

The board encourages all students to develop an understanding of citizenship, including the importance of a citizen's rights and responsibilities.

The curriculum will include character education instruction as required by G.S. 115C-81.60. . The schools will develop strategies to promote good citizenship with appropriate input from the staff, students, and community. In addition to meeting any state requirements, the citizenship curriculum also should be designed to reinforce the student behavior management plan. The character traits should include, but are not limited to, courage, good judgment, integrity, civility, kindness, perseverance, responsibility, tolerance, self-discipline, respect for school personnel, responsibility for school safety, service to others and good citizenship.

The curriculum also must require that appropriate instruction be provided on the meaning and historical origins of the North Carolina and United States flags and the Pledge of Allegiance and may include guidelines for the use and display of the North Carolina and United States flags. Any North Carolina or United States flags donated or otherwise made available will be displayed in each classroom, and recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance will be scheduled on a daily basis. The principal shall ensure that no student is compelled to salute the flag, recite the Pledge of Allegiance, stand to acknowledge the flag or stand to participate in the Pledge of Allegiance, or otherwise feel coerced to participate. The curriculum may encourage teachers to use the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance as an opportunity to teach students about the history concerning coercion and the importance of the First Amendment to the Bill of Rights.

All schools will commemorate Constitution Day and Citizenship Day and, also, Memorial Day. If students are in attendance on September 17, which is Constitution Day and Citizenship Day, an educational program about the United States Constitution will be held. If students are not in attendance on September 17, the program will be held during the week preceding or following September 17. Likewise, if students are in attendance on Memorial Day, they will receive instruction on the significance of Memorial Day. If students are not in attendance on Memorial Day, instruction on the significance of Memorial Day will be provided at another time.

The curriculum may include, for middle school and high school students, a community volunteer service requirement in order to demonstrate the value and effectiveness of volunteer contributions to the community. Students shall receive sufficient notice of any community volunteer service requirement approved by the board

Legal References: 36 U.S.C. 106(d); G.S. 115C-12(33), -47(29a), -81(g), (h), (h1); N.C. Session Law 2011-273

Cross References: Goals and Objectives of the Educational Program (policy 3000), Curriculum Development (policy 3100)

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