

The board has authorized 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 standards and suggestions are adopted to advise individual schools and teachers concerning the implementation of the moment of silence.

**A. GENERAL STANDARDS**

Each teacher in charge of a classroom should direct students in the class to observe the moment of silence for a reasonable and appropriate period of time not to exceed one minute in length. 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 the moment of silence may be used to pray, the teacher should state that each student may decide individually and personally how to use the time.

During the moment of silence no activity will be allowed and silence must be maintained. 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. A student's noncompliance with this policy will be addressed in accordance with the Code of Student Conduct.

If any teacher or principal believes, for legitimate educational or administrative reasons, that the moment of silence should not be administered in a particular class, the teacher should submit the request, in writing, to the superintendent or designee for review. A written response to the request will be given to the teacher making the request.

**B. SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION**

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 must be considered in developing each school's method of implementation. Principals shall decide how the policy will be implemented after reviewing the policy and discussing methods of implementation with school personnel.

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.

Legal References: U.S. Const. amend. 1; G.S. 115C-47(29)

Cross References: School Calendar and Time for Learning (policy 3300)

Adopted: June 6, 2016