

TENNESSEE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
RECITATION OF THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE 4.208

State Board of Education Guidelines

Pledge of Allegiance Local education agencies shall adhere to the following:

1. Each local board of education shall determine the appropriate time during the school day for the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. 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.
3. 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. The school or board of education shall exempt the student from participation.
4. 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."
5. The board of education's code of conduct shall apply to disruptive behavior during the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance in the same manner as provided for other circumstances of such behavior.
6. 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.
7. If a teacher chooses not to lead the Pledge, the teacher or principal shall designate another suitable person to lead the class.
8. Each board of education shall provide appropriate accommodations for students, teachers or other staff who are unable to comply with these procedures due to disability.

⁴ Schools have clear authority to require that non-participating students refrain from any activity that disrupts or distracts those making the Pledge. *Goetz v. Ansell* 477 F.2d 636, 638 (2nd Cir. 1973).