OYSTER RIVER COOPERATIVE SCHOOL BOARD	Policy Code IMDA-R
Date of Adoption: September 12, 1990 First Read to SB: August 17, 2011 Second Read to SB: September 7, 2011 Recode from INDB-R	Page 1 of 1

PATRIOTIC EXERCISES

1) There will be regular observance of the Pledge of Allegiance. Principals shall determine the times and places of the observances.

2) Persons choosing not to participate in full or in part may be excused by whatever process the principal establishes. Those not participating in the exercise may be included in any ensuing discussion.

3) Parents will be notified annually that the Pledge of Allegiance is practiced in our schools and that they may contact the principal and/or classroom teacher to request that their son or daughter be excluded. Such notification shall be through parent and or student handbooks or through general information or newsletters provided parents re school operations at the beginning of each year.

4) High school students will be informed of the practice regarding the pledge and their right to be excluded through the annual student handbook.

5) Teachers will be informed of the practice regarding the pledge and their right to be excluded through the annual teacher handbook.

6) Persons exercising the right of exclusion need to be accommodated in as sensitive and discreet a manner as possible. Those choosing exclusion may remain silent or absent themselves during the exercise. Those choosing the latter will need to be accommodated in an alternative space approved by the principal.

7) In accordance with New Hampshire law 189:18, exercises of a patriotic nature will include, at minimum, a reminder of the purpose for which these days are set aside and an opportunity for reflection on their importance and meaning.

8) Periodic review of the pledge and other documents of historical importance is encouraged to foster an understanding of the values upon which this nation was founded.

Legal Reference: RSA 194:15-c – NH School Patriots Act

Cross Reference: IMDA – Patriotic Expression