

## Focus In: Should We Say the Pledge Every Day in School?

Grades 4/5

### Social Studies Standard(s):

- **4.2.7** Roles of Citizens: Use a variety of information resources to take a position or recommend a course of action on a public issue relating to Indiana's past or present.
- **5.2.8:** Roles of Citizens: Describe group and individual actions that illustrate civic virtues, such as civility, cooperation, respect and responsible participation.
- **5.2.10:** Roles of Citizens: Use a variety of information resources to identify and evaluate contemporary issues that involve civic responsibility, individual rights and the common good. (Core Standard)
- **National Curriculum Standards for Social Studies Theme 5: Individuals, Groups, and Institutions**
  - Learners will be able to understand examples of tensions between belief systems and governmental actions and policies
  - Learners will be able to investigate conflicts between expressions of individuality and group conformity
- **National Curriculum Standards for Social Studies Theme 6: Power, Authority, and Governance**
  - Learners will be able to examine persistent issues involving the rights of individuals and groups in relation to the general welfare

### Objectives:

- Students will be able to discuss the pros and cons of saying the Pledge of Allegiance each day in school.

### Materials Needed:

- Pro/Con/Additional Readings Folders (content printed at the end of this lesson plan)
- Whiteboard and dry erase markers
- (optional) Laptops for viewing website data in color

### Engage/Linkage:

- You have been talking about what it means to be an American and what some of your First Amendment rights are. Today we are going to talk about one of the symbols of being an American, the Pledge of Allegiance, and our rights as residents of the United States.

### Discussion Web:

- Essential Question: Should we say the Pledge of Allegiance every day in school? Will be written on the whiteboard.
- Each student will put his or her name under "Yes" or "No" on the board along with a reason for their thinking.
- The Pro folder will be read by the "Yes" group and the Con folder will be read by the "No" group. The Additional Readings folder will be made available to both groups.
- The groups will then switch folders
- The groups will be mixed to find a mutually agreeable response to the question.

- The entire class will share and discuss if any of them changed their minds and why.
- Conclusions will be written on the board.

### **Additional Scholarly Knowledge:**

- Indiana code requires a flag to be present in each classroom of every school in a school corporation. Each school must allow time for students to voluntarily recite the Pledge of Allegiance if they so choose. Students may choose not to participate and parents may request that their children not participate in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance. ( Office of Code Revision Indiana Legislative Services Agency)
- The Pledge of Allegiance reads: "I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all." (U.S. Congress, 2011)
- The Pledge of Allegiance was written and first recited in 1892. It was written by Francis Bellamy, a Baptist minister from New York who was also known as a socialist. The Pledge was written to coincide with a celebration for the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary Columbus Day. The first version of the Pledge read, "I pledge allegiance to my Flag and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all." The words "my flag" were replaced by "the flag of the United States of America" in 1924. The words "under God" were added in 1954. In 1943 the Supreme Court rules that students could not be forced to recite the Pledge. (White) (U.S. Government Printing Office, 2009)
- 43 States have laws regarding reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. (ProCon.org, 2008)

### **Resources:**

Office of Code Revision Indiana Legislative Services Agency. (n.d.). *Indiana Code 20-30-5*. Retrieved March 3, 2011, from Government of Indiana:  
<http://www.in.gov/legislative/ic/code/title20/ar30/ch5.html>

Hiler, T. S. (2008, November 1). *Why the Pledge of Allegiance should be reinstate in public schools*. Retrieved March 3, 2011, from Helium: <http://www.helium.com/items/1235032-why-the-pledge-of-allegiance-should-be-reinstated-in-public-schools>

Hiller, J. (2008, July 5). *Why the Pledge of Allegiance should be reinstated in public schools*. Retrieved March 3, 2011, from Helium: <http://www.helium.com/items/1102423-why-the-pledge-of-allegiance-should-be-reinstated-in-public-schools>

Holifield, S., & Swanson, C. (2010, February 2). *Point/counterpoint: Should the Pledge of Allegiance be recited in schools?* Retrieved March 4, 2011, from What's New, LaPorte?:  
<http://www.whatsnewlaporte.com/2010/02/02/pointcounterpoint-should-the-pledge-of-allegiance-be-recited-in-schools/>

