

Policy No.: 607.02  
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## **CEREMONIES, OBSERVANCES, AND THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The school district will continue school ceremonies and observances which have become a tradition and a custom of the education program. Such ceremonies or observances shall have a secular purpose and shall not advocate or sponsor a particular religion.

Appropriate exercises may be held for the following: Veterans' Day, Martin Luther King Day, Presidents' Day, Columbus Day, and Patriot Day (Sept 11<sup>th</sup>). An educational program on the United States Constitution shall be held on September 17 every year, or in the preceding or following week if September 17 falls on a weekend or a holiday.

The flags of the United States of America and the State of Nebraska shall be prominently displayed on the school grounds on each day such school is in session. All flag displays shall be in accordance with the standards prescribed for the display of the flag of the United States of America.

Each of the District's schools shall establish a period of time during the school day, when a majority of the students are scheduled to be present, during which time students will be led in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance in the presence of the flag of the United States of America. Student participation in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance shall be voluntary. Students not participating in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance shall be permitted to silently stand or remain seated but shall be required to respect the rights of those students electing to participate.

Students who do not wish to participate in the activities may be silent during the ceremony or observance or receive permission from the principal to be excused from the ceremony for religious reasons in compliance with board policy.

It shall be the responsibility of the superintendent, in conjunction with the principal, to develop administrative regulations for ceremonies or observances.

Legal Reference: Neb. Rev. Stat. § 79-705; § 79-707 and 79-708; NDE Rule 10  
70 Federal Register 55507 (Constitution Day)

P.L. 108-477 (Consolidate Appropriations Act of 2005)