Pledge of Allegiance Exemption

New Mexico state law and NMAC 6.10.2.8 require the display of the United States flag and recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance in all public schools throughout the state. The Rio Rancho Public Schools School Board does recognize, however, that certain exemptions to this regulation may be appropriate for those students who have religious or conscientious objections to the restriction. Those who do not participate in such a recitation will not be harassed or intimidated and will conduct themselves in a respectful and non-disruptive manner during the recitation. The district allows the following exemptions:

Exemption by membership in recognized religious denomination.

Parents or guardians belonging to a recognized religious denomination whose religious teaching prohibits their child's recitation of the pledge of allegiance shall present a certificate stating that the parents or guardians are bona fide members of said religious denomination and that the religious teaching of the denomination prohibits their child's recitation of the pledge of allegiance.

Exemption by certification of religious or conscientious objection.

Parents or guardians who are not bona fide members of recognized religious denominations described above, but whose religious or conscientious beliefs, held either individually or jointly with others, do not permit the recitation of the pledge of allegiance, shall present a certificate stating that the parents or guardians have a religious or conscientious objection to their child's recitation of the pledge of allegiance. In addition, students in secondary grades (9-12) shall be permitted to present a certificate stating they have a religious or conscientious objection to reciting the pledge of allegiance.

Reference: 22-2-9 NMSA 197822-5-4.5 NMSA 1978

Rio Rancho Public Schools
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