



TITLE: SCHOOL OPENING OR CLOSING EXERCISES

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1.0 OBJECTIVE

To establish guidelines for opening and closing exercises in schools.

2.0 POLICY

2.1 As required by Section 304 (1) of the Education Act, every Ottawa-Carleton District School Board elementary and secondary school shall hold opening or closing exercises.

2.2 Opening or closing exercises in schools shall include the singing of the National Anthem "O Canada", and may also include:

a) the recitation, in English or French, of the following pledge of citizenship;

I affirm that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Second, Queen of Canada, and to her heirs and successors, and that I will faithfully observe the laws of Canada and fulfill my duties as a Canadian citizen.

or

Je jure fidélité et sincère allégeance à Sa Majesté la Reine Elizabeth Deux, Reine du Canada, à ses héritiers et successeurs, et je jure d'observer fidèlement les lois du Canada et de remplir loyalement mes obligations de citoyen canadien/citoyenne canadienne.

b) a period of silence for personal reflection;

c) scriptural readings including prayers, and/or secular readings that impart social, moral, or spiritual values and that are representative of Ontario's multicultural society;

d) the singing of "God Save the Queen";

e) school announcements.

2.3 A decision on the recitation of the pledge of citizenship shall be reviewed annually by the principal in consultation with the school council.

3.0 EXEMPTION FROM TAKING PART IN OPENING OR CLOSING EXERCISES

No student shall be required to take part in any opening or closing exercises where a parent or guardian of a student under 18 years of age, or the student if 18 or over, applies to the principal of the school he or she attends for exemption therefrom.

4.0 REFERENCES

The Education Act, 2000, s. 304
Ontario Regulation 435/00 and 436/00, 2000