

## **PATRIOTIC EXERCISES**

### **Background**

The District recognizes the importance of developing ways and means to foster love of country and loyalty to Canada through meaningful and appropriate exercises within the school communities.

### **Procedures**

1. Principals, in conjunction with school staff, must plan meaningful and appropriate instructional opportunities, activities and exercises that foster patriotic values and loyalty to Canada.
2. The national anthem, "O Canada", must be an integral part of daily exercises and part of all formal celebrations or ceremonies.
3. The proper displaying and carrying of flags in processions must adhere to the flag etiquette protocol.
4. Remembrance Day is to be acknowledged and honoured as outlined below:
  - 4.1 Each Principal shall ensure a Remembrance Day Ceremony is conducted. All students shall either attend the ceremony or remain in the school elsewhere.
  - 4.2 On November 11 at least two (2) minutes of silence from 11:00 a.m. to 11:02 a.m. will be observed in a Remembrance Day ceremony or by another appropriate means.
  - 4.3 When Remembrance Day falls on a non-school day, procedure 2.2 will be complied with on the school day immediately preceding Remembrance Day.
5. Parents may request to have their child(ren) opt out of patriotic exercises.
  - 5.1 Students are to be allowed to leave the classroom or to remain silent in the classroom during the patriotic exercise.
  - 5.2 Students are expected to display appropriate behaviour in their alternative activities.

Approval Date: June 14, 2018

Reference: Section 3, 18, 20, 39, 50.1, 60, 61, 113 School 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