

Holidays, Ceremonies and Observances

The Solano County Office of Education (SCOE) recognizes the importance of having students observe holidays, celebrate events of cultural or historical significance, and acknowledge the contributions of outstanding individuals. In addition to helping students appreciate their pluralistic heritage, holidays, ceremonies, and observances can enhance their sense of community, instill pride in our country, and contribute to a positive school climate.

On designated days, students shall be provided with appropriate commemorative exercises so they may acquire the knowledge, skills, and principles essential for informed, responsible citizenship in an autonomous society.

Patriotic Exercises

Each school shall conduct patriotic exercises daily. Such exercises shall be conducted at the beginning of each school day at elementary schools and during homeroom period at secondary schools. Reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States shall satisfy this requirement. Patriotic exercises may 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.

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, and only these two official flags, shall be displayed during school days and business hours at the entrance or on the grounds of every SCOE site. At all times, the national flag shall be placed in the position of first honor. (Government Code 431, 436; 4 USC 6)

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)

- **National Level:**

Upon order of the President, the national flag shall be flown at half-staff upon the death of principal figures of the United States government and the Governor of a state, as a mark of respect to their memory. In the event of death of other officials or foreign dignitaries, the flag shall be displayed at half-staff according to Presidential instructions or orders, or in accordance with recognized customs or practices not inconsistent with law.

In addition, the national flag shall fly at half-staff: (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 internment of an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, a secretary of executive or military department, former Vice President, and 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

OFFICE OF THE SOLANO COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Policy 6115 (Continued)

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
- State Level:
In the event of the death of a present or former official of the government of any state, the Governor may proclaim that the flag be flown at half-staff.
 - Local Level:
Upon request from county, city, or district officials, in the event of the death of a local official or student, the County Superintendent may proclaim that flags be flown at half-staff at applicable SCOE sites and/or schools and districts.

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

37220-37223 Saturdays and holidays
44015.1 Week of the School Administrator
45203 Paid holidays
45460 Classified Employee Week
51000-51009 Legislative intent, educational program
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
Chapter 1, Section 7, Proclamation No. 3044, March 1, 1954, 19 F.R. 1235, as amended by Proclamation No. 3948, December 12, 1969, 34 F.R. 19699, Section 5 Authority to direct lowering of flags to half-staff

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 5

101-102 Departments with authority to direct lowering of flags to half-staff

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)

Policy Cross-Reference:

6111 School Calendar
6141.2 Recognition of Religious Beliefs and Customs
6141.6 Multicultural Education
6142.3 Civic Education
6142.4 Service Learning/Community Service Classes