

**Guidance on the Recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance**

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**The Background:**

T.C.A. § 49-6-1001 requires the State Board of Education, in consultation with the Office of the Attorney General, to develop guidelines on constitutional rights and restrictions relating to the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance in the public schools. To date, the State Board of Education has published those guidelines as a policy.

As part of the State Board's ongoing, comprehensive review of all its rules and policies to ensure alignment with current law and practice, State Board staff determined that this policy would be more appropriately issued as guidance as directed by statute. This item includes guidance on the Recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance and shall be published on the State Board's website.

In the transition from policy to guidance, there were no changes to the guidelines themselves, only to the classification as guidance rather than policy. This item is proposed on first and final reading so that it may be in effect prior to the repeal of the relevant policy at this meeting.

**The Recommendation:**

State Board of Education staff recommends approval of this item on first and final reading.