447, Sec. 111)~~

~~(cf. 6115 - Ceremonies and Observances)~~

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day - The Friday before the day schools are closed for this holiday

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

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

(cf. 6142.94 - History-Social Science Instruction)

(cf. 6142.3 - Civic Education)

Patriotic Exercises

Each school shall conduct patriotic exercises daily, which may include the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States and/or 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. ~~The Pledge of Allegiance to the flag will fulfill this requirement. (Education Code 52720; 52730)~~

~~Individuals~~ A student may choose not to participate in the flag salute or Pledge of Allegiance for personal reasons. ~~However, such individuals are expected to maintain a courteous and respectful demeanor during the flag salute.~~

Display of Flag

The flag of the United States and the flag of California shall be displayed during ~~school days~~ **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)

~~When displayed from a staff in a public auditorium on or off a podium, the flag of the United States of America should hold the position of superior prominence, in advance of the audience, and in the position of honor at the speaker's right as he/she faces the audience. Any other flag so displayed should be placed on the left of the speaker (to the right of the audience).~~

~~Student shall receive appropriate instruction on the meaning of the flag and of the Pledge of Allegiance.~~

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 or** 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~~ **it falls on** Armed Forces Day
6. On Memorial Day, until noon only
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**

~~In addition, 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 the state or the death of a member of the Armed Forces from the state who has died while serving on active duty, the Governor may proclaim that the flag be flown at half staff. (4 USC 7)~~

Regulation amended: Date pending

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