

Repeal the Recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance Policy 4.208

The Background:

T.C.A. § 49-6-1001 requires the State Board of Education, in consultation with the Office of the Attorney General, to develop guidelines on constitutional rights and restrictions relating to the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance in the public schools. To date, the State Board of Education has published those guidelines as a policy.

As part of the State Board's ongoing, comprehensive review of all its rules and policies to ensure alignment with current law and practice, State Board staff determined that this policy would be more appropriately issued as guidance as directed by statute.

Therefore, this proposal is to repeal the current Pledge of Allegiance Policy and move this information into guidance, which is published on the State Board's website. There are no changes to the guidelines themselves, only to the classification as guidance rather than policy.

The Recommendation:

State Board of Education staff recommends acceptance of this item on first reading.