

**ADMINISTRATION 4 – Religious Theme/Content in School Activities**

Date: Nov. 23, 2011

Responsible Administrator: Superintendent

1.0 Board Regulation, Administration 4 – Religious Theme/Content in School Activities shall be administered in compliance with Policy D/II/19.

2.0 PROCESS

2.1 The Board authorizes student participation in the following activities which may include incidental or indirect reference to religion or religious themes.

2.1.1 a moment of silence at a special event such as a Remembrance Day ceremony,

2.1.2 appropriate and inclusive ceremonial prayer at special events such as graduation exercises,

2.1.3 participation in extra-curricular activities such as religious clubs,

2.1.4 preparation for and performance of musical or dramatic selections with incidental religious themes or content, with the understanding that such selections shall not contain religious exercises such as prayers or bible readings and where the preparation and performance of those selections takes place in an inclusive, non-discriminatory and non-indoctrinational manner,

2.1.5 concerts and activities in recognition of holidays with a religious basis, where such concerts and activities do not contain religious exercises such as prayers or bible readings and the concert or activity takes place in an inclusive, non-discriminatory and non-indoctrinational manner.

2.1.6 activities of a religious nature associated with the study of other cultures, and

2.1.7 activities as part of provincially authorized courses of study such as Religious Ethics 20, Religious Meanings 20, and World Religions 30 where sufficient student interest warrants the offering of such courses.

2.2 In accordance with The Alberta Human Rights Act, parents/guardians shall be provided notice where courses of study, educational programs or instructional materials, or instruction or exercises include subject matter that deals primarily and explicitly with religion.

References: Board Policy: D/II/16 – Religious Theme/Content in School Activities
School Act: Sections 3, 21, and 50 (1) (a) and (b), and 50 (2) (a) and (b)
Alberta Act, 1905: Section 17
School Ordinance of the Northwest Territories, 1901; Section 137 and 138
Constitution Act, 1867: Section 93
Alberta Human Rights Act, Sections 11.1(1) and (2)

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- 2.3 Principals shall ensure that:
- 2.3.1 provision is made to accommodate the wishes of parents/guardians who make written request that their child(ren) be exempted from participating in activities dealing primarily and explicitly with religious theme or content,
 - 2.3.2 an appropriate alternate activity is provided for non-participants the student(s) are permitted to leave the classroom or place where the activity is taking place for the duration of the activity that includes the primary and explicit religious theme or content, or
 - 2.3.3 the student(s) are permitted to remain in the classroom or place of activity without taking part in the activity, and
 - 2.3.4 non-participants are treated discreetly and with respect at all times.
- 2.4 Students may wear faith-based jewelry, objects or articles of clothing at school or during school sponsored activities, as long as these are worn discretely, do not have a proselytizing message, and meet the requirements of the school's standards of dress and grooming.
- 2.5 In accordance with The School Act the Board may establish an alternative program that emphasizes religion and includes:
- 2.5.1 courses of study, instructional materials, and instruction or exercises that deal primarily and explicitly with religion, and
 - 2.5.2 student participation in activities that deal with explicit religious theme and/or content.

References: Board Policy: D/II/16 – Religious Theme/Content in School Activities
School Act: Sections 3, 21, and 50 (1) (a) and (b), and 50 (2) (a) and (b)
Alberta Act, 1905: Section 17
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Alberta Human Rights Act, Sections 11.1(1) and (2)