

**CEREMONIES AND OBSERVANCES**

In the Long Hill Township School District, 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. Veterans' 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.

**First reading and adoption: Nov. 14, 2005**

**Legal References:**

N.J.S.A. 18A:36-3	Display of and salute to flag; pledge of allegiance
N.J.S.A. 18A:36-4	Period of silence (unconstitutional)
N.J.S.A. 18A:36-6	Observance of flag day
N.J.S.A. 18A:36-7 through -9	Designation of Arbor Day
N.J.S.A. 18A:36-10 through -12	Designation of Commodore Barry Day...
N.J.S.A. 18A:36-13	Patriotic exercises preceding holidays

U.S.C.A. Const. Amends. 1, 14

No Child Left Behind act of 2001, pub. L. 107-110, U.S.C.A. 6301 et seq.

West Virginia Bd. of Ed. v. Barnette, 319 U.S. 624 (1943)

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

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

May v. Cooperman, C.A. 780 F. 2d 240 (1985)

Karcher v. May, 484 U.S. 72 (1987)

Lee v. Weisman, 505 U.S. 577 (1992)

American Civil Liberties Union v. Blackhorse Pike Regional Board of Education, 84 F.3d 1471 (3<sup>rd</sup> cir. 1996)

Santa Fe Indep. School District v. Doe, 120 S. Ct. 2266 (June 19, 2000)

Guidance on Constitutionally Protected Prayer in Public Elementary and Secondary Schools, United States Department of Education, February 7, 2003

**Possible Cross References:**

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

\*Indicates policy is included in the Critical Policy Reference Manual.

