
Patriotic Expression and Pledge of Allegiance

Policy 3-301

Scope:

This policy outlines the District's compliance with legal requirements for daily patriotic observances in schools, while safeguarding students' constitutional rights to freedom of expression.

Purpose

The purpose of this Policy is to comply with state law while honoring the constitutional rights of students. It is the policy of the District to observe daily patriotic exercises, including the Pledge of Allegiance, in its schools. These exercises may include or accompany brief civic or historical instruction to support student understanding of democratic values.

1. Daily Patriotic Exercises

In accordance with California Education Code § 52720, every school in the District shall conduct appropriate patriotic exercises each day during the school year. The recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America shall fulfill this requirement.

- The Pledge of Allegiance is one form of appropriate patriotic observance. Other displays of patriotism, such as civic education activities, moments of reflection, or school-recognized alternatives, may also satisfy this requirement.
- In elementary schools, patriotic exercises shall take place at the beginning of the first regularly scheduled class or activity period. In secondary schools, patriotic exercises shall be conducted at a time designated by the site administrator.

2. Voluntary Participation

Students shall not be required to participate in the Pledge of Allegiance or any patriotic exercise.

3. Staff Responsibilities

School staff shall ensure that patriotic exercises occur in accordance with the law and shall respect the rights of all students to participate or abstain.

4. Notice to Students and Families

At the beginning of each school year, the District shall inform students and families of their rights regarding participation in patriotic exercises through student handbooks, orientation materials, or school websites.