

Administrative Procedure 208

PATRIOTIC EXERCISES

Background

The National Flag of Canada, the flag of Alberta and the Canadian national Anthem are symbols of honour and pride for all Canadians and must be treated with respect.

The Principal and Staff are urged to take every opportunity to foster pride in Canada based on appreciation of its qualities and values as a nation and as a responsible member of the international community.

Procedures

1. Patriotic Exercises

- 1.1 The School Act allows a parent to ask that their student be exempted from patriotic exercises or instruction.
 - 1.1.1 The Principal may excuse a student from activities relating to patriotic exercises or instruction as long as they receive a written request from a parent/guardian or independent student, as the case may be.
 - 1.1.2 If the Principal excuses a student from participation in patriotic exercises or instruction, the Principal must ensure that every effort is made to respect the dignity of students who are excused from participation in patriotic exercises or instruction.
- 1.2 If the Principal approves a request for exemption from participation is granted, the student may:
 - 1.2.1 leave the classroom or place where the instruction or exercises are taking place for the duration of the instruction or exercises, or
 - 1.2.2 remain in the classroom or place without taking part in the instruction or exercises.

2. National Anthem

- 2.1 The Principal must ensure that:
 - 2.1.1 'O Canada' must be played on all school days before the commencement of classes
 - 2.1.2 'O Canada' must be played and sung at the commencement of major or significant school sponsored assemblies and ceremonies; 'O Canada' may be sung in the official French (or in a combined English-French) version; and
 - 2.1.3 'God Save the Queen' may be played and sung to close a program.

Anthem history and etiquette are available at Government of Canada website – National Anthem.

Reference: Sections 3, 20, 50, 60, 61, 113 School Act
Guide to Education ECS to Grade 12