

## **CEREMONIES AND OBSERVANCES**

### **Holidays**

Monterey County Office of Education (MCOE) schools shall be closed in observance of the following holidays and any other days agreed upon with our bargaining units:

New Year's Day	January 1
Lincoln's Birthday	The Monday or Friday of the week in which February 12 occurs
Washington Birthday	Third Monday in February
Memorial Day	Last Monday in May
Independence Day	July 4
Labor Day	First Monday in September
Veterans Day	November 11
Thanksgiving Day	That Thursday in November designated by the President
Christmas Day	December 25

*(cf. 6141.2 - Recognition of Religious Beliefs and Customs)*

Holidays which fall on a Sunday shall be observed the following Monday. Holidays which fall on a Saturday shall be observed the preceding Friday. If any of the above holidays occurs under federal law on a date different from that indicated above, the Monterey County Board of Education may close the schools on the date recognized by federal law instead of on the date above. [Education Code (E.C.) 37220]

*(cf. 6111 - School Calendar)*

**Commemorative Exercises**

MCOE schools shall hold exercises to commemorate the following special days: [E.C. 37220, 37221, 45460]

U.S. Constitution and Citizenship Day	On or near September 17
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	The Friday before the day schools are closed for this holiday
Lincoln's Birthday	The school day before the day schools are closed for this holiday
Susan B. Anthony Day	February 15
George Washington's Birthday	The Friday preceding the third Monday in February
Black American Day	March 5
Caesar Chavez Day	March 31
National Teacher's Day	May 8
Classified Employee Week	Third Week in May

**Patriotic Exercises**

Each school shall conduct patriotic exercises daily. These patriotic exercises may consist of the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance and may also include instruction that promotes understanding of the concepts of "pledge," "allegiance," "republic," and "indivisible" and understanding of the importance of the pledge as an expression of patriotism, love of country, and pride in the United States. [E.C. 52720, 52730]

Individuals may choose not to participate in the flag salute for personal reasons.

At elementary schools, such exercises shall be conducted at the beginning of each school day. [E.C. 52720]

At secondary schools, such exercises shall be conducted during the homeroom period.

**Display of Flag**

The flag of the United States and the flag of California shall be displayed during school days at the entrance or on the grounds of every school. At all times, the national flag shall be placed in the position of first honor. [Government Code 431, 436; 4 USC 6]

The national flag shall fly at half-staff on the following occasions: [4 USC 7]

1. For 30 days from the death of the President or a former President
2. For 10 days from the death of the Vice President, the Chief Justice or a retired Chief Justice, or the Speaker of the House of Representatives
3. From the day of death until internment of an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, a secretary of executive or military department, former Vice President, and the Governor of a state
4. On the day of death and the following day for a Member of Congress
5. On Peace Officers Memorial Day (May 15), unless that day is also Armed Forces Day

In addition, upon order of the President, the national flag shall be flown at half-staff upon the death of principal figures of the United States government and the Governor of a state, as a mark of respect to their memory. In the event of death of other officials or foreign dignitaries, the flag shall be displayed at half-staff according to presidential instructions or orders, or in accordance with recognized customs or practices not inconsistent with law. In the event of the death of a present or former official of the government of the state or the death of a member of the Armed Forces from the state who has died while serving on active duty, the Governor may proclaim that the flag be flown at half-staff. [4 USC 7]