

**CEREMONIES AND OBSERVANCES**

PATRIOTIC EXERCISES

Note: By state law, the Pledge of Allegiance must be recited daily. AS 14.03.130. A person/student is permitted to recite the salute to the flag or to maintain a respectful silence.

The School Board encourages activities that instill pride in our country, [state, borough, town, or village](#). The Pledge of Allegiance shall be recited, or patriotic exercises conducted each day. [The School Board encourages students and staff to recite the Pledge of Allegiance in their indigenous language if they desire.](#)

The District respects the legal right of individuals not to participate in the salute to the flag for personal reasons. An individual not participating in the salute to the flag must maintain a respectful silence.

[The School Board recognizes the potential importance and relevance of local ceremonies in addition to the Pledge of Allegiance. With School Board approval, and provided that such ceremonies do not contravene state or federal law, the School Board encourages such local ceremonies as a way of celebrating and recognizing place and local culture as an important part of the educational day.](#)

*(cf. 5145.2 - Freedom of Speech/Expression)*  
*(cf. 6141.2 - Recognition of Religious Beliefs and Customs)*  
*(cf. 6141.3 - Multicultural Education)*

SPECIAL DAYS AND EVENTS

District schools shall commemorate special [days, events](#) in accordance with law. Schools are encouraged to recognize days and event of local historical and cultural importance.

District schools shall be closed in observance of Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day and the day after, Christmas Day, New-Year’s Day, Memorial Day, and the Fourth of July

Holidays which fall on a Sunday shall be observed the following Monday. Holidays that fall on a Saturday shall be observed on the preceding Friday.

[Furthermore, the Sitka School Board specifically recognizes the cultural and civic importance of relating to people or events and encourages school leaders and students to incorporate celebrations or recognition within the school’s activities and curriculum.](#)

*(cf. 6111 - School Calendar)*

**CEREMONIES AND OBSERVANCES** (continued)

BP 6115

*Legal References*

ALASKA STATUTES

14.03.050 - *School Holidays*

14.03.130 - *Display of Flag and Pledge of Allegiance*

41.15.900 - *Observance of Arbor Day*

*West Virginia State Board of Education, et al v. Burnette, et al* 319 U.S. 624 (1943)

*Banks v. Board of Public Instruction*, 314 F. Supp. 285

*Hanover v. Northrup*, 325 F Supp. 170

**SITKA SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Adoption Date: February 6, 1996**  
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