

Book	Policy Manual
Section	800 Operations
Title	Opening Exercises/Flag Displays
Code	807
Status	First Reading
Last Reviewed	January 20, 2021

Purpose

The Joint Operating Committee **adopts this policy to ensure that the school complies 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 the school building during school hours, in clement weather and at other times determined by the Joint Operating Committee.[\[1\]](#)

The school shall provide opening exercises **that include a salute to** the flag **and/or recitation of** the Pledge of Allegiance **or the National Anthem.**[\[2\]](#)

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.**[\[1\]](#)[\[2\]](#)

The Joint Operating Committee may direct professional employees to conduct a brief period of silent prayer or meditation as part of daily opening exercises. Silent prayer or meditation shall not be conducted as a religious service or exercise.[\[3\]](#)

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