

**PATRIOTIC EXERCISES**

Maine law requires display of and instruction about the American flag in the classrooms of our schools.

In order to foster appreciation and respect for the flag as a symbol of our nation, the Pledge of Allegiance should be recited each morning and may be recited at assemblies and other appropriate occasions in every school. It is the responsibility of the Superintendent, through each building principal, to ensure that this policy is implemented. The building principal may determine how the Pledge will be initiated, such as by individual teachers or by intercom.

Students may not be compelled to participate in recitation of the Pledge, including being required to stand, salute the flag or to place hand over heart. Students can be required to be quiet and not disrupt the recitation. Some students may request leaving the classroom during the Pledge.

Teachers may not be compelled to recite the Pledge of Allegiance, but they are not excused from the duties to initiate and supervise student recitation of the Pledge as assigned by the principal nor from implementation of curriculum that promotes honor and respect for the flag and our country.

Legal Reference: 20-A MRS § 1055m 4805

**Adopted: June 24, 1986**  
**Reviewed: November 1994**  
**Reviewed: March 26, 2002**  
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**Reviewed: June 8, 2009**