

IKD School Ceremonies and Observances

9/23/16

RATIONALE/OBJECTIVE:

Each student in the Cobb County School District (District) should be afforded the opportunity to display respect of patriotic symbols of the United States of America in accordance with the description of a contributing citizen in the District Graduate Profile (Board Policy IA [Student Performance Standards and Expectations]) and as established by the Official Code of the State of Georgia O.C.G.A. § 20-2-310.

RULE:**A. FLAG DISPLAYS:**

1. Each school administrator is responsible for the appropriate display of the flag of the United States of America on a daily basis at his/her school;
2. **Half-Staff:**
 - a. Flags should be flown at half-staff only on those days designated by Federal and/or State Government officials;
 - b. The Superintendent or designee should be responsible for notifying school administrators of days designated for the display of flags at half-staff.

B. NATIONAL ANTHEM:

Each school administrator should be responsible for ensuring that:

1. Students have appropriate opportunity for experiencing the National Anthem of the United States and other patriotic music on a regular basis; and
2. Instruction is provided relative to proper respect and behavior toward the National Anthem and other symbols of patriotism.

C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG:

1. Between 8:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon each school day, students in the District shall be afforded the opportunity to recite the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America;
2. Students participating in the recitation of the Pledge will be expected to stand, face the flag and recite the Pledge in unison;
3. Students not participating in the recitation of the Pledge may:
 - a. Stand and refrain from reciting the Pledge; or
 - b. Remain seated;
4. Non-participating students shall in no way conduct themselves in a manner which disrupts the observance of the Pledge of Allegiance.

D. QUIET REFLECTION:

1. At the beginning of each school day, a brief period of quiet reflection for up to sixty (60) seconds shall be provided to give students an opportunity to reflect on the anticipated activities of the day;
2. This moment of silent reflection is not intended to be and shall not be conducted as a religious service or exercise.

Adopted: 8/9/78

Revised: 4/28/83; 8/8/84; 8/10/94

Reclassified an Administrative Rule: 9/1/04

Revised: 1/13/10

Revised and recoded: 9/27/12 (Previously coded as Administrative Rule IMD)

Revised: 9/23/16

Legal Reference

O.C.G.A. 20-2-1051

O.C.G.A. 20-2-1050

O.C.G.A. 20-2-310

O.C.G.A. 50-3-4.1

Brief Period of Quiet Reflection; Participation not to be regulated or required

Moment of silence authorized

Student directory information; voter and selective service registration; pledge of allegiance

Displaying copies of national motto and American and Georgia flags