

## MEMORANDUM

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**TO:** NWABSD Board of Education  
Members

**DATE:** April 29, 2025

**NUMBER:** 25-103

**FR:** Office of the Superintendent

**SUBJECT:** Approval of Proposed  
Revisions to BP 6115  
Ceremonies and  
Observances; First  
Reading

**STRATEGIC PLAN/BOARD GOAL:**

Track 1: Operational Improvements  
*Initiative: Optimize Business Practices*

**ABSTRACT:**

Board policy revisions require Board approval.

**ISSUE:**

At issue is to approve the first reading of the proposed revisions to BP 6115 Ceremonies and Observances and open for public comments.

**BACKGROUND AND/OR PERTINENT INFORMATION:**

The Superintendent/designee presents drafts or suggestions for board policy revisions when the law changes or specific needs occur. Policy revisions shall normally be given two readings prior to adoption by the Board.

This is the first reading of the proposed revisions to BP 6115 Ceremonies and Observances within the Students series.

This update includes the inclusion of local observances and the daily pledge of allegiance requirement.

The Board Policy Committee reviewed the proposed changes, recommends approval and to open for public comments.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Approve the first reading of the proposed revisions to BP 6115 Ceremonies and Observances as presented and open for public comments;
2. Do not approve the first reading of the proposed revisions to BP 6115 as presented;
3. Take no final action.

**ADMINISTRATION'S RECOMMENDATION:**

The administration recommends the Board approve the first reading of the proposed revisions to BP 6115 Ceremonies and Observances as presented and open for public comments.

## BP 6115 CEREMONIES AND OBSERVANCES

### Patriotic Exercises

Note: By state law, the Pledge of Allegiance must be recited each day. AS 14.03.130. A person/student is permitted to recite the salute to the flag or to maintain a respectful silence.

The School Board encourages activities that instill pride in our country, state, borough, town or village. The Pledge of Allegiance shall be recited ~~or patriotic exercises conducted on a regular basis as determined by the School Board each day.~~ The School Board encourages students and staff to recite the Pledge of Allegiance in their indigenous language.

The district respects the legal right of individuals not to participate in the salute to the flag for personal reasons. An individual not participating in the salute to the flag must maintain a respectful silence.

The School Board recognizes the potential importance and relevance of local ceremonies in addition to the Pledge of Allegiance. With School Board approval, and provided that such ceremonies do not contravene state or federal law, the School Board encourages such local ceremonies as a way of celebrating and recognizing place and local culture as an important part of the educational day.

*(cf. 5145.2 - Freedom of Speech/Expression)*

*(cf. 6141.2 - Recognition of Religious Beliefs and Customs)*

*(cf. 6141.6 - Multicultural Education)*

### Special Days and Events

District schools shall commemorate special days and events in accordance with law. Schools are encouraged to recognize days and events of local significance.

District schools shall be closed in observance of Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day and the day after, Christmas Day, New Year's Day, Memorial Day, and the Fourth of July.

Holidays which fall on a Sunday shall be observed the following Monday. Holidays which fall on a Saturday shall be observed the preceding Friday.

Furthermore, the Board specifically recognizes the cultural and civic importance of the following people or events and encourages school leaders and students to incorporate celebrations or recognition within the school's activities and curriculum. These people or events for the Northwest Arctic Borough School District to recognize are Dr. Della Keats Day, Indigenous People's Day, and Veteran's Day.

(cf. 6111 - School Calendar)

*Legal Reference:*

ALASKA STATUTES

[14.03.050](#) *School holidays*

[14.03.130](#) *Display of flag and pledge of allegiance*

[41.15.900](#) *Observance of Arbor Day*

U.S. SUPREME COURT

[West Virginia State Board of Education, et al . v. Burnette, et al](#) 319 U.S. 624  
(1943)

*Banks v. Board of Public Instruction*, 314 F. Supp. 285

*Hanover v. Northrup*, 325 F. Supp. 170

*Adopted: April 28, 2004*

*Revised:*

**Northwest Arctic Borough School District**