

602.8 Religious and Patriotic Instruction/Activities

Policy

Religious and Patriotic instruction/activities may occur in the schools at the discretion of the principal.

Regulations

1. Students may participate in the following religious instruction/activities at the discretion of the principal, in consultation with School Council, where appropriate:
 - 1.1. recitation of a prayer;
 - 1.2. concerts and activities in observance of seasonal events; and
 - 1.3. activities of a religious nature associated with the celebration of Canada's diverse cultures.
2. The principal shall ensure that the Canadian flag and the Alberta flag are displayed at the school, according to the recognized protocol.
3. Students may participate in the following patriotic exercises/activities at the discretion of the principal:
 - 3.1. singing or performance of the National Anthem; and/or
 - 3.2. a pledge to the Canadian flag.
4. Schools shall participate in Remembrance Day exercises/events on the last instructional day prior to Remembrance Day, and in accordance with the Remembrance Day Act.
 - 4.1. The Remembrance Day Ceremony will encompass at least the period surrounding 11:00 a.m. and will include the observance of at least two minutes of silence.

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5. Parents may choose to exempt their child from religious or patriotic exercises or activities. A written request for non-participation must be signed by the parent/guardian.
 - 5.1. The written request for non-participation will allow the student:
 - 5.1.1. to leave the classroom or place where the instruction or exercises are taking place for the duration of the instruction or exercises; or
 - 5.1.2. to remain in the classroom or place without taking part in the instruction or exercise.
 - 5.2. Students exempted from participation in academic activities for religious reasons shall be provided with an alternative assignment.
6. Except as permitted in the above regulations, no religious instruction shall be permitted without Board approval.

The Board delegates to the Superintendent the authority to develop the procedures necessary to implement this policy.

References

School Act:	50
Division Policies:	606.1 Alternative Programs, 1003.4 Visiting Lecturers and Performers
Other Statutes:	Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, Alberta Human Rights Act, Remembrance Day Act, Emblems of Alberta Act
Other:	Canadian Flag Protocol