Juggle, LLC. (2010). *Does it really matter if the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance by grade school students were eliminated from the daily classroom routine?* Retrieved March 4, 2011, from juggle.com: <http://debates.juggle.com/does-it-really-matter-if-the-recitation-of-the-pledge-of-allegiance-by-grade-school-students-were-eliminated-from-the-daily-classroom-routine>

- ProCon.org. (2008, October 24). *State requirements on Pledge of Allegiance in schools*. Retrieved March 4, 2011, from ProCon.org:  
<http://undergod.procon.org/view.resource.php?resourceID=000074>
- Schafer, J. L. (2008, December 9). *The Pledge of Allegiance should be said in schools*. Retrieved March 4, 2011, from Associated Content:  
[http://www.associatedcontent.com/article/1266263/the\\_pledge\\_of\\_allegiance\\_should\\_be.html?cat=25](http://www.associatedcontent.com/article/1266263/the_pledge_of_allegiance_should_be.html?cat=25)
- U.S. Congress. (2011, January 7). *United States Code: Title 4,4*. Retrieved March 3, 2011, from Cornell University Law School: Legal Information Institute:  
<http://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/4/4.html>
- U.S. Government Printing Office. (2009, April 29). *Ben's Guide (3-5): Songs and oaths - The Pledge of Allegiance*. Retrieved March 4, 2011, from Ben's Guide to U.S. Government for Kids:  
<http://bensguide.gpo.gov/3-5/symbols/pledgeallegiance.html>
- White, D. (n.d.). *The History of the Pledge of Allegiance*. Retrieved March 2, 2011, from Social Studies for Kids:  
<http://www.socialstudiesforkids.com/articles/ushistory/pledgeofallegiancehistory.htm>

# **Pro Readings**

Readings that go beyond one page in length will be printed double sided.

**by Trenna Sue Hiler , November 12, 2008**

Should we truly recite a Pledge of Allegiance written by a Baptist minister who was a proponent of socialism? My answer is a quiet, yet firm yes.

Francis Bellamy, author of the Pledge of Allegiance, also served as the chairman of a committee of state superintendents in the National Education Association. The original Pledge of Allegiance was composed of only twenty two words. It reads: "I pledge Allegiance to my flag and the Republic, for which it stands, one nation, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

Perhaps even more interesting was the fact that Francis Bellamy intentionally penned the Pledge so it could be used for any flag and any nation or country. It wasn't intended just for the United States of America.

He gives credit to his cousin, Edward Bellamy, an author, for inspiring the Pledge. The novels by Edward Bellamy "Looking Backward" and "Equality" were touted as American socialism. They were very controversial writings.

The Pledge was written in August 1892. It was printed in the September 8th edition of "The Youth's Companion", where it received national attention. Bellamy made one change to the Pledge himself in October of 1892. He added the word "to".

In 1891 Francis Bellamy was forced out of his church for his socialist beliefs.

In 1923 the Nation Flag Conference was formed. It was under the direct leadership of the Daughters of the American Revolution and the American Legion. Despite the protest from Francis Bellamy another change was made. It moved from "my flag" to "the flag."

In 1954 the Knights of Columbus spearheaded the addition of the "under God" into the Pledge.

So why is all this so important?

It's about teaching our children about symbolism. It's about letting them understand that even if the majority may not agree with someone, they can do great things for our country. The Flag and the Pledge of Allegiance are symbols of our freedom and right to be different.

The Pledge of Allegiance was written at a time in which equality was not widely accepted. Many believed that women and African Americans should never be allowed to vote. Their views didn't matter. The fact that a very controversial man was able to write such a symbolic allegiance is important. It is the very basic belief that this nation was founded on. It's the personal right we have to hold opposing views and still come together as a nation.

So let's proudly stand with our children and pledge allegiance to the idea of liberty and justice for all. Celebrate that not everyone agrees with every word, but can support the idea. Bring it back to the schools and teach our young Americans the importance of symbolism and tolerance.

Source:

Hiler, T. S. (2008, November 1). *Why the Pledge of Allegiance should be reinstated in public schools*. Retrieved March 3, 2011, from Helium: <http://www.helium.com/items/1235032-why-the-pledge-of-allegiance-should-be-reinstated-in-public-schools>

## **Point/counterpoint: Should the Pledge of Allegiance be recited in schools?**

**Yes, it should — and students should show respect**

**By Sam Holifield, LPHS Hi Times writer**



Writer Sam Holifield: "Respecting the flag is essentially respecting freedom."

Every school day we go to first hour and we stand up and are supposed to say the Pledge of Allegiance. Then we have a very loud moment of silence and listen to announcements. Except, we're skipping one of the more important parts of that routine: saying the Pledge of Allegiance.

We get the opportunity to unify as a school and as a country when we all stand and say the Pledge of Allegiance. Unfortunately, many students are losing the sense of pride for the flag.

I look around in the first period and I see students sitting down and talking instead of taking the time to honor those serving our country.

The United States is having a tough time right now, and the tiniest bit of unification shows that we are a strong country.

The lack of participation is concerning. Remember in elementary school when students would all stand up and sometimes shout The Pledge of Allegiance? We need to go back to that time.

Students are beginning to lose respect. At varsity basketball games, students are mockingly singing The National Anthem. I know it's not The Pledge, but we should still be respectful.

The moments of silence following The Pledge of Allegiance allow us to have a moment to ourselves, to reflect on what has happened and be thankful for what we have.

We're beginning to see a trend of younger and younger students not standing up. Big acts of patriotism are not needed; we just need the little ones.

The moment of silence is a very important time of the day for everyone, even for those who don't realize it.

Nowadays, we all know at least one person who wants to or has served in the military. People our age are fighting for us. That 30 seconds of silence is a chance for us to reflect on the ones who are willing to risk their lives for our freedom.

Respecting the flag is essentially respecting freedom.

It may seem like saying The Pledge is forced upon us, but it's a chance to show our respect that we wouldn't normally get.

We should come together as a school and support our country by taking the opportunity to reflect upon what is going on in America.

Source:

Holifield, S., & Swanson, C. (2010, February 2). *Point/counterpoint: Should the Pledge of Allegiance be recited in schools?* Retrieved March 4, 2011, from What's New, LaPorte?:  
<http://www.whatsnewlaporte.com/2010/02/02/pointcounterpoint-should-the-pledge-of-allegiance-be-recited-in-schools/>



# The Pledge of Allegiance Should Be Said in Schools

JENNIFER LUING SCHAFER, Dec 9, 2008

One of my fondest memories in elementary school was saying the Pledge of Allegiance. I remember being so proud putting my hand on my heart and reciting the words that honored our country. I did not think anything about doing it, the Pledge was just part of our morning activities in school. As I grew older in middle school and high school the Pledge was just something we did not do.

As I grew into adulthood I began to hear the controversy over saying the Pledge in school I began to get angry. I don't see the big deal of saying the Pledge. It was written to honor our country and the people who have served and continue to serve and give many sacrifices so we can enjoy a life of freedom. To say it is a prayer because God in it? Please! The United States has always been a melting pot with diversity. Why should we worry about political correctness now? If the issue a parent has about saying Under God; they have the option of talking with the school to see what alternatives can be done to satisfy all parties involved. Why should other children not experience the Pledge due to a few? We have children learn about other holiday festivities and other cultures celebrations the Pledge is no different.

I have heard the argument that teachers just don't have the time to incorporate it in their morning schedule. I think that is an excuse. I am a teacher and when I did my student teaching experience I made the time in the morning to do the Pledge. Yes, things come up, I experienced that also, but I made time sometime during the day to do the Pledge. There were many times I did it before we left for the day while we were waiting in line to be dismissed. I don't agree with that excuse at all. Yes, teachers do have a lot on their plates, but it does not take that long to say a few words. We take time to read a book, why not the Pledge?

I think all the hub-bub about the Pledge being taken out of the schools is just something for people to complain about. There is no real relevance to the argument. We want our children to appreciate what our forefathers, veterans, and troops do for us. If we take the Pledge out of the school system it is disgracing all the people who fought, died, were disabled and imprisoned for our country.

