

**CVUSD
Administrative Regulation**

AR 6115

Instruction

Ceremonies And Observances

Holidays

District schools shall be closed in observance of the following holidays:

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
Independence Day	July 4
Labor Day	First Monday in September
Veterans Day	November 11
Thanksgiving Day	That Thursday in November designated by the President
Christmas Day	December 25

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

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 under federal law on a date different from that indicated above, the Board may close the schools on the date recognized by federal law instead of on the date above. (Education Code 37220)

(cf. 6111 - School Calendar)

Commemorative Exercises

Note: Both federal and state law (36 USC 106, Note and Education Code 37221) require districts to hold commemorative exercises for U.S. Constitution Day and Citizenship Day each year on or near September 17; see BP 6142.3 - Civic Education.

Set forth below are excerpts from the Education Code prescribing the manner in which the specified dates are to be commemorated in schools of the State of California. If school is not in session on the date specified, the observation shall be conducted on the first school day occurring before or after that date.

Observation Prescribed by Law

January 15 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Day	<i>suitable exercises commemorating, and directing attention to the history of, the civil rights movement in the United States, and particularly the role therein of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.</i> <i>EdC 37227.5</i>
February 12 Abraham Lincoln Birthday	<i>exercises in memory of Abraham Lincoln</i> <i>EdC 37223</i>
February 15 Susan B. Anthony Day (anniversary of birthday)	<i>suitable exercises directing attention to the development of the political and economic status of women in the United States, through the efforts of Susan B. Anthony</i> <i>EdC 37226</i>
February 22 George Washington Birthday	<i>exercises in memory of George Washington</i>
March 5 Black American Day (anniversary of death of Crispus Attucks, first black American martyr of the Boston Massacre)	<i>suitable exercises to direct attention to the development of black people in the United States of America</i> <i>EdC 37227</i>
March 7 Conservation, Bird and Arbor Day (anniversary of the birthday of Luther Burbank)	<i>include in schoolwork of day suitable exercises having for their object instruction as to the economic value of birds and trees, and the promotion of a spirit of protection toward them,</i>

	<i>and as to the economic value of natural resources, and the desirability of their conservation</i> EdC 37225
March 8 International Women's Day (celebrated as part of National Women's History Week)	<i>include in the schoolwork exercises and instruction for pupils suitable to their ages of the history and importance of women in society in the United States and the world</i>
September 17 Anniversary of Adoption of Constitution	<i>include in the schoolwork . . . exercises and instruction for pupils suitable to their ages in the purpose, meaning, and importance of the Constitution of the United States, including the Bill of Rights</i> EdC 37224

Patriotic Exercises

Note: Education Code 52720 requires all schools to conduct patriotic exercises daily and specifies that participation in the Pledge of Allegiance satisfies this requirement. As added by SB 1274 (Ch. 523, Statutes of 2008), Education Code 52730 specifies that districts may, in combination with reciting the pledge, satisfy this requirement by providing instruction that promotes the understanding of concepts in the pledge and the importance of the pledge as an expression of patriotism, as specified below. Federal courts have held that individuals may not be compelled to salute the flag or to stand during the salute. (West Virginia State Board of Education et al v. Barnette et al). The phrase "under God" as used in the pledge has been challenged in court, but there has been no final ruling on the matter.

Each school shall conduct patriotic exercises daily. These patriotic exercises shall consist of the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance and may also include 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)

Individuals may choose not to participate in the flag salute for personal reasons.

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

Note: For secondary schools, Education Code 52720 requires that the patriotic exercises be conducted in accordance with mandated regulations adopted by the Board. Districts maintaining secondary schools should modify the following paragraph to reflect district practice.

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

Display of Flag

The flag of the United States and the flag of California shall be displayed during school days at the entrance or on the grounds of every school. At all times, the national flag shall be placed in the position of first honor. (Government Code 431, 436; 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 internment of an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, a secretary of executive or military department, former Vice President, and the Governor of a state
4. On the day of death and the following day for a Member of Congress
5. On Peace Officers Memorial Day (May 15), unless that day is also Armed Forces Day

Note: As amended by P.L. 110-41, 4 USC 7 authorizes the Governor to issue a proclamation to fly the flag at half-staff upon the death of a member of the Armed Forces from the state who has died while serving on active duty.

In addition, upon order of the President, the national flag shall be flown at half-staff upon the death of principal figures of the United States government and the Governor of a state, as a mark of respect to their memory. In the event of death of other officials or foreign dignitaries, the flag shall be displayed at half-staff according to presidential instructions or orders, or in accordance with recognized customs or practices not inconsistent with law. In the event of the death of a present or former official of the government of the state or the death of a member of the Armed Forces from the state who has died while serving on active duty, the Governor may proclaim that the flag be flown at half-staff. (4 USC 7)

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