

**Shelby County Board of Education**

**6052**

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**Revised Date: 07/15/14, 10/25/16**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE / NATIONAL ANTHEM**

**I. PURPOSE**

To outline the standards regarding the pledge of allegiance and the national anthem.

**II. SCOPE**

This policy applies to all Shelby County Schools.

**III. POLICY STATEMENT**

All Shelby County schools shall open each school day with the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States and/or the playing of the National Anthem.

At the time designated, unless they are exempt, students shall stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance while facing the flag with their right hands over their hearts or in an appropriate salute if in uniform.

No student shall be compelled to recite the Pledge of Allegiance if the student or the student's parent or legal guardian objects on religious, philosophical or other grounds to the student participating in such exercise.

Students who are exempt from reciting the Pledge of Allegiance shall remain quietly standing or sitting at their desks while others recite the Pledge of Allegiance and shall make no display that disrupts or distracts others who are reciting the Pledge.

Teachers and other school staff who have religious, philosophical, or other grounds for objecting to saying or leading the Pledge of Allegiance are exempt from leading or participating in the exercise.

If a teacher chooses not to lead the Pledge, the teacher or Principal shall designate another suitable person to lead the class.

## **DISPLAY OF THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

All displays of the flag of the United States of America on school property and at school events shall conform to the manner of display as prescribed in federal law and taught in the public schools pursuant to state law. Shelby County Schools shall permit the display of the flag of the United States on school property or at a school event; provided, that the flag is properly displayed according to federal law.

## **POSTING THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/NATIONAL MOTTO**

All Shelby County schools shall have posted *The Pledge of Allegiance* and the National Motto of the United States in a prominent place in the school, e.g. main entrance or common area, and in each school classroom.

## **IV. RESPONSIBILITY**

A. The Superintendent is responsible for ensuring that this policy is followed.

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Legal References:

1. T.C.A. § 49-6-1001
2. Tennessee State Board of Education  
Policy No. 4.208
3. 4 U.S.C. §§1-10

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Cross References: