

REGULATION

MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Related Entries: ECI, IAA, JFA-RA

Responsible Office: Deputy Superintendent of Schools

Related Source: *Annotated Code of Maryland*, Education Article, §7-105; U.S. Code Title 4
Flag and Seal, Seat of Government, and the States, Chapter 1, §7(m)

Display of the United States and Maryland Flags

I. PURPOSE

To set forth the procedures concerning the display of the United States and Maryland flags under normal conditions and during periods of national or state mourning and establish responsibility for their proper handling and display.

II. BACKGROUND

The Annotated Code of Maryland, Education Article, Section 7-105, requires that the United States flag be displayed at every public school while schools are in session.

III. PROCEDURES

A. Displaying the Flags

1. The United States flag and the Maryland flag are flown outdoors on the school grounds, weather permitting, during normal school hours each day that school is in session and on the grounds of the administrative offices during the normal office hours each day the administrative offices are open.
2. When school buildings are used for voting during the primary and general elections, the flags of the United States and Maryland are displayed.
3. Both the United States flag and the Maryland flag are to be displayed in auditoriums and multipurpose rooms. The United States flag is displayed in all classrooms, and school administrators are encouraged to display the Maryland flag in classrooms within the limit of funds available.

4. When the United States flag is displayed flat (as behind the speaker's position on a stage), the star field is arranged so that it appears in the upper left corner of the flag.
5. When a flag is to be displayed at half-staff, it is raised and lowered in accordance with federal law.
6. Principals at individual schools do not have the authority to make the decision to fly the flag at half-staff for local reasons such as the death of a community leader or school staff member. Permission for flying the flag at half-staff must be obtained from the Office of the Superintendent of Schools in cases where a systemwide directive has not been issued.

B. Responsibilities

1. using the electronic mail system, the superintendent of schools informs each principal of directives by the President of the United States or the Governor of Maryland concerning the displaying of flags at half-staff. In the absence of a directive from the President or Governor, the superintendent of schools will be guided by the United States Code, Title 4, Section 7, subsection (m) .
2. The principal, or his designee, is responsible for—
 - a) ensuring that flags are properly displayed in the school and on school premises;
 - b) destroying, by burning, worn-out flags when they are in such condition that they are no longer a fitting emblem for display. If a school does not have facilities for burning a worn-out flag, the principal should contact the supervisor in the Division of Maintenance. The supervisor will be responsible for picking up the flag at the school and for destroying it by burning;
 - c) ensuring that opening exercises, providing for the salute and pledge of allegiance to the flag, are conducted daily in each class in an elementary school, in each assembly in elementary and secondary schools, and at other programs as appropriate;
 - d) encouraging students to participate in the salute to the flag; and

3. Consistent with Regulation JFA-RA, *Student Rights and Responsibilities*, teachers and students will not be compelled to pledge allegiance to the flag nor will they be penalized or embarrassed for failure to do so; however, they may not interfere through word or action with those who do participate in the salute to the flag. Such interference constitutes grounds for disciplinary action.

Regulation History: Formerly Regulation No. 275-3, October 16, 1975; directory information updated January, 1983; revised May 2, 1988; revised March 8, 2008.