

## PATRIOTIC OBSERVANCES

It is the philosophy of the Board of Education that patriotic observances of our country shall be a part of the instructional program.

In accordance with state law, each school shall display the flag of the United States in each classroom and from a flagstaff on each school ground during the school hours of each school day, and at night if illuminated.

In addition, all schools, in accordance with state law, shall offer the pledge of allegiance or the national anthem in grades one to twelve each school day. No student may be compelled against the student's objections or those of the student's parent(s)/guardian to stand and/or recite the pledge or to sing the anthem.

### Flag Display and Pledge of Allegiance at Board Meetings

It is the policy of the Board of Education that the flag of the United States of America shall be on display in the Board Room for each regular monthly Board of Education meeting.

The Board meetings shall begin with the presiding officer or his/her designee leading the pledge to the flag, or other patriotic observance. No one shall be compelled, against his/her objections, to stand and/or recite the pledge.

ADOPTED: July 23, 2007

REVISED: April 22, 2013

LEGAL REF.: Wisconsin Statutes: 118.06  
2001 Wisconsin Act 16

CROSS REF.: INDA-R, Administrative Guidelines for Displaying the U.S. Flag

REVIEW DATE: April 22, 2013

## ADMINISTRATIVE GUIDELINES FOR DISPLAYING THE U.S. FLAG

- a. The flag of the United States should be displayed in accordance with Title 4, Chapter 1, of the United States Code. A copy of that document shall be in the possession of each building administrator.
- b. As a symbol of the nation, the flag is entitled to the highest degree of respect in each school. While schools cannot legally compel persons to recite the Pledge of Allegiance, honor the flag or engage in any ceremony that would violate their conscience, schools should do nothing to encourage disrespect.
- c. National or ethnic flags may be displayed in the schools. Their purpose is to foster pride and understanding of one's heritage. The display of such flags is encouraged subject to the following limitations.
  - (1) National or ethnic flags may not be used in a manner that would create the impression that they are an alternative to the United States flag.
  - (2) National and ethnic flags should not be displayed in a manner that would create the impression of granting more favorable treatment of one flag over others, unless the flag display is part of a special observance, e.g. Black History Month, Pulaski Day, etc., or unless they are displayed for some special purpose, such as to honor foreign visitors or exchange students.
  - (3) Where disputes exist involving the display of national and ethnic flags, they should be decided locally, by the principal and his/her staff, as long as these decisions do not violate other elements of this policy.
- d. Nothing in this document is intended to limit the use of flags for instructional purposes.

7/23/07