Source:

Schafer, J. L. (2008, December 9). *The Pledge of Allegiance should be said in schools*. Retrieved March 4, 2011, from Associated Content:  
[http://www.associatedcontent.com/article/1266263/the\\_pledge\\_of\\_allegiance\\_should\\_be.html?cat=25](http://www.associatedcontent.com/article/1266263/the_pledge_of_allegiance_should_be.html?cat=25)

## Posts Taken from Juggle.com Debates - Pro Pledge

The Pledge of Allegiance should have meaning for our children. How will they learn what it means if they are not taught? I am a third grade teacher and we do recite the Pledge of Allegiance each day. We also spend time throughout the year discussing what each part of it means. We are not just pledging allegiance to a flag, but also to our Republic (that's right, it's not a democracy). We also learn the preamble to the Constitution and sections of the Declaration of Independence. I believe it is important for our children to understand those founding documents of our nation, and we should begin introducing them to those great ideas early in their education. **From Anonymous**

It absolutely matters to recite the Pledge of Allegiance daily. We are Americans. Regardless of where we were born, if we are attending schools in the United States, we are Americans. And, as Americans, it should be that schools, meetings and other educational gatherings be required to recite the Pledge of Allegiance not only out of respect for those who have given their lives but for those who continue today to work for their freedom. **From Ch4ddMc**

If they take the Pledge of allegiance out of the classroom, it is just one more step this country as a whole is taking away from God. If they take the Pledge of allegiance out of the classroom, it is just one more step this country, as a whole, is taking away from God. Our children, as CITIZENS of the United States, ought to pledge their allegiance to the country that they enjoy living in. And they ought to not try to remove the under God part out. Because if Americans remove themselves out from "under God" then in He will eventually take His hand of protection from us. **From 5c4ryCar**

It does matter if the Pledge of Allegiance is eliminated from the daily classroom routine because this will accelerate regional differences to the detriment of all Americans. In 2010, America is a great, young country with tremendous upside. There is room to grow, a young population, and ample resources. What makes the country unique is that for 3,000 miles there is a common legal, economic, and cultural landscape. While this nation of immigrants has many ethnic backgrounds, after a generation most people consider themselves 'American' rather than anything else. The Pledge of Allegiance is a strangely important part of our identity. It conveys acceptance of everyone into a larger whole, a nation that is the last best hope for mankind. The US system has worked better than any other in history, asking children to pledge allegiance to it makes sense because it will nurture the seeds of love for the country and fellow citizens. **From 54mP5KryPto**

I am opposed to abolishing reciting the Pledge of Allegiance in grade schools. I think it is important to have certain texts and traditions in common as a culture. While some people feel it is an important matter of duty or patriotism for children to recite the Pledge of allegiance, I have other reasons: I think our culture needs shared texts and traditions that are part of our common language and heritage. In addition to building the fabric of culture, this also supports people as they lose short term memory. Many brain injured or elderly patients suffering dementia are able to share in reciting or singing things they memorized long ago. **From baltute**

I disagree with removing the Pledge of Allegiance. It's important to remember the foundation of our country. Patriotism might seem old-fashioned, but respect for history and our country does not go out of style. We also need to remember our fighting men and women who are in harm's way. We add value to their service as we take time to remember what our country stands for and to "pledge allegiance" to it. **From Ellswbee**

Source:

Juggle, LLC. (2010). *Does it really matter if the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance by grade school students were eliminated from the daily classroom routine?* Retrieved March 4, 2011, from juggle.com: <http://debates.juggle.com/does-it-really-matter-if-the-recitation-of-the-pledge-of-allegiance-by-grade-school-students-were-eliminated-from-the-daily-classroom-routine>

# **Con Readings**

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by **Joseph Hiller**, July 05, 2008

I understand that this is not a debate, but may be my post will make it one as I want to speak against having the pledge in schools. Having served my country in the military, I believe in and support our Constitution. We all know it states that there has to be a separation of church and state. To bring God into the schools violates that part of the Constitution. That is, in public schools.

Our Constitution also says we have the freedom of religion. Therefore, if we allow the Christian God into our schools, don't we now have to allow Allah, Buddha, and even Satan into our schools as well? After all, if you are going to allow one religion into the school system (Christianity), don't you have to allow all others (Islam, Buddhism, Satanism)?

I don't know how many religions there are in the world, but I know there are more than 100. You can't allow one in and ban the others. What about the children who don't believe in the Christian God? Do you force them to say the pledge? Or do you allow them to say, "One nation under Allah or Satan"? Obviously neither is a viable option. The only choice that makes sense is to not say the pledge at all. Forcing students to do so only opens up problems that no school wants to deal with.

If you are all for having the pledge said in school, think of this; What if your child was in a school where Islam was the most popular religion, but you are a Baptist. What if they had a pledge every morning to Allah and your child had to say it. Would you be okay with that? I'm not sure anyone could answer yes to that honestly. Religion is very strong in so many people. We live in a world of multi-races, multi-cultures, and multi-religions. It's incomprehensible for anyone to expect a child to make any pledge that goes against their religion to satisfy their own wants.

Recently George Carlin died. I was/am a huge fan. Years ago he did a routinon the 10 commandments where he reduced the 10 to 3. The third was "Keep thy religion to thy %&#\$(&^ self". I couldn't agree more. Everyone has the right to practice the religion of their choice, but not to push it onto others.

I don't think people really take the time to think before they speak or act. Everyone is entitled to their opinion on religion. But how many think about what they are saying before they say it? So many people think, "This is how I think things should be", and they push as hard as they can to get others to follow. Why? Are they getting some kind of commission from their church? Believe what you want, worship how you want, and believe

in whatever Higher Power you think is out there. Just don't push your beliefs on others. Let them make their own decisions.

Source:

Hiller, J. (2008, July 5). *Why the Pledge of Allegiance should be reinstated in public schools*. Retrieved March 3, 2011, from Helium: <http://www.helium.com/items/1102423-why-the-pledge-of-allegiance-should-be-reinstated-in-public-schools>

**Point/counterpoint: Should the Pledge of Allegiance be recited in schools?**  
**No, it shouldn't — it loses its meaning if forced upon students**  
**By Cassy Swanson, LPHS Hi Times writer**



Writer Cassy Swanson: "The purpose of the pledge becomes lost."

In elementary school, you learn how to spell your name, remember your address and phone number and behave in a classroom environment. Teachers provide you with the essential building blocks you will need later in your career as a student and mold school into a routine, including saying the Pledge of Allegiance at the start of every day.

By Indiana law, schools can choose whether or not they want to recite the pledge daily, and students can participate or not, based on their own beliefs.

But in many schools, teachers force their students to stand up, put their hands on their hearts and say the pledge, regardless of the law. If a student fails to do so, the teacher will punish him or her, most often in a publicly humiliating way such as forcing the student to stand alone and recite the pledge.

This crime is most often committed in the elementary school systems — a time when children are most impressionable. Being scolded for not saying the pledge will only lessen the student's desire to say it in the future. By being forced to say the pledge, students form a negative opinion about something that should actually give them pride and honor.

Another problem with saying the pledge daily in schools is that the emotional factor slowly starts to diminish. Students don't say the pledge because they feel patriotic towards their country; they say it because they have to.

Students have been saying the pledge since the day they started school, so by the time they hit high school students don't even pay attention to the words anymore. The pledge of our nation becomes a ramble with no thought behind it or understanding of its true meaning. The purpose of the pledge becomes lost.



I believe that the Pledge of Allegiance should be taken out of schools. Not because I don't want to say it, but because the pledge is something to be held sacred and honored. By saying the pledge every day, we are degrading its integrity and allowing it to be tossed around carelessly.

The next time you hear the pledge, take a moment to stop and listen. Maybe you'll remember what it really stands for and why you should pledge your allegiance, too.

Source:

Holifield, S., & Swanson, C. (2010, February 2). *Point/counterpoint: Should the Pledge of Allegiance be recited in schools?* Retrieved March 4, 2011, from What's New, LaPorte?: <http://www.whatsnewlaporte.com/2010/02/02/pointcounterpoint-should-the-pledge-of-allegiance-be-recited-in-schools/>

## **Posts Taken from Juggle.com Debates – Con Pledge**

Reciting the pledge of allegiance has always made me a little uncomfortable as it makes people into robots. Every time I see a group of kids reciting the pledge I am reminded of Hitler's youth. Beyond that forcing people to do something that they do not understand, and I am willing to bet that most children do not get the full meaning of the pledge, is never a good idea. **From wahsfone**

I do not believe the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance by grade school students is necessary and its elimination would not matter. The recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance by grade school students, though a pleasant and patriotic event, is still an unnecessary one. I can recall reciting the Pledge as a child and it held no meaning for me. If you were to ask the average grade school student, "What is the point of reciting the Pledge of Allegiance?" most responses would be a look of confusion or a pre-programmed response without any meaning behind it. To eliminate the Pledge of Allegiance in grade school would have no real world effect, other than angering some old-school thinking parents. **From TeenzAlw**

