

Regulation 6115: Ceremonies And Observances

Status: ADOPTED

Original Adopted Date: 11/01/1999 | **Last Revised Date:** 03/01/2023~~2024~~ | **Last Reviewed Date:** 03/01/2023~~2024~~

Holidays

CSBA NOTE: The following list may be expanded to reflect district practice. Education Code 37220 specifies holidays on which public schools must be closed and allows the Governing Board to designate any other day as a holiday. See the accompanying Board policy. Education Code 37220, ~~as amended by AB 1655 (Ch. 753, Statutes of 2022)~~, incorporates June 19, "Juneteenth National Independence Day," to this list by way of presidential appointment. In addition, Education Code 37220 provides that the Board, by adoption of a resolution, may revise the date upon which district schools close in observance of any of these holidays except Veterans Day, which must be celebrated on its actual date.

Education Code 37220.5 and 37220.7, ~~as amended by AB 1801 (Ch. 761, Statutes of 2022)~~, authorize the closing of school on March 31 in observance of Cesar Chavez Day, on April 24 in observance of Genocide Remembrance Day, and/or on the fourth Friday in September for Native American Day, provided that the Board agrees to do so in a memorandum of understanding reached with employee bargaining units pursuant to Government Code 3540-3549.3. If the district has such an agreement, the holiday(s) should be added to the following list.

District schools shall be closed on the following holidays: (Education Code 37220)

New Year's Day - January 1

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day - Third Monday in January or the Monday or Friday of the week in which January 15 occurs

Lincoln Day - The Monday or Friday of the week in which February 12 occurs

Washington Day - Third Monday in February

Memorial Day - Last Monday in May

Juneteenth National Independence Day - June 19

Independence Day - July 4

Labor Day - First Monday in September

Veterans Day - November 11

Thanksgiving Day - The Thursday in November designated by the President

Christmas Day - December 25

CSBA NOTE: Pursuant to Education Code 37220, ~~as amended by AB 1655~~, districts are not required to close on Columbus Day, the second Monday in October. ~~Governing Boards~~ may designate Columbus Day as a holiday ~~in~~on which schools shall close.

In addition, schools shall be closed on: (Education Code 37220)

1. Any day appointed by the Governor as a holiday or as a special or limited holiday on which the Governor provides that schools shall close
2. Any day appointed by the President as a holiday, including by executive order or by signing into law legislation that creates a nationwide federal holiday
3. Any other day designated as a holiday by the Governing Board and/or negotiated with employee organizations

Holidays which fall on a Sunday shall be observed the following Monday. Holidays which fall on a Saturday shall be observed the preceding Friday. If any of the above holidays ~~occurs~~occur under federal law on a date different from that indicated above, the ~~Governing~~ Board may close the schools on the date recognized by federal law instead of on the date above. (Education Code 37220)

Commemorative Exercises

CSBA NOTE: The following section lists special days that schools are required by state and/or federal law to observe with suitable commemorative exercises.

Pursuant to Education Code 49110.5, as added by AB 800 (Ch. 271, Statutes of 2023), districts are required to observe, during the week that includes April 28, "Workplace Readiness Week," by providing high school students with specified information on their rights as workers, and, for students in grades 11 and 12, for the observances to be integrated into the regular school program consistent with the history-social science framework.

In addition to commemorative exercises that are required by law, Education Code 37220.7, ~~as amended by AB 1801, and 51109~~51009, as well as various legislative resolutions, have designated other days of special significance on which schools are encouraged, but not required, to conduct appropriate commemorative exercises, including, but not limited to: (1) School Board Recognition Month in January; (2) Ed Roberts Day on January 23; (3) Fred Korematsu Day of Civil Liberties and the Constitution on January 30; (4) Ronald Reagan Day on February 6; (5) Lunar New Year on the date corresponding with the second new moon following the winter solstice, or the third new moon following the winter solstice if an intercalary month intervenes; (6) Week of the School Administrator ~~on~~in the ~~first~~second full week of ~~March~~October; (7) California Agriculture Day on the first day of spring each year; (8) Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day on March 29 or 30; (9) Cesar Chavez on March 31; (10) California Poppy Day on April 6; (11) Dolores Huerta Day on April 10; (12) John Muir Day on April 21; (13) Genocide Remembrance Day on April 24; (14) Labor History Month in May; (15) the Day of the Teacher on the second Wednesday in May; (16) Harvey Milk Day on May 22; (17) September 11th Remembrance Day on September 11; (18) Native American Day on the fourth Friday in September; (19) Larry Itliong Day on October 25; and (20) Bill of Rights Day on December 15. The California Department of Education's ~~web~~website includes a calendar of events listing other days for which special recognition is encouraged. The list below may be modified to include any optional days of special significance so designated by the Board.

