

Instruction**Ceremonies and Observances****Separation of Church and State****Salute to the Flag and the Star Spangled Banner**

Time shall be provided daily, preferably during the morning opening exercises, to provide the opportunity for students to recite the Pledge of Allegiance. Permissive language, rather than mandatory language, shall be used to introduce the recitation of the Pledge, such as "You may now stand to recite the Pledge, or You are invited to participate in the recitation of the Pledge".

If, because of some personal philosophy or belief, a student has made the personal, serious decision not to salute the Flag or stand for the "Star Spangled Banner", he/she may choose to remain seated and silent. Students may wish to use this time to reflect on their belief or remember loved ones. In any event, all students are expected to be courteous and respectful of the beliefs of others.

As required by the No Child Left Behind Act, The Superintendent will, by October 1 of each year, certify in writing to the state that students of the District are not prevented by policy or rule from participating in constitutionally protected prayer. The Superintendent will ensure that the staff, parents/guardians and students are made aware of the parameters of acceptable religious speech and actions. The Superintendent will also distribute guidelines to each school concerning religion in the schools, after such guidelines/regulations have been approved by the Board attorney and reviewed by the Board

Observance of Religious Holidays

It is Board policy that school will be closed on the first day of Rosh Hashanah and on Yom Kippur. Teachers should refrain from administering tests and quizzes on the day after these holidays. Major school functions should not be scheduled on the evening immediately preceding these holidays.

Individuals whose observance of other recognized religious holidays should be accorded like accommodations.

Legal Reference:

Connecticut General Statutes
10-16a Silent Meditation
10-29a Certain days to be proclaimed by governor
10-230 Flags for schoolrooms and schools

6115b

Instruction

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Legal reference (continued)

PA 02-119, An Act Concerning Bullying Behavior in Schools
and Concerning the Pledge of Allegiance
BOE Policy 6154 Homework
No Child Left Behind Act

Policy Adopted: November 25, 2002
Policy revised: April 27, 2004

Weston Public Schools
Weston, Connecticut