

~~Policy 5-201 Flag Display, U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights, Moment of Silence, Declaration of Independence, and Permitted Activities~~

Policy © 5-201 Patriotic Exercises and Observance Days

U.S. Flag Display

The District shall display a United States flag in each classroom and on or near the outside of the school building during school hours and at such other times as school authorities direct. The flags must be manufactured in the United States, be at least 2x3 feet, and use appropriate hardware.

The District shall set aside a specific time each day for students who wish to recite the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights

For grades seven (7) through twelve (12), the District shall place a legible copy of the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights adjacent to each classroom flag. The documents must be manufactured in the United States.

Period of Silence

A period of silence shall be observed at the beginning of the day. The teacher in charge of the room shall announce that a period of silence for at least one minute but not more than two minutes will be observed. During that time, no activities shall take place and silence shall be maintained.

Declaration of Independence

Each student in grades four (4) through six (6) shall recite the following passage from the Declaration of Independence at the commencement of the first class of the school day:

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. That to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed.

Should a ~~student or the~~ parent/legal guardian of a student object to the recitation of the passage set forth above, the student shall not be required to participate.

Permitted Activities

~~The Supreme Court of the United States, in two (2) significant decisions, declared it illegal to hold formal, prescribed religious exercises in the public school. However, while the Court's prohibitions are narrow, its permissions are broad. Accordingly, the following~~

~~types of school activities are permitted as long as they do not take on the character of religious devotions:~~

- ~~A. reading literature or writing on religious subjects;~~
- ~~B. playing, singing, and presenting music that is religious in its inspiration or origin;~~
- ~~C. performance of drama that deals with religious history or is religious in its content;~~
- ~~D. production or exhibition of artwork dealing with religious themes;~~
- ~~E. recognition of significant religious holidays by declaring school vacations or by sponsoring activities that acknowledge the importance of those holidays in our cultural life;~~
- ~~F. comparative studies of religion;~~
- ~~G. analyses of the Bible, and other religious books, as part of a study about religions;~~
- ~~H. studies of the contribution made by religion to civilization;~~
- ~~I. study of the Bible for its historic significance;~~
- ~~J. study of the Bible for its literary importance;~~
- ~~K. recitations or study of historical documents that contain references to God; and~~
- ~~L. singing of official anthems that contain references to God.~~

Assemblies

~~Assemblies, public programs, and public performances by students have an important place in a well-rounded educational program. They must, however, be consistent with the educational goals of the schools.~~

- ~~A. Programs should have both educational and/or inspirational value. All aspects of human endeavor should be considered, including the comic as well as the tragic.~~
- ~~B. Programs should be varied and should appeal to the interests of students.~~
- ~~C. Good taste should be demonstrated in the kinds of programs and behavior shown.~~

~~In planning for school assembly programs, the principal and the principal's designees should:~~

- ~~A. maintain high standards of performance in all programs selected;~~
- ~~B. make every effort to provide for the expression of divergent or opposing viewpoints where political concepts are being presented;~~
- ~~C. review all program materials and offerings in advance of scheduling to determine sound educational value;~~
- ~~D. seek counsel of supervisors on programs relating to their areas in the process of selection and, if a controversial question arises, consult with the Superintendent; and~~
- ~~E. make an effort to increase student involvement in planning and make greater use of community resources as opposed to paid professional performances.~~

Observance Days

1. 9/11 Education Day

September 11th of each year shall be observed as 9/11 Education Day. On 9/11 Education Day, the District shall provide age-appropriate instruction for grades seven (7) through twelve (12) on the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.

2. Sandra Day O'Connor Civics Celebration Day

September 25th of each year shall be observed as Sandra Day O'Connor Civics Celebration Day. On Sandra Day O'Connor Civics Celebration Day, each school shall dedicate the majority of the school day to civics education.

If 9/11 Education Day or Sandra Day O'Connor Civics Celebration Day falls on a day when the District is not in session, the observance shall take place on the preceding or following school day.

The Superintendent is directed to emphasize the use of the resources developed by the State Board of Education relating to civics education that aligns to the academic standards in social studies pursuant to A.R.S. § 15-701 and A.R.S. § 15-701.01.

Patriotic Youth Groups

Building principals may permit patriotic youth groups to address students and distribute materials during the first quarter of the academic school year in accordance with the provisions of A.R.S. § 15-120.08.

Adopted: ~~March 25, 2025~~

Legal Authority:

A.R.S. § 15-120.08

A.R.S. § 15-203

A.R.S. § 15-506

A.R.S. § 15-701

A.R.S. § 15-701.01

A.R.S. § 15-710.02

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