

## **207 PATRIOTIC EXERCISES**

### **Background**

The Division believes that participation in and exposure to patriotic exercises play an important role in the development of good citizenship in students.

### **Procedures**

1. Patriotic exercises will be designed to 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 cultural heritage which can flourish in the Canadian Mosaic.
2. The Canadian Flag and the Alberta Flag shall be prominently displayed in each school, particularly in areas where students congregate for special activities.
3. Whenever students are gathered for functions sponsored by the school and if circumstances are amenable (student assemblies and special events), the activity shall be opened with the singing of "O Canada".
4. Schools will include the singing of "O Canada" once per week during the morning announcements.
5. Each school shall develop procedures and instructional goals, which will involve students and staff to meet the intent of this policy. Schools offering French Immersion are encouraged to teach the anthem in both official languages.
6. Remembrance Day will be observed in all schools. Schools will develop activity plans for the day, which includes a ceremony or the observance of silence from 11:00 a.m. to 11:02 a.m. on the school day immediately preceding Remembrance Day.
7. A student may be excluded from patriotic exercises on receipt by a principal of a written statement signed by a parent. The student may be permitted to leave the classroom or remain without taking part. Exclusion from patriotic exercises will be without prejudice to any other activities of the school.

## **References**

Section 16,18,32,33,52,53,58.1,196,197,222 Education Act  
Alberta Bill of Rights  
Alberta Human Rights Act  
Remembrance Day Act  
Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, Constitution Act, 1982  
Guide to Education ECS to Grade 12

## **History**

Developed: August 2003  
Amended: January 2020