

# MODESTO CITY SCHOOLS

## Administrative Regulation

AR 6115

### INSTRUCTION

#### Ceremonies and Observances

Commemoration of special days and events shall be arranged so the observation of these occasions is an effective and valuable part of the school program. Exercises related to holidays or special events shall be held as required by law.

Annual holidays when schools shall be closed are: (Education Code 37220)

<i>New Year's Day</i>	<i>January 1</i>
<i>Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day</i>	<i>Third Monday in January or the Monday or Friday of the week in which January 15 occurs</i>
<i>Lincoln Day</i>	<i>The Monday or Friday of the week in which February 12 occurs</i>
<i>Washington Day</i>	<i>Third Monday in February</i>
<i>Memorial Day</i>	<i>Last Monday in May</i>
<i>Independence Day</i>	<i>July 4</i>
<i>Labor Day</i>	<i>First Monday in September</i>
<i>Veterans Day</i>	<i>November 11</i>
<i>Thanksgiving Day</i>	<i>The Thursday in November designated by the President</i>
<i>Christmas Day</i>	<i>December 25</i>

When any of the holidays on which the schools would be closed fall on Sunday, students will not attend school on the following Monday. When any of the holidays on which the schools would be closed fall on a Saturday, students will not attend school on 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)

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Commemorative Exercises

Commemoration exercises related to holidays or special days shall be held at each school as required by law for the following: (Education Code 37220, 37221, 45460)

Abraham Lincoln:

Hold suitable exercises in memory of Abraham Lincoln on the school day before the day schools are closed for this holiday.

George Washington:

Hold suitable exercises in memory of George Washington on the Friday preceding the third Monday in February.

U.S. Constitution and Citizenship Day:

Hold suitable exercises in the purpose, meaning, and importance of the Constitution of the United States, including the Bill of Rights, on or near the anniversary of the United States Constitution, September 17, 1787.

Conservation, Bird, and Arbor Day:

Hold suitable exercises related to the economic values of birds and trees, and the promotion of a spirit of protection toward them and conservation of natural resources on March 7, birth date of Luther Burbank, or on the school day next preceding March 7.

Susan B. Anthony Day:

Hold suitable exercises recognizing the development of the political and economic status of women in the United States on February 15, birth date of Susan B. Anthony, or on the school day next preceding February 15.

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Black American Day:

Hold suitable exercises to direct attention to the contributions and development of black people in the United States on March 5, anniversary of the death of Cripus Attucks, the first black American martyr, during the Boston Massacre, or on the school day next preceding March 5.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day:

Hold suitable exercises commemorating and drawing attention to the history of the civil rights movement in the United States, and particularly to the role therein of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on the Friday before the day schools are closed for this holiday.

Classified School Employee Week:

Annually observe the third full week in May in recognition of classified school employees and the contributions they make to the educational community.

Commemorative exercises shall be integrated into the regular educational program to the extent feasible.

In addition, the Board has authorized schools to recognize the following additional days:

Religious Freedom Day

Annually recognize Religious Freedom Day, January 16, during the school week leading up to January 16 through appropriate events and activities. The day is the anniversary of the passage, in 1786, of the Virginia Statute of Religious Freedom.

Week of the School Administrator

Annually observe the second full week in October with public recognition of the contribution that school administrators make to successful pupil achievement. (Education Code Section 44015.1)

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#### Day of the Teacher

Annually observe the second Wednesday in May to recognize teachers for the demanding and complex role they play in the lives of the children they serve. It arose out of legislation co-sponsored by CTA and the Association of Mexican American Educators. California has patterned its celebration after the traditional “El Dia del Maestro” festivities observed in Mexico and other Latin American countries.

#### Patriotic Exercises

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)

Be it resolved that all schools of the Modesto City Schools shall give appropriate instruction throughout the school term and hold appropriate exercises during the last week of the annual school term which shall emphasize to the pupils of the school the meaning of the flag of the United States and the purposes, ideals, and freedoms for which it stands. It shall further be resolved that the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States shall be conducted daily in each classroom of the separate schools.

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

At secondary schools, if the pledge of allegiance to the flag of the United States is not conducted at the beginning of the first class of each day, it is the responsibility of each principal and teacher to determine a time for the observance of this requirement and observe it daily.

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

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#### Display of the Flag

The flag of the United States and the flag of California shall be displayed during business hours at the entrance or on the grounds of every district school and on or near the district office. At all times, the national flag shall be placed in the position of first honor. (Government Code 431, 436; 4 USC 6)

When displayed on a building or on a flagstaff in the open, the national flag shall be displayed only from sunrise to sunset unless properly illuminated during the hours of darkness. The flag should not be displayed during inclement weather unless an all-weather flag is used. (4 USC 6)

The national flag shall fly at half-staff on the following occasions: (4 USC 7)

- 30 days from the death of the President (current or former)
- 10 days from the death of the Vice President, Chief Justice or a retired Chief Justice, or the Speaker of the House of Representatives
- From the day of death until interment of an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, a secretary of an executive or military department, former Vice President, or the Governor of a state
- On the day of death and the following day for a Member of Congress
- On Memorial Day, until noon only
- Peace Officers Memorial Day (May 15), unless it falls on Armed Forces Day
- Upon a proclamation from the Governor in the event of the death of a present or former official of the state government or a member of the Armed Forces from the state who has died while serving on active duty
- On other occasions by order of the President and in accordance with presidential instructions or orders

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Proclamations:

By statute, the President is requested to issue each year a proclamation requiring government buildings to half-mast the flag and invite all the people of the United States to do so as well, on the following days:

- September 11, Patriot Day
- December 7, National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day