

## RELIGIOUS / PATRIOTIC CEREMONIES AND OBSERVANCE

Decisions of the United States Supreme Court have made it clear that it is not the province of a public school to advance or inhibit religious beliefs or practices. Under the First and Fourteenth Amendments to the Constitution, this remains the inviolate province of the individual and the church of the individual's choice. The rights of any minority must be protected. Official or unofficial sponsorship of religiously oriented activities by the school are offensive to some and tend to supplant activities, which should be the exclusive province of individual religious groups, churches, private organizations, or the family.

District staff members shall not use prayer, religious readings, or religious symbols as a devotional exercise or in an act of worship or celebration. The District shall not function as a disseminating agent for any person or outside agency for any religious or anti-religious document, book, or article. Distribution of such materials on District property by any party shall be in accordance with Policy and Administrative Guidelines 7510 - Use of District Facilities and 9700 - Relations with Special Interest Groups.

Observance of religious holidays through devotional exercises or acts of worship is also prohibited, although acknowledgement of, explanation of, and teaching about religious holidays of various religions is encouraged.

The Board shall not include religious invocations, benedictions, or formal prayer at any school-sponsored event.

The flag of the United States shall be displayed in each school during school hours of each school day and/or at other appropriate places during all school sessions, weather permitting.

Professional staff members are authorized to lead students in the Pledge of Allegiance. However, no student or employee shall be compelled to participate in the reciting of the Pledge. The Superintendent shall develop administrative guidelines, which ensure that any staff member who conducts this activity does it at an appropriate time, in an appropriate manner, and with due regard to the need to protect the rights and the privacy of a nonparticipating student.

118.06(1), Wis. Stats.

118.06(2), Wis. Stats.

20 U.S.C. 4071 et seq.

Gregoire vs. Centennial School District 907 F2d 1366, (3rd Circuit, 1990)

Lee vs. Weisman, 1123 S. Ct 2649, 120 L. Ed. 2d 467 (1992)

Adopted: 6/18/01

Revised: 3/16/15

The Port Washington-Saukville School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities and provides equal access to designated youth groups. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: Director of Special Services, Port Washington-Saukville School District, 100 W. Monroe Street, Port Washington, WI 53074 - Duane.Woeffel@pwssd.k12.wi.us