

OPENING EXERCISES

Background

The Division encourages schools to partake in some form of meaningful opening exercise at the beginning of each school day. The form this takes is a decision of the Principal and staff of each school, bearing in mind the age of the children, and the wishes of the community.

Procedures

1. The total time spent on opening exercises shall not exceed ten (10) minutes.
2. Principals are encouraged to begin the day with the singing of "O Canada".
3. Opening exercises may consist of any or all of the following:
 - 3.1 Reciting the Lord's Prayer;
 - 3.2 A short Bible reading or story;
 - 3.3 Other appropriate exercises.
4. Parents are to be advised in writing at the beginning of a school year if the school plans to use any of the suggested opening exercises in clause 3.
5. On receipt by a teacher of a written statement signed by a parent or guardian requesting that a student be excluded from religious or patriotic exercises or instruction, or both, the student shall be permitted to leave the classroom or may be permitted to remain without taking part.

Adopted/Revised: JUN 2016/NOV 2019

Reference: Section 16, 18, 32, 52, 53, 58, 58.1, 196, 197, 222 Education Act
Alberta Bill of Rights
Alberta Human Rights Act
Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, Constitution Act, 1982
Human Rights, Citizenship and Multiculturalism Amendment Act
Guide to Education ECS to Grade 12