If you want mindless brainwashing of our children, then go ahead. Forcing our children to recite a line daily, without them actually understanding the meaning of the words is tantamount to brainwashing. America, land of the free, should be just that. We should have a free choice in how we choose to dedicate ourselves to this country, not have it forced down our throats, without being allowed to first comprehend and understand what it is we are being made to repeat daily, in ritualistic manner. **From Anonymous**

I don't personally believe that it really matters if the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance by grade school students was eliminated from the daily classroom routine. I think at that age, you have absolutely no idea what you're talking about. Reciting the pledge of allegiance is out of routine, not because you really know what you're talking about. I do think it is important for them to know the pledge of allegiance, but I don't think it would really matter to much if the tradition was absent. **From LorenaH**

No. It loses all meaning whenever it is imposed. Kids do not comprehend the significance or meaning of it, and it is shallow and indoctrinating to force them to recite it daily. It also should not contain the words "Under God", because they were added in the 50s during the red scare. The original pledge was written by a preacher who intentionally left out any mention of God or religion. The pledge should be secular - those words have no place being there. **From Anonymous**

It's useless and unnecessary. The pledge of Allegiance, however culturally important, is not necessary. Memorizing a line or 2 and reciting it every morning does not mean we are showing respect for anyone, nor does it increase our loyalty. I see the people around me faking it, rolling their eyes or just plain ignoring it. Many are encouraged to think "how dumb are the adults? making us do this kind of stuff?" **From Anonymous**

Unfortunately, it doesn't mean anything, it's just memorization and recitation. Unless schoolchildren recite the Pledge of Allegiance, feeling in their hearts the true meaning of it, the recitation is pretty much pointless. It is a tradition, which is good in some ways, but it has no purpose. I believe people should learn the Pledge, and maybe the countless morning repetitions in school is a way to teach it. Other than that, though, I doubt kids put any deep thought into what they are saying. It's like memorizing the spelling of words or some other mindless task. **From PinkMych**

The Pledge of Allegiance is meaningless to most children. When kids recite a couple of memorized sentences every day, they generally aren't thinking about the meaning of the words. Almost all American adults grew up reciting the Pledge of Allegiance every day, and some of us are very patriotic and some of us aren't, so obviously reciting the Pledge had no effect. I don't think it's useful or moral to force someone to say something they may or may not believe in. **From N Schroeder 60**

Source:

Juggle, LLC. (2010). *Does it really matter if the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance by grade school students were eliminated from the daily classroom routine?* Retrieved March 4, 2011, from juggle.com: <http://debates.juggle.com/does-it-really-matter-if-the-recitation-of-the-pledge-of-allegiance-by-grade-school-students-were-eliminated-from-the-daily-classroom-routine>

# **Additional Readings**

<http://bensguide.gpo.gov/3-5/symbols/pledgeallegiance.html>

# Songs and Oaths: The Pledge of Allegiance

**I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.**

*U.S. Code citation: 4USC4*

The Pledge of Allegiance was first published in 1892 in *The Youth's Companion* magazine in Boston, Massachusetts to celebrate the 400th anniversary of the discovery of America. It was first used in public schools to celebrate Columbus Day on October 12, 1892. The Pledge received official recognition by Congress as an Act approved on June 22, 1942. The phrase "under God" was added to the Pledge by a Congressional act approved on June 14, 1954.

A controversy arose concerning the authorship of the Pledge of 1892. Claims were made on behalf of both James B. Upham, one of the editors of *The Youth's Companion*, and Francis Bellamy, an assistant editor. In 1939, a committee of the U.S. Flag Association ruled in favor of Bellamy, and a detailed report issued by the *U.S. Library of Congress* in 1957 supported the committee's ruling.

The United States Code (4USC4) states that when delivering the Pledge of Allegiance, all must be standing at attention, facing the flag with the right hand over the heart. It also states that men not in uniform should remove any nonreligious headdress with their right hand and hold it at the left shoulder, the hand being over the heart. Persons in uniform should remain silent, face the flag, and render the military salute.

To learn more, check out the following resources:

- The [United States Code](#), Title 4 (Flag and Seal, Seat of Government, and the States), Chapter 1 (The Flag) contains laws on how the Pledge should be recited. The *U.S. Code* is the permanent book of U.S. laws.
- *Our Flag* [[PDF](#), 1.78MB], Senate Document 105-13. This document contains historical information and the full text of the Pledge.