District schools shall hold exercises in accordance with law to commemorate the following special days: (Education Code 37220, 37221, 45460, [49110.5](#))

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day - The Friday before the day schools are closed for this holiday

Abraham Lincoln's Birthday - The school day before the day schools are closed for this holiday

Susan B. Anthony Day - February 15

George Washington's Birthday - The Friday preceding the third Monday in February

Black American Day - March 5

Conservation, Bird, and Arbor Day - March 7

[Workplace Readiness Week - The week that includes April 28](#)

Classified Employee Week - Third week in May

U.S. Constitution and Citizenship Day - On or near September 17

Commemorative exercises shall be integrated into the regular educational program ~~to the extent feasible.~~ [as required by law.](#)

Patriotic Exercises

CSBA NOTE: Education Code 52720 requires all schools to conduct patriotic exercises daily. Pursuant to Education Code 52720 and 52730, this requirement may be satisfied by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance and/or through the instruction described below.

Each school shall conduct patriotic exercises daily, which may include the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States and/or instruction that promotes understanding of the concepts of "pledge," "allegiance," "republic," and "indivisible" and understanding of the importance of the pledge as an expression of patriotism, love of country, and pride in the United States. (Education Code 52720, 52730)

CSBA NOTE: The following paragraph is for use by districts maintaining elementary schools.

At elementary schools, such exercises shall be conducted at the beginning of each school day. (Education Code 52720)

CSBA NOTE: The following paragraph is for use by districts maintaining secondary schools. Education Code 52720 **mandates** that the Board adopt regulations pertaining to the conduct of patriotic exercises in secondary schools. The following paragraph should be revised to reflect district practice.

At secondary schools, such exercises shall be conducted during the homeroom period.

CSBA NOTE: In *Newdow v. Rio Linda Union School District*, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals upheld a school policy permitting teacher-led recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance pursuant to Education Code 52720 where students were permitted by policy to decline participation for personal reasons. In *West Virginia State Board of Education et al. v. Barnette et al.*, the court held that individuals may not be compelled to salute the flag or to stand during the salute.

A student may choose not to participate in the flag salute or Pledge of Allegiance for personal reasons.

Display of Flag

The flag of the United States and the flag of California shall be displayed during business hours at the entrance or on the grounds of every district school and on or near the district office. At all times, the national flag shall be placed in the position of first honor. (Government Code 431, 436; 4 USC 6)

When displayed on a building or on a flagstaff in the open, the national flag shall be displayed only from sunrise to sunset unless properly illuminated during the hours of darkness. The flag should not be displayed during inclement weather unless an all-weather flag is used. (4 USC 6)

The national flag shall fly at half-staff on the following occasions: (4 USC 7)

1. For 30 days from the death of the President or a former President
2. For 10 days from the death of the Vice President, the Chief Justice or a retired Chief Justice, or the Speaker of the House of Representatives
3. From the day of death until interment of an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, a secretary of an executive or military department, former Vice President, or the Governor of a state
4. On the day of death and the following day for a Member of Congress
5. On Memorial Day, until noon only
6. On Peace Officers Memorial Day (May 15), unless it falls on Armed Forces Day
7. Upon a proclamation from the Governor in the event of the death of a present or former official of the state government ~~or~~, a member of the Armed Forces from the state who has died while serving on active duty, or the death of a first responder working in the state who dies while serving in the line of duty
8. On other occasions by order of the President and in accordance with presidential instructions or orders

Policy Reference UPDATE Service

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Policy Reference Disclaimer:

These references are not intended to be part of the policy itself, nor do they indicate the basis or authority for the board to enact this policy. Instead, they are provided as additional resources for those interested in the subject matter of the policy.

State	Description
Ed. Code 37220-37222.21	Holidays and commemorative events
Ed. Code 44015.1	Week of the School Administrator
Ed. Code 45203	Paid holidays

Ed. Code 45460

[Ed. Code 49110.5](#)

Ed. Code 52720-52730

Gov. Code 3540-3549.3

Gov. Code 430-439

Federal

36 USC 106

4 USC 6

4 USC 7

Management Resources

Court Decision

Court Decision

Website

Website

Website

Classified School Employee Week

[Workplace Readiness Week](#)

Patriotic exercises and instruction

Public education employer-employee relations

Display of flags

Description

Constitution Day and Citizenship Day

Time and occasion for display of flag

Position and manner of display of flag

Description

Newdow v. Rio Linda Union School District (9th Cir. 2010)
597 F.3d 1007

West Virginia State Board of Education et al. v. Barnette et al.
(1943) 319 U.S. 624

CSBA District and County Office of Education Legal Services

California Department of Education, History/Social Science
Instructional Materials

CSBA

Cross References

Code

1330

1330

4156.2

4256.2

4356.2

[5113.2](#)

6111

6117

6141.2

6141.2

6142.3

6142.4

6142.94

[6143](#)

Description

Use Of School Facilities

Use Of School Facilities

Awards And Recognition

Awards And Recognition

Awards And Recognition

[Work Permits](#)

School Calendar

Year-Round Schedules

Recognition Of Religious Beliefs And Customs

Recognition Of Religious Beliefs And Customs

Civic Education

Service Learning/Community Service Classes

History-Social Science Instruction

[Courses of Study](#)

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Controversial Issues

6145.8

Assemblies And Special Events

6178.1

Work-Based Learning