

ORGANIZATION, PHILOSOPHY, AND GOALS

Local School Organization and Administration

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

This policy supersedes Policy 1352.1

I. PURPOSE

To provide direction for the daily recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag in Fairfax County Public Schools.

II. SUMMARY OF CHANGES SINCE LAST PUBLICATION

This policy has been reviewed, and there are no changes at this time.

III. STATEMENT OF SCHOOL BOARD POLICY

The American flag is a symbol of our national ideals. Traditionally, the flag is honored by standing and pledging allegiance to it.

It shall be the policy of the Fairfax County School Board that in each public school in the school division—elementary (including kindergarten), middle, and high—a time shall be included in every instructional day for students to recite the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

IV. INSTRUCTIONAL PROVISIONS

In accordance with state law, instruction in the history and principles represented by the flag of the United States, as well as the flag of Virginia, shall be included in the curriculum of one or more grades in the school system as preparation for students to become participatory citizens and as a means of transmitting fundamental values important to maintaining a democratic system of government.

As part of this instruction, all students shall learn the origin and the text of the Pledge of Allegiance, which serves as one expression of this nation's civic heritage.

V. RECITATION PROVISIONS

As prescribed by law, the Pledge of Allegiance shall be rendered by standing at attention facing the flag with the right hand over the heart. Either the classroom teacher or a student may lead the recitation of the Pledge. If a classroom teacher chooses not to participate, another staff member or student, on a voluntary basis, may be designated to serve as leader.

No student shall be compelled to join in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance if he or she objects, or if his or her parents object, to participation in such an exercise on religious or philosophical grounds. Parents or guardians are expected to discuss any such objections with their children.

No student shall be subjected to unfavorable comment or stigmatization of his or her decision to participate or abstain from the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance. Nonparticipating students are expected to sit quietly, or to stand silently if they want, during the Pledge and to engage in no disrupting or distracting activity. No disciplinary sanction may be imposed for refusal to participate in saying the Pledge; however, willful disruption or interference with the exercise of pledging allegiance by others may result in the same disciplinary measures accorded to other instances of classroom disruption in school.

Legal reference: Code of Virginia, Section 22.1-202,
Virginia Board of Education: Guidelines on Recitation of the
Pledge of Allegiance.

Policy
adopted: July 23, 1998
Reviewed and
corrected: September 4, 2003
Reviewed: December 5, 2008