

**M.S.A.D. #12 POLICY  
PATRIOTIC EXERCISES**

Maine State law requires display of and instruction about the American flag in the classrooms of our schools.

To foster appreciation and respect for our nation and its symbol, the School Board requires that on each morning and at other appropriate occasions, the Pledge of Allegiance is to be given by all pupils and staff. It is the responsibility of the Superintendent through the Principal to ensure that this policy is adhered to, but he/she may determine the manner in which it will be done, such as through an intercom or by the individual classroom teacher.

Pupils who object to participating in the flag salute as a matter of conscience shall be excused from doing so upon submission of a request in writing and signed by a parent/ guardian, which provides evidence of sincere conviction. Such excuse shall not intimidate nor embarrass the student. An excused student may stand, remain seated or arrangements can be made so that he/she may leave the room during the Pledge. When in the presence of staff and students conducting a salute, an excused student shall have appropriate respect for the others' participation.

A teacher may also be so excused, but is not released from the responsibility of regular supervisory duty of covering a classroom of students, nor of appropriate participation in teaching the curriculum including patriotic songs and holiday-based instructional activities.

Legal Reference: 20-A MRSA §§ 1055, 4805

Cross Reference: IMDB - Flag Displays

**Adopted: October 08, 2002**