

**SCHOOL CEREMONIES AND OBSERVANCES  
(United States Flag)**

**71404.01**

In every public secondary school, there shall be conducted daily appropriate patriotic ceremonies. The saying of the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag shall satisfy such requirements.

There will be a daily Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag in each school in the district. Any student who does not participate in the daily Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag is to behave in a manner that will not show disrespect during this period of time that other students are participating in the Pledge. Specifically, the student must remain quiet, attentive and respect the rights of others during the ceremony.

**Legal Reference:**

Education Code Section 52720 Daily performance of patriotic exercises  
Goetz v. Ansel, 477 F2d 636 (1973) non-participant behavior

Board of Trustees  
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**SCHOOL CEREMONIES AND OBSERVANCES**  
**(United States Flag)**

**71404.01-R**

**FLAG DISPLAYS**

Traditional customs and practices of displaying the U.S. flag are outlined below for school use:

**Salute to the Flag**

Appropriate pupil assemblies/exercises shall include the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**Displaying the Flag**

1. When the flag is displayed, either horizontally or vertically, on a wall or window, the union (or blue field) should be uppermost and to the flag's own right (to the observer's left when facing the flag).
2. When displayed on a stage or a platform, in front of an audience, the U.S. flag should be placed on a staff in the position of honor to the speaker's right. Any other flag should be to the speaker's left. If displayed in the body of an auditorium or hall, the U.S. flag should be to the right of the audience as it faces the speaker, with any other flag to the audience's left.
3. When the flag is displayed from a staff projecting from a windowsill, balcony, or front of a building, the union should be at the staff's peak (unless the flag is to be displayed at half-staff). When suspended from a rope between a building and a pole at the edge of a sidewalk, the flag should be raised out from the building toward the pole, union first.
4. When displayed with another flag from crossed staff, the U.S. flag should be on its own right, with its staff in front of the staff of the other flag.
5. When other flags are displayed from staffs with the U.S. flag, the latter should be at the center, or at the highest point of the group.
6. When pennants or other flags are flown on the same halyard with the U.S. flag, the latter should always be at the peak.
7. When the flags of two or more nations are displayed, they should be flown from separate staffs of the same height.

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8. When carried in a parade with another flag or flags, the U.S. flag should be on the marching right.
9. When carried in a parade with a line of flags of states, cities, or organizations, the U.S. flag should always be carried in front of the center of that line.

### **Flying the Flag at Half-Staff**

When it is to be flown at half-staff, the flag should be raised to the peak for an instant and then lowered to the half-staff position; but before the flag is lowered for the day, it should again be raised to the peak.

The U.S. flag is to be flown at half-staff at the following times:

1. thirty days after the death of a President or former President of the United States
2. ten days after the death of a Vice President, Chief Justice or retired Chief Justice, or the speaker of the House of Representatives
3. from the day of death until internment of an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, a secretary of executive or military department, a former Vice President, and the Governor of a state.
4. on the day of death and the following day for a Member of Congress.

In the event of death of other officials, former officials, or foreign dignitaries, the flag is to be displayed at half-staff according to presidential instructions, or in accordance with recognized customs or practices not inconsistent with law.

### **Disposal of Worn Flags**

When the U.S. flag is no longer a fitting emblem for display because of wear or damage, it should be destroyed by burning in a dignified manner. Note: Most American Legion Posts regularly conduct a dignified flag burning ceremony, often on Flag Day, June 14<sup>th</sup>. Many Cub Scout Packs, Boy Scout Troops, and Girl Scout Troops retire flags regularly as well. Contact the local American Legion Hall or Scout Troop to inquire about the availability of this service.