



RELATED BOARD POLICY: A22 - NOTICE OF NON-DISCRIMINATION

# WSD PROCEDURE A22-P1

APPROVAL DATE: 4/1/2024



Superintendent Signature

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## COMPELLED OR PERCEIVED OBLIGATORY CEREMONIES WITH RELIGIOUS CONTENT

1. **This procedure** replaces Procedure 603 “Patriotic Exercises” of 9/17/2014
2. **In accordance with US law**, no student will be compelled by direct or indirect means to engage in ceremonies with religious language or content, or in rituals that mandate the non-voluntary engagement in partisan or nationalistic doctrine.
3. **In accordance with US law**, no student will be compelled by direct or indirect means to recite allegiance to the US flag, but students are welcome to do so voluntarily.
4. **Students wishing to recite** the Pledge of Allegiance (the Pledge) are guaranteed the space at the start of their first class upon student request to the teacher or administration. One request per year will suffice.
5. **In grades 6 and up**, student recital of the Pledge of Allegiance is student-led and initiated.
6. **If a student-led recital** of the American Pledge of Allegiance takes place, individuals not participating in it are expected to respectfully and silently wait for the Pledge to conclude, provided that no one is required to stand or show any other deference against their will.
7. **For primary grades** (5th grade and under), all procedures above apply with additional considerations:
  - a. A teacher is allowed to voluntarily teach and lead students in reciting the Pledge provided that the following instructions are read: “We will be reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. You may recite it with me if you wish

by standing, placing your right hand over your heart, and looking toward the American flag. If you do not want to join for whatever reason, please remain seated and quietly wait for your peers to finish. It is ok not to do it, as it is also ok to do it. We will be respectful of each other.”

- b. A teacher will not be pressured neither by administration nor by parents or caregivers to teach or recite the Pledge against their will. If a family wishes for their child to recite the Pledge, appropriate accommodations will be made for the petitioning adult(s) to volunteer in leading the Pledge in a designated space while supervised by a licensed staff if more children than their own wish to join. In this case, this ceremony will only include the Pledge and nothing else. No political proselytism nor non-approved curriculum is allowed during this limited time and no ceremony related to the Pledge will last longer than 5 minutes before returning to class.
8. **For all other procedures** not stated here, and provided that related laws and rules are obeyed, the WSD Superintendent grants the school principal discretion.