



Book	Policy Manual
Section	800 Operations
Title	Opening Exercises/Moment of Silence/Flag Displays
Code	807 Vol IV 2024
Status	From PSBA
Legal	1. 24 P.S. 771 2. 22 PA Code 12.10 3. 24 P.S. 1516.1 4. 24 P.S. 1555

Purpose

The Board adopts this policy to ensure that all district schools comply with state and federal laws concerning flag displays, opening exercises **and the moment of silence on the anniversary of September 11**, while respecting the rights of individuals.

Authority

A United States flag shall be displayed in classrooms and on or near each school building during school hours, in clement weather and at other times determined by the Board.[\[1\]](#)

District schools shall provide opening exercises that include a salute to the flag and/or recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance or the National Anthem.[\[1\]](#)

Students may decline to recite the Pledge of Allegiance or National Anthem and to salute the flag on the basis of personal belief or religious conviction. Students who choose to refrain from such participation shall respect the rights and interests of classmates who do participate.[\[1\]](#)[\[2\]](#)

{ } The Board shall direct professional employees to conduct a brief period of silent prayer or meditation as part of daily opening exercises. Silent prayer or meditation shall not be conducted as a religious service or exercise.[\[3\]](#)

The Board directs the district to annually provide, during instructional hours, a moment of silence for students and staff to observe the anniversary of September 11, 2001.[\[4\]](#)

NOTES:

Do not use language about notifying the parents/guardians (and/or require them to supply a note) when the student refuses to salute the flag and/or recite the pledge or national anthem - this language was determined to be unconstitutional. (Circle v. Phillips).

PSBA Revision 7/24 © 2024 PSBA