

Instruction

Ceremonies and Observances

Holidays

District schools shall be closed in observance of the following holidays:

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 week of the State/Federal President' Holiday
Washington Day	The week of the State/Federal President' Holiday
Memorial Day	Last Monday in May
Independence Day	July 4
Labor Day	First Monday in September
Veterans Day	November 11
Thanksgiving Day	That Thursday in November designated by the President
Christmas Day	December 25

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)

Commemorative Exercises

District schools shall hold exercises to commemorate the following special days: (Education Code 37220, 37221, 45460)

U.S. Constitution and Citizenship Day, including exercises and instruction in the purpose, meaning, and importance of the Constitution and Bill of Rights	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
Employee Recognition Day	Second Wednesday in May

Patriotic Exercises

State law requires "daily appropriate patriotic exercises" in public schools. This requirement is met either by recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance or instruction that promotes understanding the concepts of "pledge," "allegiance," "republic," and "indivisible," and understanding the importance of the pledge as an expression of patriotism, love of country, and pride in the United States of America, provided that the instructions is a combination of the giving of the Pledge of Allegiance and such instruction.

Individuals may choose not to participate in the reciting the Pledge of Allegiance or standing when it is recited. Those who elect not to participate may not be singled out for attention or caused to feel embarrassed by such election.

MUSD further recognizes that the United States Supreme Court, in *Board of Education v. Barnette* (1943) 319 U.S. 624, held that a state requirement that school children salute the flag and recite the pledge of allegiance unconstitutionally abridged First Amendment freedoms. In writing for the court, Justice Jackson stated, "Symbolism is a primitive but effective way of communicating ideas. The use of an emblem or flag to symbolize some system, idea, institution, or personality, is a short cut from mind to mind. ... A person gets from a symbol the meaning he puts into it, and what is one man's comfort and inspiration is another's jest and scorn." (Id. at pp. 632-633.)

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. At all times, the national flag shall be placed in the position of first honor. (Government Code 431, 436; 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 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 Peace Officers Memorial Day (May 15), unless that day is also Armed Forces Day

In addition, 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 the state or the death of a member of the Armed Forces from the state who has died while serving on active duty, the Governor may proclaim that the flag be flown at half-staff. (4 USC 7)