

OPENING EXERCISES

Background

The Division exercises the discretionary authority granted to it through the Education Act in establishing these procedures with respect to opening exercises.

Procedures

1. It is normally accepted that some patriotic/religious opening exercises may be conducted at the beginning of the school day.
2. Principals shall discuss the nature of school opening exercises with the School Community Council and in reflection of general community values, adopt an appropriate practice.
3. Opening exercises of a religious or patriotic nature may be adopted at the middle and secondary school levels.
4. At the elementary level, it is encouraged that the following exercises be carried out:
 - 4.1 The singing of 'O Canada' by the class or the playing of a recording of the same. This shall be done while the class stands at attention. It is strongly encouraged that students be taught to sing the anthem.
 - 4.2 The repetition of the Lord's Prayer by the class.
5. Where a teacher or other person providing religious or patriotic instruction receives a written request signed by a parent of a student that the student may be excluded from religious or patriotic instruction or exercises, or both, the teacher or other person shall permit the student
 - 5.1 To leave the classroom or place where the instruction or exercises are taking place for the duration of the instruction or exercises, or
 - 5.2 To remain in the classroom or place without taking part in instruction or exercises.

Reference: Section 85, 87, 108, 109, 175, 182, 184, Education Act