



POLICY:

REGULATION: IND SCHOOL CEREMONIES & OBSERVANCE

EXHIBIT:

Regulations and procedures concerning religious and patriotic exercises are found in the Public Schools Act (Sections 80 to 84), the Education Administration Act (Regulation 472/88 and 554/88) and Board Policy 1.5.

1. Patriotic Observance:

- a) At the opening of school each day: Pupils shall sing the first verse and chorus of "O Canada". At the close of the day, they should sing the first verse of "God Save the Queen". This singing shall be done by pupils in individual classes or in an assembly, assisted by any means approved by the principal.

While the singing is taking place, all pupils shall stand in an attitude of attentiveness unless for medical religious or personal reasons they have been excused by the Board.

- b) Remembrance Day: Each school shall hold annually Remembrance Day exercises on the day prior to November 11th unless the day falls on Sunday or Monday in which case the exercises shall be held on the preceding Friday.
- c) Citizenship Exercises: Each school shall hold annually citizenship exercises on a day set aside by the government.

N.B. The exercises prescribed in b) and c) above may consist of readings, recitations, songs or addresses as approved by the principal.

2. Religious Exercises

If a petition asking for religious exercises, signed by the parents or guardians of 75% of the pupils in the case of a school having fewer than 80 pupils or by the parents or guardians of a least 60 pupils in the case of a school having an enrolment of 80 or more pupils, is presented to the school board, religious exercises shall be conducted during the school year for the children of those parents or guardians who have petitioned.

Please note that a petition for religious exercises, which must be initiated by parents, must be presented on an annual basis.

The departmental guidelines are attached.

Schools should administer the provision of religious exercises to minimize disruption to the majority of students.

APPROVED:

REVISED:

SOURCE:

OTHER REFERENCE: