

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 School Committee requires that on each morning and other appropriate occasions in every school, the Pledge of Allegiance is to be given by all pupils and staff. The superintendent through the principal determines the manner in which it shall be done, such as through an intercom or by the individual classroom teacher.

Pupils and non-citizens 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 excusal shall not intimidate nor embarrass the student. An excused student may stand, remain seated or arrangements can be made so that he/she may leave the room during the Pledge. In the case of a non-citizen, the student should be made aware that it is inappropriate for him/her to recite the Pledge of Allegiance, but it is not inappropriate to salute the flag. When in the presence of staff and students conducting a salute, an excused student shall have appropriate respect for the others' participation.

A teacher may also be so excused, but is not released from the responsibility of regular supervisory duty of covering a classroom of students, nor of appropriate participation in teaching the curriculum including patriotic songs and holiday-based instructional activities.

Legal Reference: MRSA 20-A Section 1055, 4805

Cross Reference: IMDB – Flag Displays

Adopted: July 5, 1994