

**CEREMONIES AND OBSERVANCES**

The Board of Trustees recognizes the importance of having students observe holidays, celebrate events of cultural or historical significance, and acknowledge the contributions of outstanding individuals in society. On days designated by the Board, staff shall provide students with appropriate commemorative exercises so that they may acquire the knowledge, skills, and principles essential for informed, responsible citizenship in a democratic society.

(cf. 6111 - *School Calendar*)  
 (cf. 6141.2 - *Recognition of Religious Beliefs and Customs*)  
 (cf. 6142.94 - *History-Social Science Instruction*)  
 (cf. 6142.3 - *Civic Education*)  
 (cf. 6142.4 - *Service Learning/Community Service Classes*)

*Legal Reference:*EDUCATION CODE

37220-37222.18 *Holidays and commemorative events*  
 44015.1 *Week of the School Administrator*  
 45203 *Paid holidays*  
 45460 *Classified Employee Week*  
 52720 *Daily performance of patriotic exercises in public schools*  
 52730 *Patriotic exercises, daily instruction*

GOVERNMENT CODE

430-439 *Display of flags*  
 3540-3549.3 *Meeting and negotiating*  
UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 4  
 6 *Time and occasion for display of flag*  
 7 *Position and manner of display of flag*

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 36

106 Note *Constitution Day and Citizenship Day*

COURT DECISIONS

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

*Management Resources:*CSBA PUBLICATIONS

*Constitution Day: New Mandate for Districts Receiving Federal Funds, CSBA Advisory, August 2005*

FEDERAL REGISTER

70 *Fed. Reg. 29727 Constitution Day and Citizenship Day (2005)*

WEB SITES

CSBA: <http://www.csba.org>

California Department of Education, *History/Social Science Instructional Materials:*

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/hs/im>

**CEREMONIES AND OBSERVANCES**

**Holidays**

District school 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
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

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

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 Board of Trustees may close the school on the date recognized by federal law instead of on the date above. (Education Code 37220)

*(cf. 6111 - School Calendar)*

**Commemorative Exercises**

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

U.S. Constitution and Citizenship Day	On or near September 17
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**CEREMONIES AND OBSERVANCES** (continued)

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	The Friday before the day the school is closed for this holiday
Abraham Lincoln's Birthday	The school day before the day the school is 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**

The district school shall conduct patriotic exercises daily. These patriotic exercises shall consist of the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance and may also include 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)

Such exercises shall be conducted at the beginning of each school day. (Education Code 52720)

Individuals may choose not to participate in the flag salute 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 the 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)

**CEREMONIES AND OBSERVANCES** (continued)

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