

# THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PHILADELPHIA

SECTION: 800 Operations

TITLE: Opening Exercises/  
Flag Displays

ADOPTED: April 27, 1981

REVISED: December 14,  
2017

## 807 OPENING EXERCISES/FLAG DISPLAYS

### **Purpose**

The School Reform Commission adopts this policy to ensure that all district schools comply with state and federal laws concerning flag displays and opening exercises while respecting the rights of individuals.

### **Authority**

A United States flag shall be displayed in classrooms and on or near each school building during school hours, inclement weather and at other times determined by the SRC.[1]

District schools shall provide opening exercises that include a salute to the flag and/or recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance or the National Anthem.[1]

Students may decline to recite the Pledge of Allegiance or National Anthem and to salute the flag on the basis of personal belief or religious conviction. Students who choose to refrain from such participation shall respect the rights and interests of classmates who do participate.[1][2]

Opening exercises may also include a brief period of silent prayer or meditation. Silent prayer or meditation shall not be conducted as a religious service or exercise.[3]

### **Legal References:**

1. 24 P.S. 771
2. 22 PA Code 12.10
3. 24 P.S. 1516.1