



Merit Preparatory Academy Flag and Civic Patriotism Policy

- I. Patriotic, Civic and Character Education (R277-475-3)
 - A. Merit Preparatory Academy (MPA) shall provide instruction for patriotic, civic and character education in the social studies curricula of grades seven through twelve.
 - B. MPA shall ensure educators have responsibility for patriotic, civic and character education taught in an integrated school curriculum and in the regular course of school work.

- II. School Responsibilities and Required Instruction (R277-475-4)
 - A. MPA shall:
 1. ensure that all patriotic, civic and character education programs are consistent with the requirements of Sections 53G-10-302, 53G-10-304, and 53G-10-204;
 2. provide the setting and opportunities to teach patriotic values associated with the flag of the United States by example; and
 3. make information about the flag, respect for the flag, and civility toward all during patriotic activities available on the LEA's website.
 - B. MPA shall provide instruction in United States history and government that includes the following:
 1. a study of forms of government including:
 - a. a republic
 - b. a pure democracy
 - c. a monarchy; and
 - d. an oligarchy.
 2. political philosophies and economic systems including:
 - a. Socialism
 - b. individualism; and
 - c. free market capitalism.
 3. the United States' form of government: a compound constitutional republic; and
 4. the flag of the United States and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag consistent with:
 - a. Subsection 53G-10-304(2)
 - b. Section 76-9-601
 - c. the plan of the social studies Core curriculum in grades kindergarten through six; and
 - d. Subsection 53G-10-304(3).

- III. Instruction on the flag of the United States of America (53G-10-304)
 - A. MPA shall provide instruction about the flag of the United States

- B. The instruction shall include the history of the flag, etiquette, customs pertaining to the display and use of the flag, and other patriotic exercises as provided by 4 U.S.C. Secs. 1 to 10.
- C. The pledge of allegiance to the flag shall:
 - 1. be recited once at the beginning of each day in each public school classroom in the state, led by a student, on a rotating basis.
 - 2. ensuring that each student shall be informed that they have the right to not participate in reciting the pledge.
 - 3. allow a student to be excused from reciting the pledge as they decide.
- D. At least once a year students shall be instructed that:
 - 1. participation in the pledge of allegiance is voluntary and not compulsory; and
 - 2. not only is it acceptable for someone to choose not to participate in the pledge of allegiance for religious or other reasons, but students should show respect for any student who chooses not to participate.
- E. A public school teacher shall strive to maintain an atmosphere among students in the classroom that is consistent with the principles described in Subsection (3)(d)(i).

IV. Parental Notice of Pledge of Allegiance (R277-475-5)

- A. MPA shall adequately notify students and parents of lawful exemptions to the requirement to participate in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance

V. Civic Engagement (R277-475-7)

- A. This section will be completed upon more information from the state.

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