



**TO:** School Board Members

**FROM:** Peter Mau, Assistant Superintendent

**DATE:** October 20, 2025

**SUBJECT:** Administrative Review of Policy 531, The Pledge of Allegiance

**BACKGROUND:**

An administrative review of Policy 531, The Pledge of Allegiance, has been performed and the current policy adheres to the district's processes and procedures currently in place. The district's current policy was reviewed against MSBA's model policy and continues to match that language. The language of the policy is derived from the legislative language. Based on this review, no changes are recommended.

School District 197 reviews its policies on a 3-year cycle unless otherwise required by law. Typically, recommended policy changes are brought to the school board for three readings, with approval at the third reading. However, when the administration is recommending minor or no changes to the policy, it is labeled as an "administrative review." Consistent changes the board has asked to be applied to policies are considered minor. One example is using more inclusive language such as using "parent/guardian" instead of just "parent."

When labeled an "administrative review" the policy is placed on the consent agenda for a single reading with a recommendation to approve the policy as presented. As a reminder, board members always have the opportunity to remove a policy from the consent agenda to discuss it as part of the main agenda.

This policy was reviewed using the district's Four-Way Equity Test. While it is required for all schools to conduct the pledge of allegiance, it is optional for individuals. Students are instructed each year on the optional nature of the pledge. All students have equal access to the pledge. Where language is a potential barrier to access, there are supports available to address those needs.

**RESOLUTION:**

***BE IT RESOLVED*** by the School Board of School District 197 to approve Policy 531, The Pledge of Allegiance, as presented.