

**CEREMONIES AND OBSERVANCES**Holidays

District schools shall be closed in observance of the following holidays: (Education Code 37220)

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

Holidays which fall on a Sunday shall be observed the following Monday. Holidays which fall on a Saturday shall be observed 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)

Commemorative Exercises

District schools shall hold exercises in accordance with law to commemorate the following special days: (Education Code 37220, 37221, 45460)

U.S. Constitution and Citizenship Day	On or near September 17
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	The Friday before the day schools are closed for this holiday
Lincoln's Birthday	The school day before the day schools are closed for this holiday
Susan B. Anthony Day	February 15
George Washington's Birthday	The Friday preceding the third Monday in February
Black American Day	March 5
Conservation, Bird, and Arbor Day	March 7
Employee Recognition Day	Second Wednesday in May

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

Additional Commemorative Exercises

District schools may hold exercises in accordance with law to commemorate the following special days

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Native American Day	4th Friday in September
Bill of Rights Day	December 15 <sup>[1][SEP]</sup>
School Board Recognition Month	January
Ed Roberts Day	January 23
Fred Korematsu Day	January 30
Ronald Reagan Day	February 5 <sup>[1][SEP]</sup>
California Agriculture Day	First Day of Spring
Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day	March 30
Cesar Chavez Day	March 31
Labor History Week	First Week of April
California Poppy Day	April 6 <sup>[1][SEP]</sup>
John Muir Day	April 21 <sup>[1][SEP]</sup>
Day of the Teacher	2nd Wednesday in May
Harvey Milk Day	May 22

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

### Patriotic Exercises

Each school shall conduct patriotic exercises daily. These patriotic exercises may 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)

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

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

### Display of Flag

The flag of the United States and the flag of California shall be displayed during school days at the entrance or on the grounds of every school. 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)

Upon order of the President, the national flag shall be flown at half-staff upon the death of principal figures of the United States government and the Governor of a state, as a mark of

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respect to their memory. In the event of death of other officials or foreign dignitaries, the flag shall be displayed at half- staff according to Presidential instructions or orders, or in accordance with recognized customs or practices not inconsistent with law. In the event of the death of a present or former official of the government of any state, the Governor may proclaim that the flag be flown at half-staff.

In addition, the national flag shall fly at half-staff: (4 USC 7)

1. For 30 days from the death of the President or a former President.
2. For 10 days from the death of the Vice President, the Chief Justice or a retired Chief Justice, or the Speaker of the House of Representatives.
3. From the day of death until internment of an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, a secretary of executive or military department, former Vice President, and the Governor of a state.
4. On the day of death and the following day for a Member of Congress.
5. On Memorial Day, until noon only.
6. On Peace Officers Memorial Day (May 15), unless it falls on Armed Forces Day.
7. 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.
8. On other occasions by order of the President and in accordance with presidential instructions or orders.

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