The Board of Trustees recognizes the importance of having students observe holidays, celebrate events of cultural or historical significance, and acknowledge the contributions of outstanding individuals in society. On days designated by the Board, staff shall provide students with appropriate commemorative exercises so that they may acquire the knowledge, skills, and principals essential for informed, responsible citizenship in a democratic society.

(cf. 6111 - School Calendar)
(cf. 6141.2 - Recognition of Religious Beliefs and Customs)
(cf. 6141.6 - Multicultural Education)
(cf. 6142.3 - Civic Education)
(cf. 6142.4 - Learning Through Community Service)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE
37220-37223 Saturdays and holidays
44015.1 Week of the School Administrator
45203 Paid holidays
45460 Classified Employee Week
52720 Daily performance of patriotic exercises in public schools
52730 Patriotic exercises, daily instruction

GOVERNMENT CODE
430-439 Display of flags
3540-3549.3 Meeting and negotiating

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 4
6 Time and occasion for display of flag
7 Position and manner of display of flag

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 36
106 Note Constitution Day and Citizenship Day

COURT DECISIONS

Management Resources:

CSBA PUBLICATIONS
Constitution Day: New Mandate for Districts Receiving Federal Funds, CSBA Advisory, August 2005

FEDERAL REGISTER
CEREMONIES AND OBSERVANCES (continued)

WEB SITES
CSBA: http://www.csba.org
California Department of Education, History/Social Science Instructional Materials:
http://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/hs/im

(12/92 10/94) 11/99
3/8/00
11/08
4/8/09
**Instruction**

**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 Monday or Friday of the week in which February 12 occurs
- **Washington Day**: Third Monday in February
- **Memorial Day**: Last Monday in May
- **Independence Day**: July 4
- **Labor Day**: First Monday in September
- **Veteran’s 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 Day**: On or near September 17
- **Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Day**: The Friday before the day schools are closed for this holiday
**CEREMONIES AND OBSERVANCES (continued)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ed Roberts Day</td>
<td>January 23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fred Korematsu Day of Civil Liberties and the Constitution</td>
<td>January 30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abraham Lincoln's Birthday</td>
<td>The school day before the day schools are closed for this holiday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Susan B. Anthony Day</td>
<td>February 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>George Washington's Birthday</td>
<td>The Friday preceding the third Monday in February</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black American Day</td>
<td>March 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conservation, Bird and Arbor Day</td>
<td>March 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Classified Employee Week</td>
<td>Third Week in May</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harvey Milk Day</td>
<td>May 22</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

**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)

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

At the secondary schools, such exercises shall be conducted during the homeroom period.

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 business hours at the entrance or on the grounds of every school. At all times, the national flag shall be placed
CEREMONIES AND OBSERVANCES (continued)

in the position of first honor.  (Government Code 431, 436; 4USC 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)

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 Peace Officers Memorial Day (May 15), unless that day is also Armed Forces Day
6. Upon 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
7. On other occasions by order of the President and in accordance with presidential instructions or orders

(cf. 6141.2 - Recognition of Religious Beliefs and Customs)
(cf. 6111 - School Calendar)
(cf. 6142.94 - History-Social Science Instruction)
(cf. 6142.3 - Civic Education)