

Recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance Policy 4.208

The Background:

A primary function of public schools is providing fundamental knowledge to elementary and secondary students about particular subjects, such as English, mathematics, science, and history. Public education also supports various community functions, including provision for a responsible citizenry. As such, local school boards and their administrative and educational employees play a key role in transmitting and instilling the knowledge and values of our society into the lives of our young citizens of Tennessee.

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 in the public schools. As directed by that act, the State Board of Education furnishes these guidelines on the Pledge of Allegiance.

This policy was last updated in 2003, and the proposed revisions are to bring its formatting and style in line with current standards. There are no substantive changes; rather, some superfluous language was removed to clarify expectations.

The Recommendation:

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