

**EDUCATION 1 – Religious Instruction**

Date: Nov. 23, 2011

Revised:

Responsible Administrator: Superintendent

1.0 Board Regulation, Education 1 – Religious Instruction shall be administered in compliance with Policy F/I/6.

2.0 PROCESS

2.1 Whenever parents/guardians request that religious instruction courses be made available at a school, the Principal shall advise the Superintendent, who will advise the Board of Trustees.

2.2 The Board of Trustees may, through the Superintendent, direct the Principal to determine the degree of parent/guardian interest around such request for religious instruction courses through surveys, meetings or any other appropriate means of gathering information, and establish a timeframe for such undertaking.

2.3 The Principal shall present information obtained, including the rationale for the request for religious instruction courses and the determined degree of parent/guardian interest in the request, to the Board and seek Board prescription of such courses.

2.4 The Board shall consider the rationale presented, including the tradition and culture of the school community, as well as the determined degree of parent/guardian interest and may prescribe the religious instruction courses to be included in the school's course offerings.

2.5 For schools where the Board prescribes religious instruction courses, the Principal shall typically present information regarding such courses as part of the school's instructional program plan for the coming school year. Such information shall include:

2.5.1 the grades or grade groupings for which religious instruction will be offered,

2.5.2 the scheduling, as per legislation, of instruction per week,

2.5.3 the process by which parents/guardians will indicate their approval or non-approval for their child(ren) to participate in a religious instruction course,

2.5.4 the course of instruction to be offered to any student whose parents/guardians indicate that their child is not to participate in a religious instruction course, and

References: Board Policy: F/I/6 – 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; Section 137 and 138
Constitution Act, 1867: Section 93
Alberta Human Rights Act, Sections 11.1(1) and (2)

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- 2.5.5 if any persons other than teachers are to provide the religious instruction to the students.
- 2.6 The Principal shall annually:
- 2.6.1 inquire of parents/guardians as to whether or not they wish to have their child(ren) participate in a religious instruction course, and
- 2.6.2 facilitate receipt of written approval for students whose parents/guardians wish them to participate in any religious instruction course.
- 2.7 In accordance with the School Act, the Alberta Act, the School Ordinance of the Northwest Territories, the Constitution of Canada and the Alberta Human Rights Act, the Principal shall also annually:
- 2.7.1 receive indication from any parents/guardians who do not wish to have their child(ren) participate in a religious instruction course, and
- 2.7.2 make provision to provide an alternate course of instruction for any student(s) whose parents/guardians do not wish them to participate in a religious instruction course.

References: Board Policy: F/I/6 – 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; Section 137 and 138
Constitution Act, 1867: Section 93
Alberta Human Rights Act, Sections 11.1(1) and (2)