

REGULATION ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Related Entries: IKA

Responsible Office: OFFICE OF SCHOOL PERFORMANCE, DIVISION OF CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

OPENING AND PATRIOTIC EXERCISES

A. PURPOSE

To establish guidance for schools related to opening and patriotic exercises within Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS).

B. BACKGROUND

State law governs patriotic exercises in public schools. Anne Arundel County Public Schools is committed to honoring the flag of the United States of America as a symbol of this country's national ideals and pride.

C. PROCEDURES

1. Opening Exercises

Principals and teachers in all schools may require all students present to participate in opening exercises on each morning of a school day.

2. Patriotic Exercises

Anne Arundel County Public Schools shall:

- a. Display an American flag on the site of each public school building in the county while school is in session;
- b. Buy all necessary American flags, staffs, and appliances for the flags;
- c. Display an American flag in each school classroom;
- d. Prepare a program for each public school classroom for the beginning of each school day that provides for the salute to the flag, and other patriotic exercises that are approved by the United States government; and

- e. Require teachers and students to stand and face the flag and give an approved salute to the flag and recite in unison “I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.”
 - i. Participation in a flag salute or other patriotic exercises shall not be required of any student who objects to such exercises on the grounds of conscience or religious belief.
 - ii. It is the responsibility of students and staff to respect the rights of others.
3. The display, care, and custody of the American flag at each public school and in each classroom shall be in accordance with Title 4 of the United States Code, Flag and Seal, Seat of Government, and the States, §1-10.
4. Anne Arundel County Public Schools may provide for any other patriotic exercises it considers appropriate under State law and this regulation, and instruction that best meets the requirements of the different grades in the schools.
5. Any individual who commits an act of disrespect, either by word or action, is in violation of §7-105 of the Education Article governing patriotic exercises.

Regulation History: Developed by Superintendent 02/04/15
Reviewed by Board of Education 03/18/15
Issued 03/18/15; Revised 06/26/23

Note Previous Regulation History: Rescinds policy IK

Legal References: 4 U.S.C. §1-10, Section 7-105 of the Education Article