

Regulation 6115: Ceremonies And Observances

Original Adopted Date: 2/14/2024

Holidays

District schools shall be closed 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 Monday or Friday of the week in which February 12 occurs

Washington Day - Third Monday in February

Memorial Day - Last Monday in May

Juneteenth National Independence Day- June 19

Independence Day - July 4

Labor Day - First Monday in September

Veterans Day - November 11

Thanksgiving Day - The Thursday in November designated by the President

Christmas Day - December 25

In addition, schools shall be closed on: (Education Code 37220)

1. Any day appointed by the Governor as a holiday or as a special or limited holiday on which the Governor provides that schools shall close
2. Any day appointed by the President as a holiday, including by executive order or by signing into law legislation that creates a nationwide federal holiday
3. Any other day designated as a holiday by the Governing Board and/or negotiated with employee organizations

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)

Commemorative Exercises

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

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

U.S. Constitution and Citizenship Day - On or near September 17

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

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 secondary schools, such exercises shall be conducted during the homeroom period.

A student may choose not to participate in the flag salute or Pledge of Allegiance 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 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)

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 interment of an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, a secretary of an executive or military department, former Vice President, or the Governor of a state
4. On the day of death and the following day for a Member of Congress
5. On Memorial Day, until noon only
6. On Peace Officers Memorial Day (May 15), unless it falls on Armed Forces Day
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

Policy Reference Disclaimer:

These references are not intended to be part of the policy itself, nor do they indicate the basis or authority for the board to enact this policy. Instead, they are provided as additional resources for those interested in the subject matter of the policy.

State

Ed. Code 37220-37222.21

Ed. Code 44015.1

Ed. Code 45203

Ed. Code 45460

Ed. Code 52720-52730

Gov. Code 3540-3549.3

Gov. Code 430-439

Description

[Holidays and commemorative events](#)

[Week of the School Administrator](#)

[Paid holidays](#)

[Classified School Employee Week](#)

[Patriotic exercises and instruction](#)

[Public education employer-employee relations](#)

[Display of flags](#)

Federal

36 USC 106

4 USC 6

4 USC 7

Description

Constitution Day and Citizenship Day

Time and occasion for display of flag

Position and manner of display of flag

Management Resources

Court Decision

Description

Newdow v. Rio Linda Union School District (9th Cir. 2010) 597 F.3d 1007

Court Decision

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

Website

[CSBA District and County Office of Education Legal Services](#)

Website	California Department of Education, History/Social Science Instructional Materials
Website	CSBA

Cross References

Code	Description
1330	Use Of School Facilities
1330	Use Of School Facilities
4156.2	Awards And Recognition
4256.2	Awards And Recognition
4356.2	Awards And Recognition
6111	School Calendar
6117	Year-Round Schedules
6141.2	Recognition Of Religious Beliefs And Customs
6141.2	Recognition Of Religious Beliefs And Customs
6142.3	Civic Education
6142.4	Service Learning/Community Service Classes
6142.94	History-Social Science Instruction
6144	Controversial Issues
6145.8	Assemblies And Special Events