



POLICY STATEMENT

OPENING AND/OR CLOSING EXERCISES IN SCHOOLS

Rationale

The Algonquin and Lakeshore Catholic District School Board is committed to providing an environment which proclaims and nurtures our distinctive Catholic character, rooted in the person of Jesus Christ, promotes good citizenship and respect for our Catholic values. The Board supports and adheres to the regulation outlined in the Safe Schools Act (2008), Section 304. It is the policy of the Algonquin and Lakeshore Catholic District School Board that all schools develop and maintain an opening and/or closing exercise plan.

Guiding Principles

- The Board shall ensure that prayer and “O Canada” are intricate aspects of all opening and/or closing exercise in schools and at selected assemblies.
- The Oath of Citizenship and the Pledge to the Canadian Flag may be recited at special times of the year. (i.e., Remembrance Day and Canada Day)
- Principals shall ensure that opening and/or closing exercises are part of the elementary and secondary school day and are presented in an age-appropriate fashion.
- The principal shall review annually, at the commencement of the school year, the procedure with respect to reciting the Oath of Citizenship and the Pledge to the Canadian Flag as required.
- Individuals eligible to request exemption shall contact the principal. Exemption provisions are provided for parents or guardians of students, and adult students and these exemptions are limited to the singing of “O Canada” and the reciting of the Oath of Citizenship (Ontario Regulation 436/00), and the Pledge to the Canadian Flag.

References

Safe Schools Act 2008, Section 304
Ontario Regulation 436/00
Ontario Regulation 298

Administrative Procedures

Opening and/or Closing Exercises in Schools

Approved: August 30, 2001

Revised: June 18, 2002

Revised: October 26, 2010

Revised: May 26, 2015

Reviewed: June, 2019

Reviewed September 2023