

INFORMATION REGARDING THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

At the beginning of each day of instruction, every school in Poway Unified School District shall conduct appropriate patriotic exercises as required by California Education Code, Title 2, Division 4, Part 28, Chapter 11, Article 2, Sections 52720-52730.

The Ed Code specifies: “. . . each day during the school year at the beginning of the first regularly scheduled class . . . there shall be conducted appropriate patriotic exercises. The giving of the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America shall satisfy the requirements of this section.”

While we invite students to participate in the Pledge on a daily basis, we do not require them to participate. As citizens of the United States, we all have a choice to exercise our free speech rights and, as such, students and their parents may make a choice as to whether they participate in the Pledge. We do require all students to be respectful of one another – those who choose to say the Pledge and those who choose not to say the Pledge.

We ask that parents take time to discuss this choice with their student.

Education Code:

52720. In every public elementary school each day during the school year at the beginning of the first regularly scheduled class or activity period at which the majority of the pupils of the school patriotic exercises. The giving of the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America shall satisfy the requirements of this section.

In every public secondary school there shall be conducted daily appropriate patriotic exercises. The giving of the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America shall satisfy such requirement. Such patriotic exercises for secondary schools shall be conducted in accordance with the regulations which shall be adopted by the governing board of the district maintaining the secondary school.

52730. (a) Providing instruction that promotes understanding the concepts of "pledge," "allegiance," "republic," and "indivisible," and understanding the importance of the pledge as an expression of patriotism, love of country, and pride in the United States of America shall satisfy the requirement of Section **52720**.

(b) When pupils in a public school are instructed with regard to the words of the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America as part of the patriotic exercises conducted pursuant to this article, that public school shall provide a combination of the giving of the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and the instruction specified in subdivision

(a). School districts shall provide this instruction during the time allotted for the patriotic exercise.