

Regulation IMDB-RA

Las Cruces Public Schools

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Responsible Office: Associate Superintendent for Instruction

Flag Display & Patriotic Observances

I. PURPOSE

To set forth the procedures concerning the display of the flag under normal conditions and during periods of national or state mourning; establish responsibility for the proper handling and display of the United States and New Mexico flags; and establish guidelines for patriotic observances.

II. BACKGROUND

New Mexico statutes [22-2-9 NMSA 1978] require that the flag of the United States and the flag of the State of New Mexico shall be displayed in each classroom and on or within all public school buildings and also require that the pledge of allegiance be recited daily in each public school in the school district according to regulations adopted by the Public Education Department.

III. PROCESS

A. Displaying the flag

1. The United States flag should be placed on the speaker's right, while the New Mexico and/or other flags should be placed on the speaker's left. The United States flag shall always be positioned higher than other flags.
2. The United States Flag shall be displayed and flown at all LCPS schools from sunrise to sunset on all days school is in session. Should another flag be flown or displayed during such period, it shall not be flown or displayed at a height greater than the height at which the United States Flag is flown or displayed.
3. No flag shall be flown or displayed in lieu of the United States Flag on school property when the United States Flag is not being flown or displayed.
4. When displayed with another flag from crossed staffs, the flag of the United States of America should be on the right (the flag's own right) and its staff should be in front of the staff of the other flag.
5. When flags of states or cities or pennants of societies are flown on the same halyard with the flag of the United States, the latter should always be at the peak. When flown from adjacent staffs, the Stars and Stripes should be hoisted first and lowered last.

6. When the flag is displayed in a manner other than being flown from a staff, it should be displayed flat, whether indoors or out. When displayed either horizontally or vertically against a wall, the union should be uppermost and to the flag's own right, that is, to the observer's left. When displayed in a window, it should be displayed in the same way, that is, with the union or blue field to the left of the observer in the street.
7. When festoons, rosettes or draping are desired as part of a display, bunting of blue, white and red should be used, but never the flag.
8. When carried in a procession with another flag or flags, the United States of America flag should be either on the marching right, or when there is a line of other flags, in front of the center of that line.
9. The National flag shall be raised and lowered by hand. Do not raise the flag while it is furled. Unfurl, then hoist quickly to the top of the staff. Lower it slowly and with dignity. Place no objects on or over the flag.
10. The flag shall not be used as a portion of a costume or athletic uniform. Do not embroider it upon cushions or handkerchiefs nor print it on paper napkins or boxes.
11. Every precaution shall be taken to prevent the flag from being soiled. It shall not be allowed to touch the ground or floor, or brush against objects.

B. Responsibilities

1. The principal, or designee, is responsible for:
 - a. Ensuring that flags are properly displayed in the school and on school premises
 - b. Destroying worn-out flags by burning when they are in such condition that they are no longer a fitting emblem for display. If a school does not have facilities for burning a worn-out flag, the principal should contact the Maintenance Department Supervisor who will be responsible for picking up the flag at the school and for destroying it by burning.
 - c. Assuring that opening exercises, providing for the salute and pledge of allegiance to the flag, are conducted daily in the school, in each assembly in elementary and secondary schools, and at other programs as appropriate.
 - d. Encouraging students to participate in the salute to the flag. However, any student, teacher, or other staff member, for religious reasons, may be excused from actually repeating the words of the Pledge of Allegiance and from giving any form of hand salute. Teachers and pupils cannot be compelled to pledge allegiance to the flag nor are they to be penalized or embarrassed for failure to do so;

however, they cannot interfere through word or action which those who do participate in the salute to the flag.

2. The Superintendent, using the district's communication system, informs each principal of directives by the President of the United States or the Governor of the State of New Mexico concerning the displaying of flags at half-staff. In the absence of a directive from the President or Governor, the Superintendent will be guided by the United States Code, Title 36, Section 175, Proclamation No. 3044.

IV. Patriotic Observances

C. The school principal, in collaboration with the instructional staff, may conduct appropriate special ceremonies through the instructional program to commemorate national and state holidays and the cultural holidays of students enrolled in the school.

D. All celebrations must be linked to the content of the current NM Social Studies Content Standards.

History: Formerly Procedure 409, Revised 08.27.07
Legal Reference: 22-2-9 NMSA and 22-5-4.5 NMSA



Approved, Associate Superintendent for Instruction

December 10, 2007

Date Approved