

## CEREMONIES AND OBSERVANCES

## Holidays

**Note:** The following list may be expanded to reflect district practice. Education Code [37220](#) allows the Governing Board to designate any other day as a holiday. In addition, Education Code [37220](#) provides that the Board, by adoption of a resolution, may revise the date upon which district schools close in observance of any of these holidays except Veterans Day, which must be celebrated on its actual date. Education Code [37220](#) also provides that a district may, if it so chooses, allow community groups to use school facilities on those dates when the school is closed for a holiday. See BP/AR 1330 - Use of School Facilities.

District schools shall be closed ~~in observance of~~ 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
Independence Day	July 4
Labor Day	First Monday in September
Veteran's Day	November 11
Thanksgiving Day	<del>That</del> <b>The</b> Thursday in November designated by the President
Christmas Day	December 25

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

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Note: The following paragraph is optional. Education Code [37220.5](#) and [37220.7](#) authorize the closing of school on March 31 in observance of Cesar Chavez Day and/or on the fourth Friday in September for Native American Day, provided that the Board agrees to do so in a memorandum of understanding reached with employee bargaining units pursuant to Government Code [3540-3549.3](#). The following paragraph should be modified to reflect any agreements reached by the Board and the bargaining units and should be deleted entirely if no such agreements have been reached.

~~In addition, the district has reached agreement with the district employee organizations pursuant to Government Code [3540-3549.3](#) to close schools in observance of the following holidays:~~

~~Cesar Chavez Day~~ \_\_\_\_\_ ~~March 31~~

~~Native American Day~~ \_\_\_\_\_ ~~Fourth Friday in September~~

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)

(cf. 6111 - School Calendar)

### Commemorative Exercises

Note: As listed in the section below, Education Code [37220](#), [37221](#), and [45460](#) require the observance of various special days with suitable commemorative exercises. In addition, both federal and state law (36 USC [106](#), Note and Education Code [37221](#)) require districts to hold commemorative exercises for U.S. Constitution Day and Citizenship Day each year on or near September 17; see BP [6142.3](#) - Civic Education.

Note: Education Code [37222-37222.17](#) (as added and renumbered by AB 1775, Ch. 241, Statutes of 2010) and 51009, as well as various legislative resolutions, have designated other days of special significance on which schools are encouraged, but not required, to conduct appropriate commemorative exercises, including: (1) School Board Recognition Month in January; (2) Ed Roberts Day on January 23 (added by SB 1256, Ch. 115, Statutes of 2010); (3) Fred Korematsu Day of Civil Liberties and the Constitution on January 30 (added by AB 1775); (4) Ronald Reagan Day on February 6 (added by SB 944, Ch. 114, Statutes of 2010); (5) Week of the School Administrator on the first full week of March; (6) California Agriculture Day on the first day of spring each year; (7) Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day on March 30 (added by AB 717, Ch. 158, Statutes of 2009); (8) California Poppy Day on April 6; (9) Labor History Week during the first week of April; (10) John Muir Day on April 21; (11) the Day of the Teacher on the second Wednesday in May; (12) Harvey Milk Day on May 22 (added by SB 572, Ch. 626, Statutes of 2009); and (13) Bill of Rights Day on December 15.

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**Note:** Pursuant to Education Code [37220.5](#) and [37220.7](#), districts also may, but are not required to, conduct commemorative exercises for Cesar Chavez Day and Native American Day in addition to or instead of closing school on those days; see section above on "Holidays." The State Board of Education has adopted model curriculum, which can be found on the California Department of Education's website, for school use on these days. The list below may be modified to include any optional days of special significance so designated by the Board.

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
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*)

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~~In addition, the Board has authorized schools to hold commemorative exercises for the following additional special days:~~

<del>School Board Recognition Month</del>	<del>January</del>
<del>Week of the School Administrator</del>	<del>First full week of March</del>
<del>Cesar Chavez Day</del>	<del>March 31</del>
<del>California Poppy Day</del>	<del>April 6</del>
<del>John Muir Day</del>	<del>April 21</del>
<del>Day of the Teacher</del>	<del>Second Wednesday in May</del>
<del>Native American Day</del>	<del>Fourth Friday in September</del>
<del>Bill of Rights Day</del>	<del>December 15</del>

### Patriotic Exercises

**Note: Education Code [52720](#) requires all schools to conduct patriotic exercises daily. Pursuant to Education Code [52720](#) and [52730](#), this requirement may be satisfied by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance and/or through the instruction described below.**

Each school shall conduct patriotic exercises daily. ~~Such exercises shall be conducted at the beginning of each school day. The Pledge of Allegiance to the flag will fulfill this requirement. (Education Code 52720)~~ **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](#))**

**Note: The following paragraph is for use by districts maintaining elementary schools.**

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

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**Note:** For secondary schools, Education Code [52720](#) requires that the patriotic exercises be conducted in accordance with mandated regulations adopted by the Board. Districts maintaining secondary schools should modify the following paragraph to reflect district practice.

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

**Note:** Federal courts have held that individuals may not be compelled to salute the flag or to stand during the salute. (West Virginia State Board of Education et al v. Barnette et al.)

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~~ **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; ~~36-USC 474 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 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. (36 USC 175)~~

**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](#))**

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~~In addition,~~ The national flag shall fly at half-staff **on the following occasions: (4 USC [7](#))**

~~÷ (36 USC 175)~~

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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**SAUGUS UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
Santa Clarita, California