



Georgia Department of Education

Policies and Procedures

Policy Title:	Separation of Church and State, State Schools		
Policy Number:	SS-8007 IKJ		
Release Date:	07-13-06	Last Revised:	

Purpose

To describe the policy in regard to the separation of church and state at the three State Schools

Applicability

This policy applies to the Atlanta Area School for the Deaf, the Georgia Academy for the Blind and the Georgia School for the Deaf.

Policy

The institutions of the three State Schools, as agencies of the Georgia State Department of Education, shall be kept separate from those of religious institutions.

Procedures

Pledge of Allegiance

Each school day, at the beginning of the school day or during the homeroom period, students at the State Schools shall be afforded the opportunity to recite the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

Students participating in the recitation of the Pledge will be expected to stand, face the flag, and recite the Pledge in unison.

Students not participating in the recitation of the Pledge may stand and refrain from reciting the Pledge or may remain seated.

Moment of Silence

In compliance with Georgia law, at the opening of school on every school day in each classroom, the teacher in charge shall conduct a brief period of quiet reflection for not more than sixty (60) seconds with the participation of all the pupils. This moment of quiet reflection is not intended to be a religious service or exercise but shall be considered as

an opportunity for a moment of silent reflection on the anticipated activities of the day.

Teachers and administrators shall not suggest or imply that students should or should not use the moment of reflection for prayer, nor shall they deny to any student the right to use it for a moment of quiet prayer.

**Authority and/or
Cross-Reference**

- O.C.G.A 20-2-1050;20-2-1051;20-2-310;50-3-4