

THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PHILADELPHIA

No. 807

Section: 800 OPERATIONS

Title: Opening
Exercises/Flag Displays

Adopted: April 27, 1981

Revised: December 14, 2017

807 OPENING EXERCISES/FLAG DISPLAYS

Purpose

~~The School Reform Commission~~**Board of Education (“Board”)** adopts this policy to ~~ensure that~~**require the School District of Philadelphia (“District”) to provide guidance to all**
~~District schools for following compliance with~~**United States flag (“flag”)** displays and opening exercises while respecting the rights of individuals.

Authority

As required by the Pennsylvania Public School Code and State and Federal laws and regulations, the Board shall provide a flag, flagstaff, and the necessary appliances therefore, and shall display said flag upon or near each public school building in clement weather, during school hours, and at such other times as the Board may determine. The Board shall also maintain rules and regulations as to the proper display of flags. [1]

Delegation of Responsibility

The Board directs the Superintendent or their designee, through the Division of Operations, to effectuate the display of a~~A United States flag shall be displayed in classrooms and on or near each school building during school hours, in clement weather, and at other times determined by the SRC designee.~~**[1] The Deputy Superintendent of Academic Services or their designee, in coordination with the Division of Operations, shall also develop Administrative Procedures to guide District schools in displaying the flag in conformity with law.**

District schools shall provide opening exercises that include a salute to the flag and/or recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance or the National Anthem.**[1] Opening exercises may also include a brief period of silent prayer or meditation. Silent prayer or meditation shall not be conducted as a religious service or exercise.[2]**

Mandatory Regulatory Procedures

Students **and staff** may decline to recite the Pledge of Allegiance or National Anthem and/or **decline** to salute the flag on the basis of personal belief or religious conviction. Students **and staff** ~~who choose to refrain from such participation~~ shall respect the rights and interests of **others, classmates who do** **regardless of whether they choose to participate or not.**[1][2][3]

~~Opening exercises may also include a brief period of silent prayer or meditation. Silent prayer or meditation shall not be conducted as a religious service or exercise.[3]~~

Legal References:

1. 24 P.S. 771
2. **24 P.S. 1516.1**
3. 22 PA Code 12.10
4. ~~24 P.S. 1516.1~~