

MOMENT OF SILENCE POLICY

I. Introduction

The Board of Education has directed that a moment of silence be observed at the beginning of each day in all schools in the system in order to foster an environment conducive to learning. The following guidelines and suggestions are adopted to advise individual schools and teachers concerning the implementation of the moment of silence.

II. General Guidelines

- A. Students simply are asked to observe the moment of silence for a reasonable and appropriate period of time which shall not exceed one minute in length.
- B. Exceptions may be approved by the Superintendent and/or his/her designee for legitimate educational or administrative reasons. If any teacher or principal believes that the moment of silence should not be administered in a particular class or group, he/she shall submit the request, in writing, to the Superintendent or designee for review. A written response to the request shall be given to the teacher making the request.
- C. The moment of silence must be completely unstructured and free of any influence from any source. School personnel shall not offer advice or suggestions to students on how to use the moment or what to do during the time. If a student asks whether or not he/she may use the moment of silence to pray, the teacher should state that each student may decide individually and personally how to use the time.
- D. No activity will be allowed during the moment of silence. Students should be advised that if they are not in the classroom during the moment of silence, they should pause respectfully until the moment has ended.
- E. Noncompliance with this policy will be addressed in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct.

III. Suggestions for Implementation

- A. While the moment of silence should be conducted in a dignified and decorous manner, it is recognized that the age and maturity of the students, the structure of the school day and the existing school opening procedures at each school will have to be considered in developing each school's method of implementation. Principals shall review this policy and regulation with their faculties; shall discuss methods of implementing the policy with their faculties; and shall decide how the Policy will be implemented.

- B. When a school or class normally begins the day with the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag, the moment of silence could be conducted immediately following the pledge.

Last Revision/Adoption: None

Legal References: North Carolina General Statute 115C-47 (29)

Cross References: Policy 9.002 (Religion Policy)