Source:

U.S. Government Printing Office. (2009, April 29). *Ben's Guide (3-5): Songs and oaths - The Pledge of Allegiance*. Retrieved March 4, 2011, from Ben's Guide to U.S. Government for Kids: <http://bensguide.gpo.gov/3-5/symbols/pledgeallegiance.html>

## Social Studies for Kids: The History of the Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was first recited in 1892, the year it was first written. The author was Francis Bellamy, a Baptist minister from New York. Bellamy was also a chairman of a committee of state superintendents of education in the National Education Association.

Public schools all around the country were preparing a celebration in honor of the 400th anniversary of Columbus Day. Bellamy wanted a special celebration, and he wanted to center it around a flag-raising ceremony and salute. With this in mind, he wrote his pledge:

"I pledge allegiance to my Flag and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

Notice the words "my flag." They stayed this way in the Pledge until 1924, when a National Flag Conference announced that the words "my flag" would be changed to "the flag of the United States of America."

"I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

The Pledge stayed this way until 1954, when Congress added the words "under God." This was the final change, giving the Pledge its current wording:

"I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

Schoolkids all across the United States recite the Pledge of Allegiance at school, usually in the morning. But they don't have to.

Way back in 1943, the Supreme Court ruled that schools couldn't require students to recite the Pledge. Today, only half of the 50 states have laws that require kids to recite the Pledge.

Source:

White, D. (n.d.). *The History of the Pledge of Allegiance*. Retrieved March 2, 2011, from Social Studies for Kids:

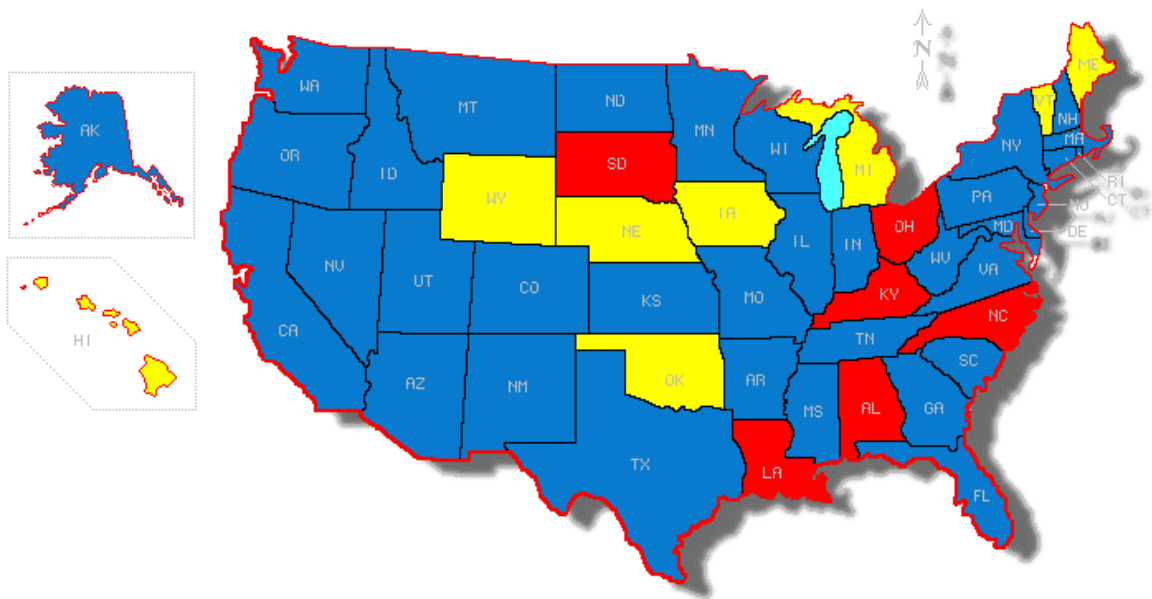
<http://www.socialstudiesforkids.com/articles/ushistory/pledgeofallegiancehistory.htm>

<http://undergod.procon.org/view.resource.php?resourceID=000074>

# State Requirements on Pledge of Allegiance in Schools

## School Requirements

- - Schools Required
- - Schools Have Option
- - No Law



Source:

