

POSITIONS AND POLICIES ON EDUCATION

Ceremonies and Observances

FILE CODE

6115

Flag Salute

The NJSBA believes all local boards of education and county school boards associations should begin their business meetings with the salute and pledge of allegiance to the United States flag as a regular order of business. *[Authority: DA 12/80-16, DA 11/97-SR, DA 11/02-SR, DA 11/07-SR, DA 11/12-SR, DA 11/17-SR]*

Periods of Silence or Meditation

The NJSBA believes a period of silence or meditation should not be mandated in public schools. *[Authority: DA 6/81-31, DA 11/97-SR, DA 11/02-SR, DA 11/07-SR, DA 11/12-SR, DA 11/17-SR]*

Observance of Commemorative Days

- A. **The NJSBA believes** particular exercises for the observance of commemorative days in public schools should be left to the discretion of local boards of education.
- B. **The NJSBA believes** that a free and public education would not be possible without the sacrifices of the men and women who served and fought for our country and those who died to preserve our democracy. Pupils should be made aware of the contributions of our military veterans and the significance of Memorial Day and Veterans Day.
- C. **The NJSBA believes** that New Jersey schools, on or about election days should be encouraged to provide lessons on civic responsibility in a democracy and the importance of exercising those hard earned rights.
- D. **The NJSBA believes** that, because Veterans Day is a Federal and State holiday enacted for observance and commemorative expression of our Veterans' sacrifices, public schools are encouraged to consider all means of observing this holiday, including the possibility of closing school. This would provide the opportunity for students and staff members to participate in these commemorative events. *[Authority: DA 6/81-23, DA 11/97-SR, DA 11/02-SR, DA 11/07-1, DA 11/07-SR, DA 5/08-1, DA 11/08-1, DA 11/12-SR, DA 11/17-SR]*

Cross Reference: 9321 Time, place, notification of meetings

Key Words: ceremonies, flag salute, commemorative