

**WINNIPEG SCHOOL DIVISION
ADMINISTRATIVE HANDBOOK**

G54
(New)

Religious Instruction

Date: June 15, 2015

The content of the Religious Instruction must comply with Division Policies:

- i. Policy AC – Human Rights
- ii. Policy IF – Curriculum
- iii. Policy IGAB – Diversity and Equity Education

As per Public Schools Act:

Authorization for instruction in religion

Section 80(1) Public Schools Act

Instruction in religion may be conducted in any school in Manitoba if authorized by a by-law passed by the school board.

Petition for instruction in religion

Section 80(2) Public School Acts

If a petition requesting that religious instruction be given in a school is presented to the school board and is signed by

- a) the parents or guardians of at least 10 children attending the school having one or two classrooms; or
- b) the parents or guardians of at least 25 children attending the school having three or more classrooms;

the school board shall pass a by-law authorizing instruction in religion in compliance with the petition.

Section 81 Public Schools Act

Hours of instruction in religion

Instruction in religion, when authorized under or permitted by this Act, may take place during school hours at such time and on such days as approved by a by-law of the school board but in any case shall not exceed 2 1/2 hours per week and shall be conducted by a clergyman, priest, rabbi or other spiritual leader or by a representative of parents recognized by the school board as constituting a religious group or by any person including a teacher, duly authorized by such clergyman, priest, rabbi or other spiritual leader.

The following requirements must be met by parent(s)/guardian(s) requesting religious instruction in schools:

1. The petition must include the first and last name, address (must be residents in the Division), telephone number and signed by both parents/guardians or the custodial parent;
2. The petition must include the first and last name of the student(s) and the grade level for which Religious Instruction is being requested in order for the Division to verify the student enrolment;
3. The petition must clearly state the type of the instruction planned, including the curriculum to be used;
4. The petition should not be on the letterhead of the sponsoring organization, to avoid confusion over whom is being petitioned;
5. The petition must include the name and contact information of the sponsoring organization delivering the instruction as well as clear indication that the parental signature represents a request that their child be instructed in that religion.
6. A disclaimer must be included on all petitions whereby parents must acknowledge by initialing “that the curriculum has not been approved or developed by the Winnipeg School Division nor the Province of Manitoba”;
7. The school principal must request from the sponsoring organization delivering the instruction a copy of the curriculum which will be available in the school office upon request by parent(s);
8. The original petition must not be altered in anyway ie. edited in any manner; and
9. Parental signatures must be dated and submitted within 45 days to the Winnipeg School Division, attention Board and Community Services Department.

Attached is a copy of the Division's Petition Form.

**PETITION TO THE WINNIPEG SCHOOL DIVISION
FOR RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION**

I wish to add my name to the petition for Religious Instruction to be conducted at _____ School
For my child(ren) for the _____ school year.

First & Last Name
Parent's Name (Please Print clearly)

First & Last Name
Parent's Name (Please Print clearly)

Parent's Signature (Please Sign)
(petition must be signed by both parents/guardians or custodial parent)

Parent's Signature (Please Sign)

Address Including Postal Code

Phone Number

Child's Name

Grade

Age

Child's Name

Grade

Age

Child's Name

Grade

Age

Name of Sponsoring Organization to deliver Religious Instruction: _____

Contact Name: _____ Contact Phone Number: _____

I give my child(ren) permission to attend classes in the religious instruction provided by the sponsoring organization listed above and I understand and have been informed of the curriculum being taught to my child(ren).

I understand that the curriculum provided for Religious Instruction has not been approved or developed by the Winnipeg School Division nor the Province of Manitoba.

Parent's Signature

Parent's Signature

Date