

SCHOOL CEREMONIES AND OBSERVANCES/PATRIOTIC EXERCISES

The Toronto City Board of Education believes one's appreciation of country is promoted by the ceremonies and observances held in the schools, and that the United States flag is a symbol of our democratic heritage, ideals and freedom. It is the belief of the Board of Education that good citizenship skills must be taught in the schools.

Furthermore, the Board believes saluting the flag and reciting the Pledge of Allegiance on a daily or other basis as determined by the building principal helps students learn and reinforce these principles.

Therefore, the Toronto Board of Education requires all students in grades kindergarten through 12, to recite the Pledge of Allegiance at a time and manner specified by the building administrator. No classroom teacher is prohibited from providing a reasonable period of time for recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance. The Pledge of Allegiance used in this District shall be as set forth in 4 U.S.C. §4:

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.

The Pledge to the Flag shall be recited at all appropriate assemblies and activities on all grade levels.

The Board recognizes that the beliefs of some students prohibit participation in the Pledge of Allegiance or other opening exercises, and these students, therefore, are excused, and the intimidation of any student by other students or staff aimed at coercing participation is prohibited.