

Instruction

Opening Exercises, Observations, Ceremonies, Programs

6112.1

Silent Meditation

The Board directs that the administration shall provide for students and teachers the opportunity to observe an appropriate period of time for silent meditation at the beginning of each school day.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Board further directs that an opportunity to say the Pledge of Allegiance shall be provided each school day. Participation in the recitation of the Pledge is voluntary. Non-participants are expected to maintain order and decorum appropriate to the school environment.

In observances of legal, state, and national holidays, recognition may be made as appropriate to the historical and cultural value of such holidays.

Ceremonial events shall be conducted as appropriate to the occasion, with sensitivity and respect toward pupils whose cultural backgrounds may differ from that of the event being observed.

Special school programs are valuable components of the total education program, and teachers shall be free to use music, literature, drama, poetry, art and dance, with origins in any faith, based upon the artistic merit and/or performance suitability of the available materials and the interests and capabilities of the teachers and pupils producing the program. Similar academic criteria shall apply to any aspect of the curriculum.

Students and teachers shall have the right to refuse, for reasons of conscience (religious, political or philosophical) to participate in or attend any of the above mentioned activity or program which they deem contrary to personal beliefs. Such students shall remain quiet and non-disruptive during such exercises.

Legal Reference:

Connecticut General Statutes

10-16a Silent Meditation

West Virginia State Board of Education vs. Barenette, 319 U.S. 624

PA 02-119 An Act Concerning Bullying Behavior in Schools and Concerning the Pledge of Allegiance

Revised 10/15/02