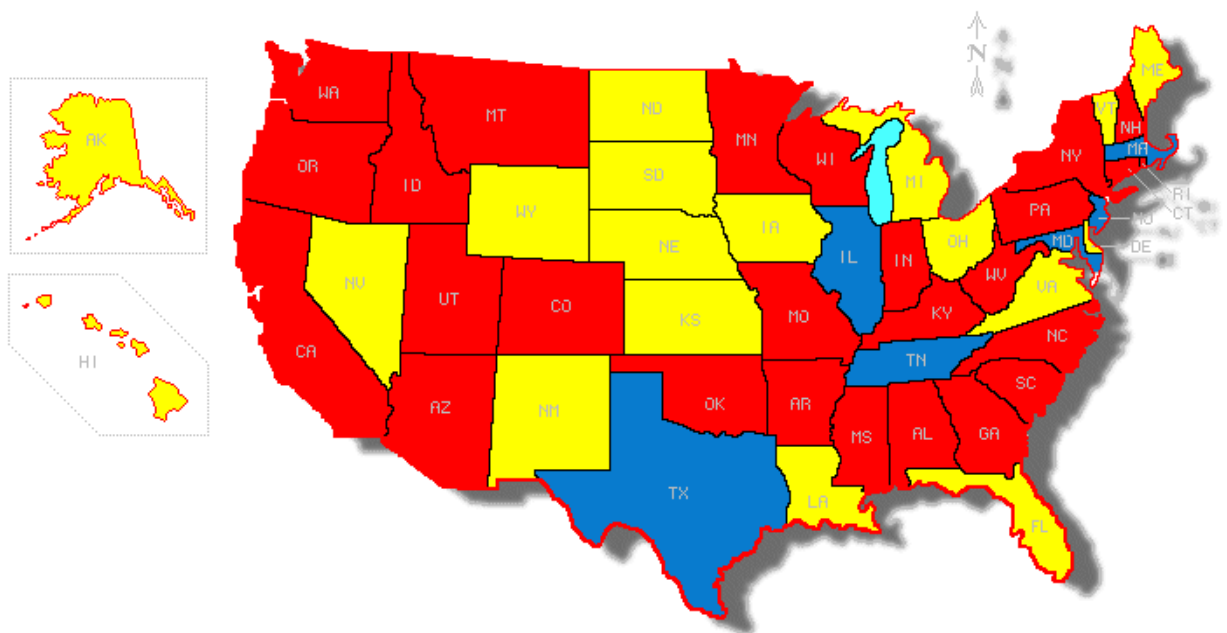
ProCon.org. (2008, October 24). *State requirements on Pledge of Allegiance in schools*. Retrieved March 4, 2011, from ProCon.org:  
<http://undergod.procon.org/view.resource.php?resourceID=000074>

<http://undergod.procon.org/view.resource.php?resourceID=000074>

# State Requirements on Pledge of Allegiance in Schools

## Student Requirements

- - Students Required
- - Students Have Option
- - No Law



Source:

ProCon.org. (2008, October 24). *State requirements on Pledge of Allegiance in schools*. Retrieved March 4, 2011, from ProCon.org:  
<http://undergod.procon.org/view.resource.php?resourceID=000074>



# Laws

## United States Code

### § 4. Pledge of allegiance to the flag; manner of delivery

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag: "I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.", should be rendered by standing at attention facing the flag with the right hand over the heart. When not in uniform men should remove any non-religious headdress with their right hand and hold it at the left shoulder, the hand being over the heart. Persons in uniform should remain silent, face the flag, and render the military salute.

Source:

U.S. Congress. (2011, January 7). *United States Code: Title 4,4*. Retrieved March 3, 2011, from Cornell University Law School: Legal Information Institute:  
<http://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/4/4.html>

## Indiana Code

### IC 20-30-5-0.5

#### Display of United States flag; Pledge of Allegiance

Sec. 0.5. (a) The United States flag shall be displayed in each classroom of every school in a school corporation.

(b) The governing body of each school corporation shall provide a daily opportunity for students of the school corporation to voluntarily recite the Pledge of Allegiance in each classroom or on school grounds. A student is exempt from participation in the Pledge of Allegiance and may not be required to participate in the Pledge of Allegiance if:

- (1) the student chooses to not participate; or
- (2) the student's parent chooses to have the student not participate.

Source:

Office of Code Revision Indiana Legislative Services Agency. (n.d.). *Indiana Code 20-30-5*. Retrieved March 3, 2011, from Government of Indiana:  
<http://www.in.gov/legislative/ic/code/title20/ar30/ch5.html>