

**SILENT MEDITATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, AND PATRIOTIC EXERCISES**

On each school day, before classes of instruction officially convene in each school, a period of not more than 5 minutes shall be available upon request to those who may wish to exercise their right to freedom of assembly and participate voluntarily in the free exercise of religion at a place designated by the school principal.

- a. There shall be no teacher supervision of this free exercise of religion but supervision to insure the safety of students and the orderly conduct of the school shall be allowed at the discretion of the school principal.
- b. There shall be no prescribed or proscribed form or content of prayer.
- c. No person shall be allowed on school premises for the purpose of organizing, supervising, or conducting this period of free exercise of religion.

Time will be provided by the School District prior to the beginning of each school day for a moment of silent meditation and the pledge of allegiance to the flag of the United States. Participation is optional and the District does not support any specific religious practices. Students who do not participate must remain quiet and refrain from disruptive or distracting behavior while the Pledge is being recited.

**Legal References:**

*NH RSA 194:15-c New Hampshire School Patriot Act 2002NH R.S.A. 189:1-b: Freedom of Assembly; Freedom of Religion*

***Legal References Disclaimer:*** *These references are not intended to be considered part of this policy, nor should they be taken as a comprehensive statement of the legal basis for the Board to enact this policy, nor as a complete recitation of related legal authority. Instead, they are provided as additional resources for those interested in the subject matter of the policy.*

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