
CEREMONIES AND OBSERVANCES

The morning opening exercises will include the pledge of allegiance. Those pupils who have religious or conscientious objections may be excused from participating, but must not disrupt the exercises.

Appropriate recognition shall be given in all schools on the last school day preceding:

- A. Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday;
- B. Lincoln's Birthday;
- C. Washington's Birthday;
- D. Memorial Day
- E. Columbus Day;
- F. Veteran's Day
- G. Thanksgiving Day.

Suitable exercises are also required by law in all New Jersey public schools in observance of Flag Day, Arbor Day, and Commodore John Barry Day. The board authorizes the superintendent to conduct school observances in commemoration of other persons and events of special historical significance.

Pupils shall be encouraged to develop and/or take part in events and activities in connection with special "days" and "weeks" proclaimed by the nation, state or community.

Holidays and special events may be recognized in the district's schools so long as such recognition respects the rights and feelings of others and is consistent with law.

Songs and customs which have come to us from the various elements of our national population may be used to broaden our pupils' awareness of the many elements that make up our American culture.

Dated: September 18, 2002

Legal References:

<u>N.J.S.A.</u>	18A:36-3	Display of and salute to flag; pledge of allegiance
<u>N.J.S.A.</u>	18A:36-6	Observance of flag day
<u>N.J.S.A.</u>	18A:36-7 through -9	Designation of Arbor Day ...
<u>N.J.S.A.</u>	18A:36-10 through -12	Designation of Commodore Barry Day ...
<u>N.J.S.A.</u>	18A:36-13	Patriotic exercises preceding holidays

Lipp v. Morris, 579 F. 2d 834 (1978) (3rd Cir.)

Holden v. Elizabeth Board of Education, 46 N.J. 281 (1966)

Cross References:

5114	Suspension and expulsion
5127	Commencement activities
5131	Conduct/discipline
6141.2	Recognition of religious beliefs and customs

