

January, inclusive; from the Friday before Easter through the Monday after Easter, inclusive; Memorial Day; primary and General election days.

(b) Schools shall devote a portion of the day to appropriate exercises on the following days: Washington's Birthday, Veteran's Day, Arbor Day, and other days of national significance.

77. *Display of flag, patriotic exercises.*

It shall be the duty of the board of education of each and every county in the State of Maryland, and of the Board of Education for Baltimore City, in the State of Maryland, to cause to have displayed a flag of the United States of America upon every public school building within their respective jurisdiction while said schools are in session and, to that end, shall make all necessary purchase of flags, staffs, and appliances therefore and establish rules and regulations for the proper custody, care, and display of the flag in said schools; and it shall be the duty of said boards of education to prepare for the use of the public schools of the State a program providing for the salute to the flag, and such other patriotic exercises from time to time as may best meet the expedient, and under such regulations and instruction as may best meet the various requirements of the different grades in such schools; all to the end that the love of liberty and democracy, signified in the devotion of all true and patriotic Americans to their flag and to their country, shall be instilled in the hearts and minds of the youth of America.

78. *Daily period of silent meditation.*

Principals and teachers in every public elementary and secondary school in this State may require all students at these schools to be present and participate in opening exercises on each morning of a school day and to meditate silently for approximately one moment; provided that no student or teacher shall be prohibited from reading the holy scripture, or praying.

79. *Textbooks and other materials of instruction.*

The Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners and each county board of education shall, upon the recommendation of the superintendent, adopt procedures for the selection and purchase, at the lowest possible price consistent with good quality and subject to the provisions of this Article, the necessary textbooks, supplementary readers, materials of instruction, visual and auditory aids, stationery, and school supplies for use in the public schools in the State and they shall be furnished free of cost for use in the public schools of the State. It shall be the duty of the boards of education to furnish such textbooks and supplementary readers, materials of instruction, visual and auditory aids, stationery, and school supplies in ample and sufficient quantities to the several grades in the public schools.

80. *Connection with closed circuit educational television system by private and parochial schools.*

The Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners and each county board of education may authorize and permit any private or parochial school upon application and at no expense to the city, county, or State, to connect its facilities to any closed-circuit educa-