

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE NO. 157

PATRIOTIC EXERCISES

Background

Participation in patriotic activities/ceremonies plays an important role in the development of good citizenship in students and should be included in opening exercises.

The definition of basic education in Alberta includes the statement that “students will understand community values and the rights and responsibilities of citizenship,” and that a basic education will always “respect the cultural diversity and common values of Canada.”

Procedures

1. Each principal shall ensure that opening exercises will include an appropriate version of O Canada at least once a week. Patriotic exercises and events will develop:
 - a. An understanding and appreciation of what it means to be a Canadian;
 - b. An awareness of civic rights, obligations and responsibilities; and
 - c. A feeling of pride in our personal cultural heritage and how it can flourish in the Canadian mosaic.
2. While the National Anthem is being played or sung, all members of the school community are expected to stand and demonstrate respect for the anthem.
3. Students in elementary schools will be taught the words to the National Anthem and all students will understand that demonstrating respect for the Anthem is an important responsibility of Canadian citizens.
 - a. Students who arrive in Canada and do not have an understanding of our patriotic practices or know the words of the National Anthem shall be provided the opportunity to learn.

4. The principal shall ensure that the Canadian flag and the Alberta flag are displayed at the school, according to recognized protocol.
5. Schools shall participate in Remembrance Day exercises in accordance with the Alberta Remembrance Day Act.