



Book	Policy Manual
Section	800 Operations
Title	Opening Exercises/Moment of Silence/Flag Displays
Code	807 Vol IV 2024
Status	First Reading
Last Revised	July 7, 2025

Purpose

The Joint Operating Committee adopts this policy to ensure that the center (school) complies with state and federal laws concerning flag displays, opening exercises **and the moment of silence on the anniversary of September 11**, while respecting the rights of individuals.

Authority

A United States flag shall be displayed in classrooms and on or near the center (school) building during school hours, in clement weather and at other times determined by the Joint Operating Committee.[\[1\]](#)

The center (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.[\[3\]](#)

The Joint Operating Committee directs the center (school) to annually provide, during instructional hours, a moment of silence for students and staff to observe the anniversary of September 11, 2001.[\[4\]](#)

NOTES:

Do not use language about notifying the parents/guardians (and/or require them to supply a note) when the student refuses to salute the flag and/or recite the pledge or national anthem - this language was determined to be unconstitutional.

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Legal	1. 24 P.S. 771
	2. 22 PA Code 12.10
	3. 24 P.S. 1516.1
	4. 24 P.S. 1555