

SCHOOL CEREMONIES AND OBSERVANCES

The participation of Board of Directors members, school administrators, teachers, and other staff members in public ceremonies and observances-- both school-related and of a general civic or community nature--will be encouraged as a way to foster good public relations between the schools and the community.

School-related ceremonies and observances planned by an individual school should be scheduled, as much as possible, not to conflict either with important system-wide or important local civic or community events.

Classroom Ceremonies

The following policies will be adhered to regarding exercises in the schools:

At the discretion of each building Principal, the national anthem and the pledge of allegiance may be made part of the daily opening exercises.

Students not participating will be expected to observe the courtesy of not disturbing others. In accordance with legal guidelines, any student may (a) stand and salute the flag; (b) stand and refrain from saluting the flag; or (c) remain seated. Further, school officials have the responsibility to ensure that students who exercise their rights are protected from any kind of pressure to conform.

LEGAL REFS.: Everson v. Board of Education, U.S. Supreme Court, 1946
 Tinker v. Des Moines, U.S. Supreme Court, 1969

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