



## EDUCATIONAL SERVICES 20 – Religious Instruction/Exercises

Date: Mar. 23, 2011      Revised: January 16, 2017      Responsible Administrator: Superintendent

### 1.0 RATIONALE

The Board encourages and supports the moral and spiritual development of the children in its schools along with their emotional, intellectual, and physical development.

### 2.0 PROCESS

The Superintendent will be responsible for maintaining this Administrative Practice and its operation.

### 3.0 GUIDELINES

- 3.1 Whenever a number of parents request that the school be opened by the recitation of the Lord's Prayer, the Principal shall undertake to obtain a consensus of parent opinion around such request through surveys, meetings or any other appropriate means of gathering information.
- 3.2 If the Principal determines that a majority of parents support a request for the Lord's Prayer to be part of the school day opening exercises, he/she will inform the Board of the school's intention to implement such practice.
- 3.3 As per the School Act, the Principal shall make provision to exclude any student(s) from participation in the school opening religious exercise.
- 3.4 Whenever a number of parents request that either Protestant or Roman Catholic religious instruction courses be offered at a school, the Principal shall undertake to determine through surveys, public meetings or any other appropriate means of obtaining information, if there is a sufficient number of parents desiring such instruction during the school day.
- 3.5 The Principal shall present information regarding parental numbers and subsequent recommendations and intentions as to religious course offerings as part of the school's instructional program plan for the coming school year. Such information shall include:
  - 3.5.1 the grade(s) to which religious instruction courses shall be offered,
  - 3.5.2 the number of minutes of instruction per week, and
  - 3.5.3 the course(s) of instruction to be offered to any students whose parents indicate in writing that their child is not to participate in religious instruction.
- 3.6 Upon receiving a Principal's plan for offering of religious instruction courses in a school, Senior Administration shall prepare a recommendation to the Board of Trustees for authorization of the courses.

References: *Board Policy: F/1/6 Religious Instruction/Exercises*  
*Board Regulation: Education 1 - Religious Instruction*  
*School Act: Sections 3, 50 (1) (a), (b), and (e), and 50 (2) (a) and (b)*  
*Alberta Act, 1905: Section 17*  
*School Ordinance of the Northwest Territories, 1901: Sections 137 and 138*  
*Constitution Act, 1867: Section 93*  
*Alberta Human Rights Act Preamble*