

## SCHOOL CEREMONIES AND OBSERVANCES

The Board of Education believes that holiday celebrations should be sensitive to, and respectful of, the broad spectrum of beliefs and cultures represented by our students, staff, and community. To that end, the school district will continue school ceremonies and observances which have become a tradition and a custom of the education program. These include, but are not limited to, observing the national anthem, reciting the Pledge of Allegiance, and observance of holidays, such as Christmas, Halloween and Easter, by programs and performances. Such ceremonies or observances will have a secular purpose and will not advocate or sponsor a particular religion. A variety of cultural practices, including music, art, literature, drama and displays, should be incorporated into programs presented during holiday seasons.

The district will provide a suitable flagstaff at each school site and raise the Iowa and United States flags each school day as weather conditions permit.

Students who do not wish to participate in these activities may be silent during the ceremony or observance or receive permission from the principal to be excused from the ceremony for religious reasons in compliance with board policy.

Legal Ref.: U.S. Const. amend. I.  
*Lee v. Weisman*, 112 S.Ct. 2649 (1992).  
*Lemon v. Kurtzman*, 403 U.S. 602 (1971).  
*Graham v. Central Community School District of Decatur County*, 608 F.Supp. 531 (S.D. Iowa 1985).  
 Iowa Code § 279.8; 280.5.

ADOPTED: 2/11/91  
 1/25/99  
 8/25/25

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