

**CEREMONIES AND OBSERVANCES****Holidays**

District schools shall be closed on 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
<u>Juneteenth</u>	<u>June 19</u>
Independence Day	July 4
Labor Day	First Monday in September
Veterans Day	November 11
Thanksgiving Day	The Thursday in November designated by the President
Christmas Day	December 25

*(cf. 6141.2 - Recognition of Religious Beliefs and Customs)*

In addition, schools shall be closed on any day designated by the Governor or President for a holiday, any special or limited holiday on which the Governor provides that the schools shall close, and any other day designated as a holiday by the Governing Board and/or negotiated with employee organizations. (Education Code 37220)

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 Governing Board may close the

schools on the date recognized by federal law instead of on the date above. (Education Code 37220)

*(cf. 6111 - School Calendar)*

### **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
Abraham 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
Classified Employee Week	Third week in May

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

*(cf. 6142.94 - History-Social Science Instruction)*  
*(cf. 6142.3 - Civic Education)*

### **Patriotic Exercises**

Each school shall conduct patriotic exercises daily, which may include the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States and/or 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 secondary schools, such exercises shall be conducted during the homeroom period.

A student may choose not to participate in the flag salute or Pledge of Allegiance 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 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)

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 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
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

As set forth in Administrative Regulation 6115, 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](#).) These procedures apply to requests to display additional flags on District-owned flagpoles.

Flags flown on District flagpoles are a form of government speech, not private speech. As such, the District's selection of flags is not regulated by the Free Speech Clause of the First Amendment. The flagpoles are under the control and management of the District and it is impermissible to fly any flag without the prior approval of the SMUHSD Board of Trustees.

These are the general guidelines that outline the procedure for bringing a request to the SMUHSD Board of Trustees.

### Guidelines

1. The Board will consider requests from SMUHSD students only.
2. Students will submit a request to the Superintendent to be added to a SMUHSD Board of Trustees meeting agenda.
3. Student requests will be presented to the SMUHSD Board of Trustees during a regularly scheduled, public board meeting as an agenda item. Requests may be placed on the Board of Trustees' consent agenda. All requests must include:
  - a) A visual replication of the exact flag the group proposes to raise
  - b) A rationale for the flag and how it aligns with the [SMUHSD Equity vision](#)
  - c) The time frame for raising and flying the flag.
  - d) A petition or other form of evidence of student support for the flag. Evidence requested may be determined by the administration and School Board on a case-by-case basis.
4. All requests will be considered a districtwide request and must include currently enrolled student signatures from each of the school sites. These requests must include either 5% of the student body of each school or 20 student signatures, whichever is less.
- ~~4. Petitions and/or other means of evidence that reflect student support must include student signatures from the school(s) requesting to raise the flag.~~
  - ~~a) Requests for a flag to be flown at all district schools and the district office should include student signatures from all schools.~~
5. Only the main flagpole at the schools and district office will be considered in any requests.
6. Excluding the National and State Flags, only one additional flag may be raised on the school's main flagpole at a given time.
7. Only requests to fly ~~non~~-secular flags will be considered by the Board of Trustees for approval.
8. The SMUHSD Board of Trustees cannot approve requests to fly flags with symbols that are prohibited from government speech.
9. The SMUHSD Board of Trustees has the right to remove a flag at any time.
10. In accordance with the U.S. Flag Code, any additionally approved flag may be removed or moved to another location during half-mast orders depending on the length of the flagpole.