



POLICY: IDA
SUBJECT: PATRIOTIC OBSERVANCES
APPROVAL DATE: May 16, 2022
REVISION DATE:
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1. GENERAL

1.1 In accordance with the Public Schools Act, Patriotic observances established under the Education Administration Act shall be conducted in schools.

2. OPENING AND CLOSING OF SCHOOL

2.1 At the opening of each regularly scheduled school day, students shall sing the first verse and the chorus of "O' Canada".

3. EXEMPTIONS

3.1 If a student or parent/guardian objects to all or part of the opening or closing exercises due to conscientious, religious, cultural, or spiritual beliefs, the student will be exempted and given the option not to participate.

4. PROCEDURE FOR OPTING-OUT OF "O'CANADA"

4.1 A student is not required to participate in "O'Canada" in the following circumstances:

- a) In the case of a student who is less than 18 years old, if the student's parents or guardian submits a written application to the principal to be exempted from doing so.
- b) In the case of a student who is at least 18 years old, if the student submits a written application to the principal to be exempted from doing so.

4.2 A student who does not participate in "O'Canada" may remain seated in class or wait in an agreed upon location through the duration of the exercise.

5. REMEMBRANCE DAY

5.1 The school shall annually hold Remembrance Day exercises on the day prior to November 11 unless the day falls on a Sunday or Monday, in which case the exercises shall be held on the preceding Friday.

6. CITIZENSHIP EXERCISES

6.1 The school shall annually hold citizenship exercises on a day set aside by proclamation of the Lieutenant Governor or Governor General for special emphasis on citizenship.

7. CANADIAN FLAG

7.1 The Canadian Flag is to be flown on each day that the school is open, weather conditions permitting. If weather conditions do not permit the flag to be flown outdoors, it is to be prominently displayed in the school.



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- 7.2 The Federal Government has established policies regarding half-masting. This practice is not mandatory for individuals or organizations, but it reflects long-standing customs internationally and in Canada. It dictates that flags across the country are automatically half-masted upon the death of an immediate member of the Royal Family and a current or former Governor General or Prime Minister.

Flags in Manitoba are half-masted upon the death of a current or former Lieutenant-Governor or Premier and may also be half-masted upon the death of a person honoured by the province.

The Province of Manitoba also flies the flags at the Legislative Building at half-mast (upon notification of a death until sunset on the day of the funeral) for fallen soldiers who were born or raised in Manitoba or who were based in Manitoba prior to deployment overseas.

Other deaths may be recognized as directed by the Province of Manitoba.

8. RESPONSIBILITIES

8.1 Chief Superintendent/Chief Executive Officer (CEO)

The Chief Superintendent/Chief Executive Officer (CEO) is responsible for implementation of Policy.

8.2 Superintendent of Education Services

The Superintendent of Education Services shall grant an exception to opt out of "O'Canada" if appropriate.

8.3 Principal

The Principal shall meet with the parents/guardians to discuss the request to opt-out of "O'Canada".

The Principal shall notify the Superintendent of Education Services that a request to opt-out of participation in "O'Canada" has been made.

8.4 Students

All students are required to stand, except those students who are excused based on medical or other grounds satisfactory to WSD.

All students 18 years and older are required to submit documentation outlining the request for an exemption.

8.5 Parents/Guardians

Parents/Guardians are required to provide written documentation to the Principal outlining the request for an exemption.



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9. APPEAL PROCESS

- 9.1 Parents/Guardians are encouraged to contact their Principal to discuss concerns. If further assistance is required to where there is no resolution at the school level, parents may contact the WSD Board and Community Liaison Officer.