



Frederick County Public Schools
Board of Education
FLAG DISPLAY AND SALUTE
Policy 425

A. Policy Purpose

To provide guidance related to the display of the United States, Maryland, and other flags and the conduct of patriotic exercises within the Frederick County Public Schools (“FCPS”).

B. Definitions

None at this time.

C. Policy Statement

1. The Board of Education of Frederick County (the “Board”) is committed to honoring the flags of the United States of America and the State of Maryland through the proper and purposeful display of each.
2. The Board recognizes that, from time-to-time, FCPS or a school may wish to display a flag other than that of the United State of America or the State of Maryland outside an FCPS building or in a classroom.
3. The Board is also committed to conducting appropriate opening and patriotic observances and recognizes it is each individual’s right to determine for themselves whether to participate in such observances.

D. Implementation

1. **Display of the American Flag.** The American flag shall be displayed at each school site, FCPS office, or other location at which the Board conducts business and in the classroom of every FCPS school while school is in session.
2. **Display of the Maryland Flag.** The Maryland flag may be displayed at each school site, FCPS office, or other location at which the Board conducts business.
3. **Display of Other Flags**
 - a. Other flags beyond the American and Maryland flag may be displayed at a school site, FCPS office, or other location at which the Board conducts business or in the classroom provided that doing so does not disrupt the learning environment or infringe on the rights of others. Such flags may include the flag of a foreign nation, the flag of a local government, a flag denoting an award or achievement earned by a school, or a flag recognizing the success of students in an extracurricular, co-curricular, or athletic activity. For the purposes of this section, a flag includes banners.
 - b. Notwithstanding the foregoing, a flag that is a historical artifact that may not otherwise

be permitted may be displayed provided that the requirements of [Board Policy 516, Teaching of Potentially Controversial Issues/Use of Historical Artifacts](#) are met.

4. **Patriotic Observances**

- a. Each classroom shall have a program at the beginning of each day of classes that provides for the salute to the flag, the recitation in unison of the Pledge of Allegiance, and other patriotic observances. This may be accomplished through a school-wide announcement over the public address system.
- b. The Pledge of Allegiance is as follows: “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.”
- c. Notwithstanding the foregoing, any student or teacher who wishes to be excused from the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance or any other patriotic observance shall be excused without recourse, penalty, or discipline.
- d. A student or teacher who opts out of the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance or a patriotic observance and causes a disruption to the patriotic observance of others may be subject to discipline.

5. The Superintendent is directed to establish regulations to implement this Policy to include the proper display of the American and Maryland flags, the use of a flag as a tribute, and appropriate care for flags.

E. Related Information

1. **Board Policy**

- a. [Policy 314, Political Activity](https://apps.fcps.org/legal/documents/314)
(<https://apps.fcps.org/legal/documents/314>)
- b. [Policy 516, Teaching of Potentially Controversial Issues/Use of Historical Artifacts](https://apps.fcps.org/legal/documents/516)
(<https://apps.fcps.org/legal/documents/516>)

2. **External Resources**

- a. [MD Division of State Documents, Executive Order 01.01.1999.30, Protocol for the Maryland State Flag](https://fcps-md.info/MD_EO_01-01-1999-30) (Amends COMAR 01.01.1999.05)
(https://fcps-md.info/MD_EO_01-01-1999-30)
- b. [MD Secretary of State, MD Flag Protocol](https://fcps-md.info/MD_Flag_Protocol)
(https://fcps-md.info/MD_Flag_Protocol)

3. **FCPS Regulations**

- a. [Regulation 516-01, Teaching of Potentially Controversial Issues/Use of Historical Artifacts](https://apps.fcps.org/legal/documents/516-01) (formerly 500-40)
(<https://apps.fcps.org/legal/documents/516-01>)

4. **Federal Statutes**

- a. [United States Code, Title 4, Chapter 1](https://fcps-md.info/USC_Title_4_Ch_1)
(https://fcps-md.info/USC_Title_4_Ch_1)

5. **Maryland Statutes**

- a. [Md. Code Ann., Educ. § 7-104](https://bit.ly/Md_Code_Educ_7-104)
(https://bit.ly/Md_Code_Educ_7-104)
- b. [Md. Code Ann., Educ. § 7-105](https://bit.ly/Md_Code_Educ_7-105)
(https://bit.ly/Md_Code_Educ_7-105)
- c. [Md. Code Ann., Gen. Prov. § 7-201](https://fcps-md.info/MD_Gen_Prov_7-201)
(https://fcps-md.info/MD_Gen_Prov_7-201)
- d. [Md. Code Ann., Gen. Prov. § 7-202](https://fcps-md.info/MD_Gen_Prov_7-202)
(https://fcps-md.info/MD_Gen_Prov_7-202)
- e. [Md. Code Ann., Gen. Prov. § 7-203](https://fcps-md.info/MD_Gen_Prov_7-203)
(https://fcps-md.info/MD_Gen_Prov_7-203)
- f. [Md. Code Ann., Gen. Prov. § 7-204](https://fcps-md.info/MD_Gen_Prov_7-204)
(https://fcps-md.info/MD_Gen_Prov_7-204)
- g. [Md. Code Ann., Gen. Prov. § 7-205](https://fcps-md.info/MD_Gen_Prov_7-205)
(https://fcps-md.info/MD_Gen_Prov_7-205)
- h. [Md. Code Ann., Gen. Prov. § 7-206](https://fcps-md.info/MD_Gen_Prov_7-206)
(https://fcps-md.info/MD_Gen_Prov_7-206)
- i. [Md. Code Ann., Gen. Prov. § 7-207](https://fcps-md.info/MD_Gen_Prov_7-207)
(https://fcps-md.info/MD_Gen_Prov_7-207)

F. Policy History (Maintained by Legal Services)

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| <i>Responsible Office</i> | Legal Services; System Accountability and School Administration; Operations |
| Adoption Dates | 11/06/06 |
| Review Dates | |
| Revision Dates | 11/13/19; 04/22/26 |