

XI. A. Pledge of Allegiance at School Board Meetings

There was a day in America that the Pledge of Allegiance was recited in many sectors of our society by all citizens. Political affiliation, ethnicity or religious persuasion were not of concern. Citizens of this great country came together with their differences and recited the pledge to show that they were committed in unity to the United States of America. The unity of our nation is the strength of our nation. Unity guarantees value to each citizen and accommodates diversity.

With the above in mind, I would propose to the board that action be taken to recite the pledge of allegiance at our monthly meetings for the following reasons:

1. As elected officials, we display to our constituents that we are committed to unity.
2. As district leadership, we display to our staff and students that we also recite the pledge.
3. As fellow citizens, we display to each other our commitment to unity for this great nation.

I would propose the following protocol for reciting the pledge of allegiance:

1. The pledge will be recited in conjunction with the call to order.
2. Those who wish to participate will stand, face the flag, place their hand on their hearts and follow the lead of the board chair.
3. Those individuals that do not wish to participate are free to do so without judgement or consternation.
4. That the practice of reciting the pledge of allegiance begins at the February 24, 2025 school board meeting.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

"I PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND TO THE REPUBLIC FOR WHICH IT STANDS, ONE NATION UNDER GOD, INDIVISIBLE, WITH LIBERTY AND JUSTICE FOR ALL."

121A.11 UNITED STATES FLAG.

Subdivision 1. Displayed by schools.

Every public school in Minnesota must display an appropriate United States flag when in session. The flag shall be displayed upon the school grounds or outside the school building, on a proper staff, on every legal holiday occurring during the school term and at such other times as the board of the district may direct. The flag must be displayed within the principal rooms of the school building at all other times while school is in session.

Subd. 2. School boards to provide flags and staffs.

The board must provide the flag for each of the school buildings in their districts, together with a suitable staff to display the flag outside of the school building and proper arrangement to display the flag in the building, and a suitable receptacle for the safekeeping of the flag when not in use.

Subd. 3. Pledge of Allegiance.

(a) All public and charter school students shall recite the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America one or more times each week. The recitation shall be conducted:

(1) by each individual classroom teacher or the teacher's surrogate; or

(2) over a school intercom system by a person designated by the school principal or other person having administrative control over the school.

A local school board or a charter school board of directors may annually, by majority vote, waive this requirement.

(b) Any student or teacher may decline to participate in recitation of the pledge.

(c) A school district or charter school that has a student handbook or school policy guide must include a statement that anyone who does not wish to participate in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance for any personal reasons may elect not to do so and that students must respect another person's right to make that choice.

(d) A local school board or a charter school board of directors that waives the requirement to recite the Pledge of Allegiance under paragraph (a) may adopt a district or school policy regarding the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Subd. 4. Instruction.

Unless the requirement in subdivision 3 is waived by a majority vote of the school board, a school district must instruct students in the proper etiquette toward, correct display of, and respect for the flag, and in patriotic exercises.