

## CIVIC MISSION

Preserving American democracy is an essential responsibility and priority for public education. The Board of Education recognizes its special role in ensuring that the students attending the Plattsburgh City School District are provided with the appropriate skills and knowledge to gain an appreciation and understanding of the American form of government, including but not limited to the Constitution, its Bill of Rights, the electoral process, the jury system, and the role of law and citizenship education generally. To that end, the Plattsburgh City School District will ensure that appropriate opportunities for offering such instruction and training staff on the best methods for providing such instruction are duly considered.

Ref: Education Law §§801; 802  
Executive Law §403  
8 NYCRR §108.1

*Goetz v. Ansell*, 477 F.2d 636 (2d Cir. 1973) (those refusing to salute the flag may not be required to either stand or leave the room)

*Matter of Bustin*, 10 EDR 196 (1971) (students refusing to salute the flag may not be required to submit a written statement signed by parents)

*West Virginia State Bd. of Educ. v. Barnette*, 319 U.S. 624 (1943) (requiring teachers and students to stand in salute of the flag and recite the pledge of allegiance against their religious beliefs constituted a violation of their rights under the Free Exercise Clause of the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution)

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